



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

HB 444

Delegate Nicole Williams

**PUBLIC SAFETY -IMMIGRATION
ENFORCEMENT AGREEMENTS-
PROHIBITION**

POSITION:

SUPPORT

The Prince George's County Council supports HB 444 – **Public Safety -Immigration Enforcement Agreements- Prohibition**. This bill prohibits the State, units of local government, county sheriffs, and any associated agencies, officers, employees, or agents from entering into immigration enforcement agreements. In addition, the bill requires any State or local entity that is currently a party to such an agreement to terminate the agreement no later than July 1, 2026, in accordance with the agreement's termination provisions. The bill takes effect on June 1, 2026.

By establishing a uniform statewide policy, House Bill 444 provides clarity to State and local governments regarding their role in immigration enforcement and ensures consistency in the administration of public safety responsibilities across Maryland.

Prince George's County is one of the most diverse jurisdictions in Maryland, with a large immigrant population. House Bill 444 helps ensure that residents can interact with local law enforcement—reporting crimes, serving as witnesses, or seeking emergency assistance—without fear that local agencies are acting as extensions of federal immigration enforcement. This trust is essential to effective policing and public safety outcomes.

The bill provides clear guidance that immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility, not a local one. For Prince George's County, this clarity helps local agencies remain focused on core public safety and community services rather than being drawn into federal enforcement functions that fall outside their primary mission.

Prince George's County has historically supported policies that promote inclusion, equity, and fairness. House Bill 444 is consistent with these values by ensuring that local government resources are not used in ways that may disproportionately impact immigrant communities or undermine longstanding county policies.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS HB 444** and respectfully requests the Committee's favorable vote.

Prepared by the Bellamy Genn Group on behalf of the Prince George's County Council

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