

SB854 Ban Racial Profiling by Law Enforcement and Limit Federal Abuses in Maryland

In Favor

I urge the Judiciary Committee to issue a favorable report on SB854.

For more than a year, we have watched federal agents acting lawlessly as they flood American cities across the country. These agents have abused their authority as they have engaged in blatant racial profiling, illegal and baseless arrests, and use of excessive force against people just living their lives. These brutal tactics have left more dead at the hands of federal agents in 2025 than any year in the previous two decades. DHS and ICE agents routinely defy court orders. They defy the rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution. The violation of freedom of speech rights of protestors in Minnesota resulted in the deaths of Renee Good and Alex Pretti. Additionally any individual on the soil in the United States is guaranteed certain rights such as limitations as to search and seizure of person and property and the due process by a court of law.

This bill seeks to ensure we keep existing constitutional protections and limit federal abuses. It codifies existing constitutional protections against racial profiling through language explicitly forbidding racial profiling by law. It makes clear that federal agents seeking to rely on Maryland law as a basis for their activities are subject to the same Maryland standards as state and local law enforcement. It also ensures these rights are enforceable through a private cause of action.

When federal law is flaunted and abused, we must turn to the states to protect the rights of our citizens, residents, and visitors. All in Maryland deserve these protections.

I strongly urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB854.

J. Gilbert