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## **The Mexican Government Regrets the Enactment of HB 87 in Georgia**

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The government of Mexico regrets the enactment of HB 87 (Illegal Immigration Reform Enforcement Act of 2011) in the state of Georgia (U.S.). The new law criminalizes immigration and may lead to the incorrect enforcement of the law by local authorities.

Its implementation, scheduled for next July 1, potentially affects human and civil rights of Mexicans who live in or visit Georgia.

During the legislative process, the Mexican government, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Embassy of Mexico in the United States and the Consulate General in Atlanta, expressed its concerns and objections to provisions in this law.

The legislators who voted for the law and the Governor of Georgia overlooked the many contributions made by the immigrant community to the state's economy and society, as well as Mexico's importance as its third-largest export market.

The vision promoted by this law goes against the principles of shared responsibility, trust and mutual respect under which the federal governments of Mexico and the United States have determined to work to address shared challenges in North America.

The Mexican government has developed and implemented a strategy of preventive protection to keep the Mexican population informed of this situation.

Taking into account the legal precedent set by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals regarding Arizona law SB 1070, and given the stated intention of U.S. organizations to mount a legal challenge to prevent the law from entering into force, all means available will be used to defend the rights and dignity of the Mexicans in Georgia. In addition, a legal analysis is underway to determine actions that could be taken to assist Mexicans affected by this measure.

A [brochure](#) with information on the legislation and practical advice is now available at the Mexican Consulate in Atlanta and on its web page. The Consulate will help explain the scope of this legislation and the rights of all individuals in forums and other events organized by civil society organizations.

The Government of Mexico respects the sovereign right of all countries to decide on the laws that will be applied in its territory. However, it reiterates its firm commitment to provide the assistance and protection that Mexicans should require, to ensure due respect for their fundamental rights, regardless of their immigration status.

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