

# THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE



**BEN ALBRITTON**  
*President of the Senate*



**DANIEL PEREZ**  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All Legislators  
**FROM:** Ben Albritton, President  
Daniel Perez, Speaker  
**SUBJECT:** Special Session C  
**DATE:** February 10, 2025

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Over the last several weeks, there has been a great deal of productive discussion on how the state of Florida can best assist President Trump's efforts to crackdown on illegal immigration, with a particular focus on partnerships between local, state, and federal law enforcement to arrest, detain, and deport criminal illegal immigrants.

Today, we are filing a proclamation with the Secretary of State to convene the Legislature in Special Session C, beginning at noon on Tuesday, February 11, and ending at noon on Friday, February 14, for the exclusive purpose of passing legislation to combat illegal immigration.

Each Chamber will file three pieces of legislation for your consideration, preserving the core provisions of the legislation passed in Special Session B, with only minor modifications.

Combining important feedback received from Governor DeSantis and Commissioner Simpson with the very strong legislation passed during Special Session B, we are building on the technical assistance from the White House to advance and implement strong policies and provide critical resources to support President Trump's efforts to combat illegal immigration efficiently and effectively.

We are proud that over the last few weeks conversations and debate within the Legislature on these issues have been civil and respectful. By working together with the Governor towards a shared goal, these proposals and appropriations ensure Florida continues to lead by example with the strongest crackdown on illegal immigration in the nation.

**Modifications to Legislation passed in 2025 Special Session B:**

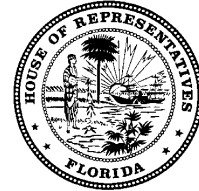
- SB 2C/HB 1C creates a State Board of Immigration Enforcement comprised of the Governor, Commissioner of Agriculture, Attorney General, and Chief Financial Officer. All decisions must be approved unanimously.
- To reflect the addition of the State Board of Immigration Enforcement, SB 2C/HB 1C updates the composition of the State Immigration Enforcement Council.
- The Board will approve the release of grants to support local law enforcement in the enforcement of federal immigration laws. As in SB 2B, grants are to reimburse eligible expenses or provide \$1,000 bonuses to law enforcement officers involved in Homeland Security task force operations. SB 2C/HB 1C appropriates \$250 million for the grant program.
- The bill removes the concept of a single statewide immigration officer.
- To recognize the critical role of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in enforcing immigration laws, SB 2C/HB 1C appropriates significant funding to DACS to hire additional sworn law enforcement and support positions to enhance interdiction activities and protect the borders of this state. This includes funding to build a new interdiction station in North Florida to curb illegal immigration within the I-10 corridor.
- To keep dangerous illegal immigrants behind bars, the prior bill ensured judges have information about a defendant's immigration status that can be used to deny bail. The new bill strengthens that provision by requiring pretrial detention for illegal immigrants who commit forcible felonies. Pretrial detention is already denied for other serious violent crimes.
- The bill replaces the existing Unauthorized Alien Transport Program with a new program where the transport of illegal aliens is done only at the direction of the federal government, with state taxpayer costs fully reimbursed.
- To better protect our borders, SB 4C/HB 3C creates state-level crimes for immigrants who illegally enter and illegally reenter our state.

For more information, please see the attached summary for the new bills.

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## Special Session 2025 C Bill Summaries

### SB 2C/HB 1C BY SENATOR GRUTERS, REPRESENTATIVE MCCLURE

#### **Higher penalties for any illegal immigrant who commits a crime**

- ✓ Reclassifies criminal penalties for all illegal immigrants who commit crimes in our state.

#### **Maximum sentence for illegal immigrant gang members**

- ✓ A criminal illegal immigrant who is a member of a gang and commits a crime will receive the maximum sentence allowed for that crime.

#### **Keeps Criminal Illegal Immigrants Behind Bars**

- ✓ Requires pretrial detention for illegals who commit forcible felonies. Pretrial detention is already denied for serious violent crimes.

#### **Funding for Local Law Enforcement to Assist Trump Immigration Enforcement**

- ✓ Creates a grant program to reimburse law enforcement agencies for expenses that support enforcing federal immigration law, including bonuses for officers who participate in ICE operations.

#### **Felony charges for illegals who vote and those who help them**

- ✓ Any noncitizen of the United States who votes in any election is guilty of a felony. Any person who helps or encourages a noncitizen to vote is also guilty of a felony.

#### **Immigration Enforcement Assistance Agreements Led by Local Law Enforcement**

- ✓ Expands the existing requirement (passed in SB 1808, 2022) that a sheriff operating a county jail must enter into a written agreement with the ICE to help identify and detain criminal illegal immigrants to include county jails not operated by sheriffs.
  - A sheriff or chief correctional officer can select the program that provides the most effective model for enforcing federal immigration laws in their jurisdiction.

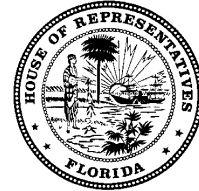
#### **Improved Coordination with Trump-led ICE**

- ✓ Requires county jails to provide ICE with the immigration status of inmates, codifying current practice to support enhanced communication between local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement.

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## **Coordinating with President Trump To Enforce Federal Immigration Law**

- ✓ Creates a State Board of Immigration Enforcement comprised of the Governor, Commissioner of Agriculture, Attorney General, and Chief Financial Officer. All decisions must be approved unanimously.
  - Serves as a resource for the federal government, to assist in the enforcement of federal immigration law.

## **State Immigration Enforcement Council Led by Local Law Enforcement**

- ✓ Creates the State Immigration Enforcement Council comprised of eight members. The Senate President and House Speaker each appoint 2 sheriffs. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Governor, Attorney General, and Chief Financial Officer each appoint 1 police chief. FDLE staffs the Council.
  - The Council will advise the State Board of Immigration Enforcement on the work of local law enforcement to enforce federal immigration law, recommend strategies to increase the number of available detention beds, facilitate training of local law enforcement in the enforcement of federal immigration law, and provide other coordination with the Trump Administration.

## **Expands information sharing to help ICE to enforce immigration law and target transnational gangs.**

- ✓ Expands information sharing to allow use of federal information centers and units to collect intelligence from local law enforcement to help ICE to enforce federal immigration law and target transnational criminal organizations.

## **Promotes Florida a Destination for Law Enforcement Training**

- ✓ Supports training needs for federal, state, and local agencies to protect communities from criminal illegal immigrants, through partnership agreements with the federal government and other states to use Florida's training facilities to train law enforcement in federal immigration enforcement.

## **Creates Incentives for Floridians to Enter the Law Enforcement Field**

- ✓ Funding to local law enforcement agencies to pay for apprenticeships, including the salaries of recruits in training.

## **Safeguards Education Opportunities for Citizens**

- ✓ Removes the out-of-state tuition waiver for students who are not U.S. Citizens or legal residents.

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## **SB 4C/HB 3C by SENATOR GRUTERS, REPRESENTATIVE MCCLURE**

### **Mandatory death penalty for illegal immigrants who commit murder, or child rape**

- ✓ If an illegal immigrant is convicted of a capital offense, including murder or child rape, the death penalty is mandatory.

### **Protects State Borders**

- ✓ Creates state-level crimes for illegally entering or reentering our state.

## **SM 6C/HB 5C by SENATOR GRUTERS, REPRESENTATIVE MCCLURE**

### **Solidifies Partnership with President Trump, ICE, and Homeland Security**

- ✓ Memorial to the Department of Homeland Security urges further guidance, training opportunities, and any other necessary directives to ensure cooperation and coordination with 287(g) agreements and to maximize the State and local law enforcement agencies impact in assisting the Federal government in combatting illegal immigration.