

NATIONAL

- [Still no decision in TX lawsuit over executive actions; lawsuit reflects divided nation](#)

[Judge Hanen](#) still has not issued a ruling in the lawsuit in which 26 states have sued Obama over his executive actions on immigration. The table below presents a breakdown of states who are active in the suit and those who are not. In addition, mayors from 33 cities have filed an [amicus brief](#) in support the executive actions. Cities include: Atlanta, Columbia (SC), and Los Angeles. With the exception of Texas, every state suing to block Obama has [fewer undocumented than Los Angeles alone](#) (but see Nevada, [which is suing Obama and has the highest percentage of undocumented immigrants as a portion of the overall state population](#)). The Migration Policy Institute reported that counties that included cities involved in the lawsuit were home to an estimated 4.76M undocumented, of which 2.06M (about 40% of the 5M who are eligible nationally) are expected to qualify for legal protection under the executive actions. In spite of the lawsuit, [the majority of Americans favor immigration reform over overturning Obama’s executive actions](#).

Suing Obama for executive actions (26)		Supporting Obama’s executive actions (13†) by amicus		Have not joined suit (12)			
Who is listed individually on the suit?*		Who is listed individually on the suit?*					
Governor (4)	AG (22)	Governor (0)	AG (13)	Silent on executive actions (6)	Have spoken about executive actions (6)		
					For Ex. Actions	Ag. Ex. Actions	Possibly supportive
ID	AL NV		CA	AK	DE***	NJ	KY****
MS	AZ OH		CT	CO	RI	WY	
ME	AR OK		DC	MO	VA		
NC	FL SC		HI	NH			
	GA SD		IL	MN			
	IN TN		IA	PA			
	KS TX**		MD				
	LA UT		MA				
	MI WV		NM				
	MO WI		NY				
	ND		OR				
	NE		VT				
			WA**				

*Usually a state’s attorney general makes the decision to join a suit.

**Initiated filing

***AG sworn in right around time of filing and therefore did not join amicus.

****Believes president acted within his authority.

†Includes DC

- [DHS heads for shutdown as attempt in Congress to stop executive actions fails](#)
- [USCIS will accept expanded DACA applications beginning February 18, 2015](#)

STATE AND LOCAL

Legislative update

- *In-state tuition for DREAMERS:* [SB 44](#) went to a hearing on [Tuesday at 2 p.m.](#) but was not put to a vote. The bill is still in the [Senate Higher Education Committee](#). The committee heard testimony from students, nonprofits, and one school teacher. [The LAA testified as well](#). A second hearing is also possible. [3% chance of passage currently](#).
- *Bettering immigrant access to services:* [HB 137](#) is now in the [House Special Rules Committee](#). [6% chance of passage currently](#).
- *No licenses for DREAMERS:* [SB 6](#) remains in the [Senate Public Safety Committee](#). In addition to taking licenses away from deferred action recipients, it expands the information that the state may collect from noncitizen drivers, including DNA. [12% chance of passage currently](#).
- *Exemption to driver's license requirements added:* Appearing on the radar this week, [HB 260](#) provides for exemptions to driver's license requirements for a foreign national who has a valid international driving permit or is a citizen of a foreign country that has entered into a reciprocal agreement with Georgia. It is not clear whether (or how) this bill may interact with SB 6, but it could be an attempt to ensure that SB 6 does not threaten the ability of properly licensed foreign nationals to drive. In addition, it could be an attempt to avoid Alabama's experience in which important executives ([Mercedes executive](#) and then [Honda executive](#)) have been pulled over and arrested for minor traffic offenses. [28% chance of passage currently](#).

INTERNATIONAL

- [New Central American refugee program could help more than just children](#)

Not only will a parent legally in the United States be able to petition for a Central American minor child (who might qualify as a refugee) to come to the United States, the parent could also petition for the other parent of the child provided that the other parent is married to the US-based petitioner. (See [Brookings Institution](#) and [US Department of State](#) and [USCIS](#)). This program was initiated in the wake of last summer's [surge](#) of more than 68,000 children from Central America.