



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

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HB 444

DATE: January 27, 2026

SPONSOR: Delegate Williams, et al.

ASSIGNED TO: Judiciary

CONTACT PERSON: Sara Morningstar (Sara.Morningstar@montgomerycountymd.gov)

COUNTY POSITION: Support

Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement Agreements – Prohibition

House Bill 444 prohibits the State, a unit of local government, a County Sheriff, or any other agency, officer, employee, or agent of the State or a unit of local government from entering into a certain immigration enforcement agreement; requires the termination of an existing immigration enforcement agreement on or before a certain date; and generally relates to immigration enforcement. Montgomery County supports this legislation.

Montgomery County prohibits law enforcement agencies within our jurisdiction from deputizing police to perform federal immigration enforcement, or as these agreements are more commonly known, from entering into Section 287(g) agreements with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The County sees a clear connection between a communities' sense of safety and public trust and the destabilizing impact of federal immigration enforcement agreements with State and local police departments. Such formal collaboration with the federal government only serves to continue the current erosion of our residents' Constitutionally-protected civil rights, and fuels the potential for dangerously detrimental law enforcement practices that could lead to racial profiling in immigration arrests.

For these important reasons, Montgomery County urges the Committee to protect the public safety of all Maryland residents and adopt a favorable report on House Bill 444.