



STATE OF MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Wes Moore

February 17, 2026

Secretary Carolyn Scruggs
Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services
6776 Reisterstown Rd #309
Baltimore, MD 21215

Dear Secretary Scruggs,

Today, I signed SB 245/HB 444 into law. The bill prohibits State and local jurisdictions from deputizing their officers for federal immigration enforcement activity under the supervision of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) as part of the 287(g) program.

Public safety is, has been, and will continue to be my top priority. Therefore, I want to be clear:

- The law does not impact State policies and practices in response to immigration detainers issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security;
- The law does not interfere with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services work with the federal government on shared public safety priorities, including the lawful removal of non-citizen offenders who pose a risk to public safety.

In 2024 and 2025, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services provided ICE with advance notification of release and coordinated transfer for 564 individuals, including for numerous individuals convicted of violent or serious crimes. I expect department personnel to continue to provide ICE with advance notification of release and to continue to effectuate the lawful transfer of custody in response to ICE detainer requests, per standing departmental policy.

The department should prioritize the fair and complete adjudication of criminal charges, and should seek ongoing coordination from ICE to ensure that local criminal charges can be adjudicated as federal civil immigration cases proceed.

Please let my team know if you need any support to ensure that the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services and the Division of Corrections personnel continue to adhere to Departmental policy on immigration detainers.

We are committed to continuing our progress in making Maryland safer as we uphold the rule of law and defend the Constitution; I look forward to continuing our work together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wes Moore".

Wes Moore

Governor of the State of Maryland

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