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Patrick Moran – President

HB 444 – Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition
Judiciary Committee
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FAVORABLE

AFSCME Maryland Council 3 supports House Bill 444. House Bill 444 prohibits the state and local governments from entering into an immigration enforcement agreement with the federal government that authorizes the state or local governments to enforce civil immigration law. These agreements, commonly referred to as 287(g) agreements, authorize state and local law enforcement to perform functions of the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement.¹

AFSCME Maryland Council 3 represents approximately 55,000 public service workers across varying levels of government including city, county, state, and higher education. AFSCME members are on the frontlines every day delivering critical public services our communities depend on.

The new federal administration has swiftly expanded immigration enforcement throughout the United States and instilled fear and chaos in our communities through their enforcement tactics and actions. Federal immigration agents have acted against residents, regardless of their immigration status, with reckless tactics including profiling people based on their race, targeting people with pepper spray and rubber bullets, smashing car windows and dragging people from their cars, and shooting unarmed civilians.² State and local governments should not cooperate with federal immigration authorities, at a time when this federal administration is stretching the limits of their power to instill fear and division in our communities. In Maryland, certain jurisdictions have signed 287(g) agreements, but fortunately, the overwhelming majority of jurisdictions have not.³

AFSCME supports the prohibition and termination of existing 287(g) agreements in Maryland. State and local governments must prioritize state and local public safety priorities. Current staffing shortages impacting state and local law enforcement only emphasize the need to prioritize Maryland's public

¹ The Leadership Conference Education Fund, *287(g) is Impacting Communities Across the United States. Here's What You Need to Know*. June 2025, <https://civilrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/287g-resource-sheet.pdf>.

² See, e.g., Jaclyn Diaz, *Events in Minneapolis show how immigration enforcement has changed. What's the impact?* National Public Radio, January 17, 2026, <https://www.npr.org/2026/01/17/nx-s1-5676240/minneapolis-immigration-enforcement-tactics>; Jon Schuppe and Erik Ortiz, *Trump's DHS has shot 11 people during immigration enforcement operations since September*, NBC News, January 16, 2026, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/ice-shootings-list-border-patrol-trump-immigration-operations-rcna254202>; J.T. Moodee Lockman, *Video Shows ICE agents taking Maryland woman into custody after smashing through car window*, CBS News Baltimore, April 11, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/baltimore/news/maryland-woman-arrest-ice-immigration-el-salvador-berrios/>.

³ William Ford, *Attorney General limits what Maryland police can do when working with federal immigration authorities*, Maryland Matters, October 15, 2025, <https://marylandmatters.org/2025/10/15/attorney-general-limits-what-maryland-police-can-do-when-working-with-federal-authorities/>.

safety priorities, not perpetuating an inhumane federal immigration policy at the hands of the current federal administration.

We urge the committee to support HB 444.