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Judiciary Committee



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The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 2, 2026

The Honorable Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett
101 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SPONSOR TESTIMONY- HB0675 Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement - Immigration Enforcement Agreements

Dear Chair Bartlett, vice chair Davis and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

HB0675 would require local law enforcement agencies in the State that operate a correctional facility to enter into an immigration enforcement agreement by January 1, 2027; and further establish penalties for local law enforcement agencies that fail to comply with the requirements of this legislation.

The primary purpose of this bill is to close the dangerous gaps in our current public safety net. By establishing this framework for inter-agency cooperation, this bill not only repeals the recent abolishment of the 287(g) program in the State of Maryland but ensures that every jurisdiction adequately processes criminal non-citizen in collaboration with federal authorities. With this bill, local jails must cooperate in the transfer of criminal non-citizens; the only available flexibility is a one-time waiver to delay but not exempt the adoption of a formal immigration enforcement agreement.

Additionally, HB0675 holds local agencies accountable for the consequences of non-compliance. Should a facility violate this act by releasing an individual who is arrested again within five years, that jurisdiction is responsible for all resulting housing and court costs.

For these reasons, I urge a favorable report for HB 0675 to restore critical safety partnerships and ensure uniform enforcement of the law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lauren C. Arikan".

Delegate Lauren C. Arikan