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*The Maryland House of Delegates*  
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**HB 653**

Correctional Services – Transfers to Federal Authorities – Undocumented Immigrants  
**Protecting Marylanders From Violent Crime Act of 2025**

**What This Bill Does?**

This bill is simple and straightforward: When an undocumented immigrant is convicted of violent crimes—terrorism, sex crimes, pedophilia, or gang activity—our state and local jails will work with federal authorities to ensure they are transferred to ICE custody. We are not talking about ordinary immigrants seeking a better life. We are talking about criminals who have already victimized members of our communities, criminals who should no longer be allowed to walk free in our country.

**Why Do We Need This Bill?**

Today, there are counties in Maryland—such as Howard and Prince George’s—that refuse to cooperate with ICE. This means that dangerous individuals who should be deported are instead released back into our neighborhoods. This is not just an issue of law enforcement; it is an issue of moral responsibility. When we fail to act, we fail the victims of crime and their families.

There are currently individuals in Howard County jail who have committed heinous crimes—men who have raped children, trafficked women, and engaged in gang violence. One man raped a 12-year-old girl in front of her 3-year-old sister. Another brought a woman to Maryland from New York and forced her into prostitution. Are we really going to turn a blind eye and allow them to walk free? Are we willing to let history repeat itself?

Judges sometimes shorten the sentences of illegal immigrants, assuming they will be deported after serving their time. But when state and local governments refuse to cooperate with ICE, these criminals are released instead. This cannot be allowed to continue.

Rachel Morin and Kayla Hamilton are why we need this bill. Protecting and preventing future victims by criminals who should be deported.

Rachel Morin’s killer was convicted of other crimes. Kayla Hamilton’s killer was a confirmed MS-13 gang member who also confessed to four murders, two rapes, and additional crimes.

**Public Opinion and Polling:** (polling attached)

This is an 80-20 issue with broad and deep support for this bill and for cooperation with ICE.

According to the highly respected Gonzales Poll, the vast majority of Marylanders—across all political and racial backgrounds—support cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.

September 2024 polling question: *Do you support or oppose local law enforcement in Maryland being required to turn over to Immigration and Customs any illegal immigrant who has been previously convicted of a violent crime, convicted gang member, or convicted of a sexual offense?*

Support: 84.3%	Democrat 81.5%	White 82.1%
Oppose: 9.4%	Republican 95.3%	Black 90.3%

January 2025 polling question: *Do you support or oppose requiring local officials in Maryland to cooperate with federal law enforcement agents in their effort to arrest and deport aliens in Maryland who have committed crimes?*

Support: 75.7%	Democrat 64.7%	White 76.7%
Oppose: 20.2%	Unaffiliated 76.9%	Black 76.6%

When asked the specific question about this specific bill, more than 84% of Marylanders agree with HB 653. Even as asked in a more broadly way, the public is still strongly in support of sending criminal illegal immigrants to ICE custody.

This is not a complex issue. It is a matter of right and wrong. When violent criminals are caught, convicted, and sentenced, we must ensure they are removed from our communities—not set free to commit more crimes.

For generations, America has been a land of opportunity. We welcome those who come here legally, work hard, and contribute to our society. But we must also be a nation of laws, and those who violate those laws in the most violent ways must be held accountable.

HB 653 is not just about policy; it is about the safety and security of our communities. It is about ensuring that no more families have to grieve the loss of a loved one because their government failed to act. It is about reaffirming our commitment to law and order.

I urge you to pass this bill. Let's do what is right. Let's stand for justice. And let's never forget our most important responsibility: protecting the people of America.