

TO: House Committee on Ways and Means

BILL: House Bill (HB) 1513– Public Schools – School Security Personnel – Prohibition of Immigration Investigation and Enforcement Functions

DATE: March 11, 2025

POSITION: Support

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the State Board of Education support **House Bill (HB) 1513– Public Schools – School Security Personnel – Prohibition of Immigration Investigation and Enforcement Functions.**

HB 1513 Summary

HB 1513 prohibits school resource officers and school security employees from engaging in immigration investigations or enforcement activities under [Section 287\(g\) of the Immigration and Nationality Act](#) while on school grounds. The bill defines "school resource officer" and "school security employee" to clarify which personnel are subject to this restriction.

MSDE Support

Safe and positive school environments are built on trusting relationships between students and school staff. In Maryland Public Schools, school resource officers (SROs) and school security employees play a multifaceted role aimed at ensuring a safe and supportive learning environment. They serve as educators, emergency managers, informal counselors, and law enforcement officers. SROs are trained to handle various situations, including de-escalation, disability awareness, and maintaining a positive school climate. They also participate in behavioral threat assessment teams to comply with the Safe to Learn Act of 2018. This comprehensive approach helps foster a secure and nurturing atmosphere for students and staff alike. To be effective in their roles the SROs and school security employees must be trusted adults, not people whom students fear.

Involving school resource officers in immigration enforcement would threaten the sense of safety and trust among students who may be the target of enforcement actions, and of all students in the school. This could impede the effectiveness of the SRO when dealing with a threat to the safety of the school community.

MSDE respectfully requests consideration of these comments as HB 1315 is discussed and deliberated.

For further information, please contact Dr. Akilah Alleyne (Executive Director of Government Affairs) at 410-767-0504, or Akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov.