

THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE



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President of the Senate



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Tackling and Reforming Unlawful Migration Policy Act Partners with President Trump, Local Law Enforcement to Protect Communities from Criminal Illegal Immigrants
SB 2B and HB 1B provide more badges, more beds to hold criminal illegal aliens, and a laser focus on catching criminals who violate our laws

Tallahassee—Standing in lockstep with President Trump and local law enforcement leaders in the fight to end illegal immigration, Florida Senate President Ben Albritton (R-Wauchula) and House Speaker Daniel Perez (R-Miami) today convened the Florida Legislature in Special Session to support President Trump’s executive orders on illegal immigration enforcement. While the Governor’s proposals may be well-intentioned, they introduce unnecessary bureaucracy that hampers the critical collaboration between law enforcement and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The “Tackling and Reforming Unlawful Migration Policy Act” removes these obstacles, empowering law enforcement to work seamlessly with ICE in addressing illegal immigration. The legislation is sponsored in the Senate by Senator Joe Gruters (R-Sarasota), and in the House by Representative Lawrence McClure (R-68).

“President Trump’s Executive Orders make it clear – it’s a new day in Washington and citizenship matters. This is a federal issue and the federal government is taking the lead. President Trump is closing our borders, protecting our sovereignty and most importantly he has the back of law enforcement leaders who are on the front lines protecting our communities from criminal illegal aliens. So do we,” **said President Albritton**. “When it comes to cracking down on illegal immigration, Florida is already so far ahead of most states. With the help and support of law enforcement and Commissioner Simpson serving as our liaison with President Trump, this legislation ensures we continue to lead the way, investing heavily in funding local law enforcement will need to further tackle this important challenge now that ICE is operating under President Trump.”

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“Supporting President Trump’s mission to secure our borders, Florida stands ready to act with the most aggressive immigration policy ever introduced,” **said Speaker Perez**. “We will empower law enforcement, expand detention capacity and ensure full cooperation with federal authorities and with over a \$500 million investment, we’ll recruit more officers, build more beds and make sure to keep Floridians safe.”

“The Biden Administration turned a blind eye as illegal immigrants poured across our borders and into our communities. Enough is enough. Florida stands with President Trump. This bill is exactly what President Trump is asking for. We are partnering with him and with local law enforcement to keep criminal illegal immigrants off our streets,” **said Senator Gruters**.

“President Trump is asking for more badges, more detention beds, and a laser focus on catching criminal illegals who violate our laws. This bill delivers through key funding and partnership with law enforcement leaders who know what will work best in their communities.”

“With President Trump leading the charge to secure our borders, Florida is stepping up to ensure our state remains at the forefront of providing assistance to the federal government in enforcing immigration laws,” **said Representative McClure**. “This legislation gives our law enforcement the support they need to effectively partner with ICE, removing barriers that have hindered their efforts. Together, we are taking action to protect our communities and uphold the rule of law.”

Coordinating with President Trump To Enforce Federal Immigration Law

The bill names Commissioner Wilton Simpson as Florida’s Chief Immigration Officer and establishes the Office of State Immigration Enforcement within the Division of Law Enforcement under his Department. The Commissioner of Agriculture has the capacity, expertise and resources to effectively manage this critical role, with an existing law enforcement office and a statewide presence. Historically, the Commissioner has served as the immigration officer among other functions.

As Chief Immigration Officer, Commissioner Simpson will serve as the central point of coordination between the Trump-led federal government, state entities, local governmental entities, and law enforcement agencies to enforce federal immigration law. The Chief Immigration Officer also coordinates and provides assistance to law enforcement agencies and local governments to ensure compliance with Florida’s Federal Immigration Enforcement statute, administers the Local Law Enforcement Immigration Grant Program, conducts audits to ensure compliance and enforcement of E-Verify, and provides the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House legislative recommendations to improve assistance and coordination with the Federal Government in enforcement of federal immigration law. Additionally, the Chief Immigration Officer is responsible for reporting on the number of vacant detention beds available in correctional facilities and county jails that can be sublet to ICE and hiring additional

law enforcement officers to aid local governmental entities and law enforcement agencies in the enforcement of federal immigration laws.

“President Trump is a tremendous leader in protecting our sovereignty and defending the rule of law. His executive orders provide a comprehensive and extensive list of actions the federal government is taking to address illegal immigration. We are grateful that under his leadership the federal government is finally stepping up,” **said Commissioner Wilton Simpson.** “Our dedicated law enforcement professionals are in this fight every single day, and I am honored to stand with them as a liaison between the State of Florida and the Trump Administration. I am confident with the leadership of our state and local law enforcement and the funding the Legislature is appropriating in this bill, President Trump’s home state will be a national leader in apprehending criminal illegal aliens, as well as a destination for law enforcement to train on apprehending and detaining criminal illegals through ICE.”

Making an Unprecedented Investment in Fighting Illegal Immigration

The bill makes a record-breaking appropriation of over \$500 million to assist state and local law enforcement agencies in their fight against illegal immigration. The bill also creates the Local Law Enforcement Immigration Grant Program to reimburse local law enforcement agencies for expenses related to supporting the enforcement of federal immigration law.

Immigration Enforcement Assistance Agreements Led by Local Law Enforcement

The bill expands the current requirement (passed in SB 1808, 2022) that a sheriff operating a county detention facility must enter into a written agreement with ICE to participate in the immigration program established under s. 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. s. 1357, to include county jails not operated by a sheriff. Among the options available to sheriffs and chief correctional officers are the Warrant Service Officer Program and the Jail Enforcement Model. Both are already operational in certain Florida counties.

In lockstep with President Trump’s [Executive Order](#), a sheriff or chief correctional officer operating a county detention facility will select the manner that provides the most effective model for enforcing federal immigration laws in that jurisdiction.

State Immigration Enforcement Council Led by Local Law Enforcement

The bill creates the State Immigration Enforcement Council comprised of the Executive Director of FDLE and seven sheriffs and four police chiefs appointed by the Chief Immigration Officer. A sheriff will chair the council.

The Council will advise the Chief Immigration Officer on the efforts of local law enforcement agencies to enforce federal immigration law. The Council will also recommend strategies to increase the number of available detention beds, facilitate the training of local law enforcement

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officers in the enforcement of federal immigration law, and better coordinate with the Trump Administration.

Making Florida a Destination for Law Enforcement Training

Florida is home to robust, highly qualified, strategic, year-round assets for law enforcement training, including the Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, which the taxpayers have made significant investments to make the premier facility in the southeast. In order to support the anticipated training and operation needs as multiple federal and state and local agencies work together to protect communities from criminal illegal immigrants, the bill directs the Chief Immigration Officer to coordinate with the Department of Military Affairs and local law enforcement on partnership agreements with the federal government to use Florida's training facilities, which will be convenient, cost-effective, and will help Florida achieve training goals more efficiently.

Incentivizes Floridians to Enter the Law Enforcement Field

Provides funding to local law enforcement agencies to pay for apprenticeships, including the salaries of recruits going through law enforcement training.

Keeping Criminal Illegal Immigrants Behind Bars

Provides judges with information about a defendant's immigration status that can be used to deny bail for illegal immigrants. Pre-trial detention can already be ordered for violent and other serious crimes.

Reclassification Misdemeanor Offenses Committed by Illegal Immigrants

Reclassifies misdemeanors to the next highest degree if committed by a person who has been previously convicted of a federal crime relating to the reentry of removed aliens. The Legislature previously passed this reclassification regarding felonies.

Improved Coordination with Trump-led ICE

Upon request from the federal government, the bill requires a sheriff or chief correctional officer operating a county detention facility to provide a list of all inmates booked into the county detention facility and any information regarding each inmate's immigration status. This provision enhances current practice to support enhanced communication between local law enforcement and Trump-led federal immigration enforcement efforts.

Creates Strong Criminal Penalties For Illegal Immigrants Who Vote In Our Elections

Under the bill, any person who is not a citizen of the United States who willfully votes in any election is guilty of 3rd Degree Felony. A person's ignorance of his or her citizenship cannot be raised as a defense. Any person who helps or encourages an illegal immigrant to vote would also be guilty of a 3rd Degree Felony.

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Removes Education Incentives for Illegal Immigrants

The bill removes the out-of-state tuition waiver for students who are not U.S. citizens or lawfully present in the United States.

For more information, please visit www.FLSenate.gov or www.FLHouse.gov.

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