

# HOUSE BILL 1536

D3, P2, J2

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By: **Delegates Lopez, Amprey, Boaf, Kaufman, Lewis, Martinez, Moreno, Taveras,  
White Holland, Wims, and Woorman**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Enforcement Limits and Transparency (MELT) Act**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from voluntarily assisting in immigration  
4 enforcement under certain circumstances and requiring a person who assists  
5 immigration enforcement to make and maintain certain records; authorizing a  
6 person injured by a violation of this Act to bring a certain civil suit; authorizing the  
7 Attorney General to make a certain investigation and to take certain actions to  
8 enforce this Act; authorizing the Board of Public Works to take certain actions  
9 relating to a procurement contract between the State and a person who violates this  
10 Act and establishing a certain requirement for persons entering into a State  
11 procurement contract; authorizing certain licensing entities to take certain actions  
12 against a licensee that violates this Act and requiring certain applicants and  
13 licensees to make a certain certified statement; and generally relating to civil  
14 liability for assisting immigration enforcement.

15 BY adding to

16 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

17 Section 3–2701 through 3–2705 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 27. Injury

18 Caused by Voluntary Immigration Enforcement Cooperation”

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

22 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

24 **SUBTITLE 27. INJURY CAUSED BY VOLUNTARY IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT**  
25 **COOPERATION.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **3-2701.**

2 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
3 INDICATED.

4 (B) "AID IN IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT" MEANS:

5 (1) PROVIDING ACCESS TO AN AREA THAT WOULD OTHERWISE  
6 REQUIRE A JUDICIAL WARRANT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT TO ACCESS;

7 (2) SHARING PERSONAL INFORMATION OF ANOTHER WITH  
8 IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES; OR

9 (3) DELAYING THE DEPARTURE OF OR DETAINING ANOTHER BY  
10 FORCE OR DECEIT WITH THE INTENT TO MAKE THE INDIVIDUAL ACCESSIBLE TO  
11 IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES.

12 (C) (1) "JUDICIAL WARRANT" MEANS A WARRANT SIGNED BY A JUDGE,  
13 MAGISTRATE, OR DISTRICT COURT COMMISSIONER OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION.

14 (2) "JUDICIAL WARRANT" DOES NOT INCLUDE AN ADMINISTRATIVE  
15 WARRANT, INCLUDING AN IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT FORM  
16 I-200 OR FORM I-205.

17 (D) "LICENSE" MEANS AN OCCUPATIONAL OR PROFESSIONAL LICENSE  
18 ISSUED TO AN INDIVIDUAL BY THE STATE, INCLUDING A LICENSE ISSUED UNDER  
19 THE BUSINESS OCCUPATIONS AND PROFESSIONS ARTICLE, THE BUSINESS  
20 REGULATION ARTICLE, AND THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE.

21 (E) "LICENSING AUTHORITY" MEANS A STATE ENTITY THAT ISSUES A  
22 LICENSE TO AN INDIVIDUAL.

23 (F) "PERSON" INCLUDES:

24 (1) THE STATE;

25 (2) A UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT;

26 (3) A COUNTY SHERIFF; AND

27 (4) ANY AGENCY, OFFICER, EMPLOYEE, CONTRACTOR, OR AGENT OF  
28 THE STATE OR A UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

1 **3-2702.**

2 (A) EXCEPT AS REQUIRED BY JUDICIAL WARRANT OR STATE OR FEDERAL  
3 LAW, A PERSON MAY NOT KNOWINGLY AID IN IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT IN A  
4 MANNER THAT VIOLATES THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF ANOTHER.

5 (B) FOR EVERY INTERACTION WITH IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT, A  
6 PERSON SHALL:

7 (1) DOCUMENT THE PERSON'S INSTANCES OF COOPERATION WITH  
8 IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT;

9 (2) RETAIN ALL RECORDS OF INSTANCES OF COOPERATION FOR NOT  
10 FEWER THAN 5 YEARS AFTER EACH OCCURRENCE; AND

11 (3) NOTIFY ANY INDIVIDUAL WHOSE INFORMATION WAS SHARED,  
12 INCLUDING, TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, WHAT INFORMATION WAS SHARED.

13 (C) (1) A PERSON HARMED BY A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS  
14 SECTION MAY BRING AN ACTION AGAINST ANY PERSON THAT:

15 (I) VIOLATED THIS SECTION; OR

16 (II) AIDED ANOTHER IN COMMITTING A VIOLATION OF THIS  
17 SECTION.

18 (2) IN AN ACTION UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, A COURT MAY AWARD:

19 (I) ECONOMIC AND NONECONOMIC DAMAGES;

20 (II) DECLARATORY RELIEF;

21 (III) INJUNCTIVE RELIEF; AND

22 (IV) REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES.

23 **3-2703.**

24 (A) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY INVESTIGATE AN ALLEGED VIOLATION  
25 OF THIS SUBTITLE BY:

26 (1) ISSUING SUBPOENAS;

1           **(2) ADMINISTERING OATHS;**

2           **(3) COMPELLING THE ATTENDANCE AND TESTIMONY OF WITNESSES;**

3 **AND**

4           **(4) COMPELLING THE PRODUCTION OF RECORDS, BOOKS, PAPERS,**  
5 **CONTRACTS, AND OTHER DOCUMENTS.**

6           **(B) A SUBPOENA ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE SERVED BY:**

7           **(1) CERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED;**

8           **(2) ANY ADULT WHO IS NOT A PARTY TO THE PROCEEDING; OR**

9           **(3) THE SHERIFF OR DEPUTY SHERIFF OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE**  
10 **SUBPOENA IS ISSUED.**

11           **(C) IF A PERSON FAILS OR REFUSES TO COMPLY WITH A SUBPOENA, THE**  
12 **ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY APPLY TO A CIRCUIT COURT IN THE COUNTY IN WHICH**  
13 **THE SUBPOENA WAS SERVED TO ENFORCE COMPLIANCE.**

14           **(D) IF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DETERMINES THAT A VIOLATION OF THIS**  
15 **SUBTITLE HAS OCCURRED, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL:**

16           **(1) PUBLISH:**

17           **(i) A SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITY CONSTITUTING THE**  
18 **VIOLATION;**

19           **(ii) IF THE VIOLATION IS ONGOING OR LIKELY TO RECUR, THE**  
20 **REMEDIAL MEASURES NECESSARY TO CORRECT THE VIOLATION OR PREVENT A**  
21 **RECURRENCE OF THE VIOLATION; AND**

22           **(iii) ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION; AND**

23           **(2) REFER THE MATTER TO:**

24           **(i) ANY LICENSING ENTITY THAT HOLDS AUTHORITY OVER A**  
25 **LICENSE HELD BY THE VIOLATOR; AND**

26           **(ii) FOR A MATTER THAT INVOLVES FEDERAL TORT CLAIMS,**  
27 **THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.**

1           **(E) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IF THE**  
2 **ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT A VIOLATION OF THIS**  
3 **SUBTITLE HAS OCCURRED AND IS LIKELY TO RECUR, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY**  
4 **BRING AN ACTION TO ENFORCE THIS SUBTITLE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ANY**  
5 **COUNTY IN WHICH THE VIOLATION IS ALLEGED TO HAVE OCCURRED.**

6           **(2) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS**  
7 **PARAGRAPH, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY BRING AN ACTION UNDER THIS**  
8 **SUBSECTION ONLY AFTER:**

9                   **1. CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION IN ACCORDANCE**  
10 **WITH THIS SECTION;**

11                   **2. AT LEAST 30 DAYS BEFORE BRINGING THE ACTION,**  
12 **PROVIDING NOTICE TO THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE COUNTY WHERE THE**  
13 **VIOLATION IS ALLEGED TO HAVE OCCURRED; AND**

14                   **3. MAKING REASONABLE EFFORTS TO NOTIFY AN**  
15 **ALLEGED VIOLATOR.**

16                   **(II) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY BRING AN ACTION TO**  
17 **ENFORCE THIS SUBTITLE WITHOUT COMPLYING WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS**  
18 **PARAGRAPH IF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DETERMINES THAT A DELAY POSES AN**  
19 **IMMINENT AND SERIOUS THREAT TO LIFE, HEALTH, OR PUBLIC SAFETY.**

20           **(3) AS PART OF AN ACTION TO ENFORCE THIS SUBTITLE, THE**  
21 **ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL PROVIDE WRITTEN CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE**  
22 **WITH PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

23           **(4) (I) IN AN ACTION UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, THE COURT MAY**  
24 **AWARD:**

25                   **1. ECONOMIC AND NONECONOMIC DAMAGES TO ANY**  
26 **PERSON HARMED BY A VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE;**

27                   **2. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF; AND**

28                   **3. DECLARATIVE RELIEF.**

29                   **(II) IN ADDITION TO ANY AWARD OF DAMAGES IMPOSED BY THE**  
30 **COURT, A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS SUBJECT TO A CIVIL PENALTY**  
31 **NOT EXCEEDING \$25,000 FOR EACH VIOLATION.**

1 (III) IN AN ACTION BROUGHT BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
2 UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IS ENTITLED TO RECOVER THE  
3 COSTS OF THE ACTION FOR THE USE OF THE STATE.

4 **3-2704.**

5 (A) IF A PERSON THAT HAS ENTERED INTO A PROCUREMENT CONTRACT  
6 WITH THE STATE VIOLATES § 3-2702 OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE BOARD OF PUBLIC  
7 WORKS MAY:

8 (1) VOID THE PROCUREMENT CONTRACT;

9 (2) DECLINE TO RENEW THE PROCUREMENT AT EXPIRATION; OR

10 (3) IMPOSE CONDITIONS ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE  
11 PROCUREMENT CONTRACT.

12 (B) ANY PROCUREMENT CONTRACT WITH THE STATE SHALL INCLUDE A  
13 REQUIREMENT THAT THE PERSON ENTERING INTO THE PROCUREMENT CONTRACT:

14 (1) NOT VOLUNTARILY AID IN IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT IN  
15 VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

16 (2) RESPECT ALL RIGHTS OF OTHERS THAT ARE SECURED BY LAW.

17 **3-2705.**

18 (A) AN APPLICABLE LICENSING AUTHORITY MAY INSTITUTE A  
19 DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDING AGAINST, AND MAY SUSPEND OR REVOKE THE  
20 LICENSURE OF A LICENSEE, IF THE LICENSEE VIOLATES:

21 (1) § 3-2702 OF THIS SUBTITLE;

22 (2) THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBTITLE; OR

23 (3) AN INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHTS SECURED BY THE MARYLAND  
24 CONSTITUTION OR THE MARYLAND DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

25 (B) A LICENSEE OR AN APPLICANT FOR A LICENSE SHALL, BEFORE A  
26 LICENSE IS ISSUED OR RENEWED AND AS A PART OF THE APPLICABLE LICENSING  
27 PROCEDURE, CERTIFY IN WRITING THAT THE APPLICANT OR LICENSEE WILL  
28 RESPECT ALL RIGHTS OF OTHERS THAT ARE SECURED BY LAW.

1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2   October 1, 2026.