

# Advocates urge Davis to sign bill for undocumented drivers

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Immigrants-rights advocates want Gov. Gray Davis to approve a bill that would enable some illegal immigrants to obtain California driver's licenses though it would not affect most of them.

Supporters say all California drivers would benefit by allowing undocumented immigrants to obtain the licenses they need to get auto insurance. Others complain it encourages illegal immigration and grants a state privilege to lawbreakers.

But both sides agree the bill, which faces a deadline of midnight Monday to win Davis' approval, sets criteria unattainable to most illegal immigrants. It requires them to have a feder-

al taxpayer identification number and have started the process to obtain legal immigration status.

"This is definitely a high hurdle to meet," Christian Ramirez, director of American Friends Service Committee, a San Diego group which assists immigrants, said Thursday. "We're obviously not very happy. ... But we feel this is a step forward."

The bill's author, Assemblyman Gil Cedillo, D-Los Angeles, estimates as many as 1 million of the roughly 3 million undocumented immigrants in the state would be eligible to apply for licenses. But David Galaviz, Cedillo's legislative director, acknowledged Thursday the actual number could be far lower.