



**Maryland Commission  
on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

**Bill Title:** Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement  
Agreements - Prohibition

**Bill Number(s):** [SB0245](#)

**Position:** FAVORABLE

**Date:** January 20, 2026

**Submitted by:** Director Jeremy Browning on behalf of  
the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs

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**To:**

**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

The Hon. Chair William Smith  
The Hon. Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher

**Testimony on Behalf of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

The Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs, created by the Maryland General Assembly, works to serve LGBTQIA+ Marylanders by galvanizing community voices, researching and addressing challenges, and advocating for policies that advance equity and inclusion. The Commission envisions a Maryland where all LGBTQIA+ people can live full and authentic lives. As a vital resource, the Commission collaborates with public officials, agencies, and community partners to ensure the rights and dignity of LGBTQIA+ Marylanders are protected and respected.

The Commission strongly supports SB0245, which prohibits cooperation between state and local law enforcement agencies and federal immigration authorities. These agreements have had a harmful and chilling effect on immigrant communities, particularly LGBTQIA+ immigrants, by increasing the risk of profiling, detention, and deportation. These agreements undermine public trust in law enforcement, jeopardize public safety, and disproportionately impact vulnerable populations, including transgender and nonbinary individuals, asylum seekers, and those fleeing violence and persecution.

SB0245 prohibits local law enforcement from entering into immigration enforcement agreements with federal immigration authorities and requires the termination of existing agreements. This policy will improve trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement, encouraging individuals to report crimes, seek protection from domestic violence, and cooperate in investigations without fear of deportation.

National data from the [2022 U.S. Transgender Survey](#) underscores the heightened risks of discrimination, violence, and barriers to essential services faced by transgender individuals. Additionally, the [Maryland Trans Survey](#) found that a significant percentage of transgender Marylanders have experienced verbal harassment or abuse (81%), threats (57%), and physical

violence (48%). Rates were even higher for trans people in Maryland who also identify as people of color for experiencing physical or sexual assault (58.9%) and being threatened with violence (66.6%). Fear of discrimination often prevents transgender and LGBTQIA+ immigrants from accessing healthcare, law enforcement, and community resources – in the same study, 75.1% of trans people in Maryland reported being very uncomfortable or somewhat uncomfortable with potentially asking for help from police in a medical emergency. For LGBTQIA+ individuals without legal immigration status, these challenges are even greater, as the threat of immigration enforcement discourages them from seeking medical care, reporting crimes, or utilizing social services.

SB0245 promotes cooperation and public safety among immigrants, including LGBTQIA+ immigrants. Additionally, immigrants have the ability to seek healthcare, report crimes, and engage with law enforcement without fear of detention and deportation. The Commission urges the General Assembly to uphold Maryland's commitment to equity and justice by issuing a favorable report on SB0245.

This bill would enhance public safety, build community trust, and support disproportionately impacted LGBTQIA+ immigrants. We must continue to foster an inclusive and safe Maryland by supporting policies that strengthen our communities and reject policies that promote fear and discrimination.