



NATASHA DARTIGUE
PUBLIC DEFENDER

KEITH LOTRIDGE
DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

HANNIBAL KEMERER
CHIEF OF STAFF

ELIZABETH HILLIARD
DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

BILL: HB675 Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement - Immigration Enforcement Agreeen

FROM: Maryland Office of the Public Defender

POSITION: Unfavorable

DATE: March 2, 2026

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender respectfully requests that the Committee issue an unfavorable report on HB675.

This bill seeks not only to undo the emergency legislation ending 287(g) agreements, which was passed by this body and signed into law just weeks ago, but to *mandate* that every local correctional facility in the state enter a Jail Enforcement Model 287(g) agreement. This would require every local correctional facility in the state to donate bed space and staff time to the project of mass deportation. That the bill addresses only local correctional facilities ensures that it specifically targets individuals who are being released from a local jail when either 1) they have not yet had their day in court but have been deemed safe to release by a judicial officer, or 2) their cases have resulted in an acquittal or dismissal or otherwise have resolved with no conviction; 3) they have served a short local sentence for a less serious offense. This Assembly was correct to ban 287(g) agreements, and should continue to reject practices that turn our local law enforcement officials into a part of the deportation pipeline, undermining trust with no benefit to public safety.

The bill would also mandate unconstitutional detentions, because it requires any law enforcement agency who has not been able to enter a 287(g) agreement by the deadline to nonetheless begin detaining Marylanders beyond their release dates based only on ICE's administrative requests.

For these reasons, the Maryland Office of the Public Defender urges this Committee to issue an unfavorable report on HB675.

Submitted by: Maryland Office of the Public Defender, Government Relations Division.

Authored by: Stephanie Wolf, Director of Immigration Services, stephanie.wolf@maryland.gov.