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Economic Matters Committee

Chair
Workers' Compensation
Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Chairwoman J. Sandy Bartlett
Judiciary Committee
Taylor House Office Building, Room 100
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Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

HB832 establishes a clear hiring standard for Maryland's State law enforcement agencies. The bill prohibits a State law enforcement agency from hiring an individual who was hired as a sworn officer by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on or after January 20, 2025.

The bill applies specifically to State law enforcement agencies, including the Maryland State Police, the Maryland Transportation Authority Police, the Department of Natural Resources Police, the Capitol Police, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and several other state enforcement divisions. Importantly, this legislation does not apply to local police departments.

Over the past year, we have seen a significant escalation in federal immigration enforcement activity. At the same time, the federal government launched an aggressive recruitment effort to expand the ranks of ICE officers. National advertising campaigns, large signing bonuses, and messaging focused on "defending the homeland" have been used to recruit individuals into federal immigration enforcement roles.

Choosing to join ICE during this moment reflects a decision to participate in that enforcement agenda. Maryland has both the authority and the responsibility to determine who is entrusted with the authority and responsibility of enforcing our state's laws.

State law enforcement agencies already consider background, character, and judgment when hiring officers. HB832 simply establishes a clear and prospective standard for those decisions moving forward.

This legislation also reflects the broader values Maryland has established in recent years to protect immigrant communities and limit harmful federal enforcement partnerships. As the federal government continues to expand its enforcement workforce, it is reasonable for Maryland to consider how those individuals may later seek employment within our State law enforcement agencies.

The ICE Breaker Act ensures that Maryland's law enforcement officers reflect the trust, judgment, and values that our communities expect from those who wear the State's badge. For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB832.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian B." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Delegate Adrian Boafo