

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Judiciary Committee

BILL: SPB 7066

INTRODUCER: For consideration by the Judiciary Committee

SUBJECT: Unauthorized Aliens

DATE: March 11, 2011      REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Maclure	Maclure		<b>Pre-meeting</b>
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

**I. Summary:**

This proposed committee bill prescribes multiple requirements relating to unauthorized aliens, including:

- Requiring employers, effective January 1, 2012, to verify the employment eligibility of new employees using the federal E-Verify Program, and authorizing the suspension of an employer’s license for failure to comply;
- Directing the Department of Corrections to pursue an agreement with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for the training of department employees as jail enforcement officers to help enforce federal immigration law, pursuant to section 287(g) of the federal Immigration and Nationality Act (“287(g) agreement”);
- Requiring the Department of Law Enforcement to take all steps necessary to maintain its 287(g) agreement with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, under which department employees are trained as task force officers;
- Encouraging sheriffs to pursue 287(g) agreements;
- Codifying state and local law enforcement participation in a federal program (Secure Communities Program) in which the fingerprints of an arrested person are checked against federal databases to determine the person’s immigration status;
- Authorizing the Department of Corrections to release certain criminal aliens convicted of nonviolent offenses to the custody of the federal government as part of the Rapid REPAT Program; and
- Requiring the Agency for Workforce Innovation to quantify the costs to the state related to unauthorized immigration and to seek financial renumeration from the federal government.

This bill creates the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 448.30, 448.31, and 945.80. The bill also creates an undesignated section of the Florida Statutes.

## II. Present Situation:

### Background on Unauthorized Immigration<sup>1</sup>

Immigration into the United States is largely governed by the Immigration and Nationality Act (“INA”).<sup>2</sup> The INA utilizes several federal agencies, including the Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and Department of State to administer and enforce federal immigration policies.<sup>3</sup> An alien is a person present in the United States who is not a citizen of the United States.<sup>4</sup> The INA provides for the conditions whereby an alien may be admitted to and remain in the United States<sup>5</sup> and provides a registration system to monitor the entry and movement of aliens in the United States.<sup>6</sup> An alien may be subject to removal for certain actions, including entering the United States without inspection, presenting fraudulent documents at a port of entry, health reasons, violating the conditions of admission, or engaging in certain other proscribed conduct.<sup>7</sup>

Various categories of legal immigration status exist that include students, workers, tourists, research professors, diplomats, and others.<sup>8</sup> These categories are based on the type and duration of permission granted to be present in the United States, and expire based on those conditions. All lawfully present aliens must have appropriate documentation based on status.<sup>9</sup>

It has been reported that an estimated 825,000 unauthorized immigrants were present in Florida in 2010, representing 4.5 percent of Florida’s population of 18,492,000 – a decline from 1.05 million unauthorized immigrants in 2007.<sup>10</sup> Nevertheless, Florida continued to rank third among states in the size of its unauthorized immigrant population.<sup>11</sup> Of Florida’s 9,064,000 total work force, 600,000 are unauthorized immigrants, which represents 6.6 percent of the work force (above the national average of 5.2 percent).<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Significant portions of the “Present Situation” section of this bill analysis are from the staff analysis of PCB JDC 11-01, prepared by the House Committee on Judiciary (Mar. 3, 2011; used with permission).

<sup>2</sup> 8 U.S.C. s. 1101, et seq.

<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., *id.* ss. 1103-1104.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* s. 1101(a)(3).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* ss. 1181-1182, 1184.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* ss. 1201(b), 1301-1306.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* ss. 1225, 1227, 1228, 1229, 1229c, 1231.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.* ss. 201- 210.

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* s. 221.

<sup>10</sup> Jeffrey S. Passel and D’Vera Cohn. “Unauthorized Immigrant Population: National and State Trends, 2010.” Washington, DC: Pew Hispanic Center (February 1, 2011).

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

## Enforcement of Immigration Laws

State and local law enforcement officers do not inherently have the authority to enforce federal immigration laws. The INA authorizes areas of cooperation in enforcement between federal, state, and local government authorities.<sup>13</sup>

The Secretary of DHS, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”), may enter into written agreements with a state or any political subdivision of a state so that qualified personnel can perform certain functions of an immigration officer.<sup>14</sup> ICE trains and cross-designates state and local officers to enforce immigration laws as authorized through section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. An officer who is trained and cross-designated through the 287(g) program can interview and initiate removal proceedings of aliens processed through the officer’s detention facility. Local law enforcement agencies without a 287(g) officer must notify ICE of a foreign-born detainee, and an ICE officer must conduct an interview to determine the alienage of the suspect and initiate removal proceedings, if appropriate. Since January 2006, the 287(g) program has been credited with identifying more than 79,000 individuals, mostly in jails, who are suspected of being in the country illegally.<sup>15</sup>

Florida currently has four law enforcement agencies that participate in the 287(g) program: the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), and the sheriff’s offices of Bay, Collier, and Duval counties.

Within the Department of Homeland Security is the Law Enforcement Support Center (“LESC”), administered by ICE, answering queries from state and local officials regarding immigration status. A law enforcement agency can check the immigration status of an arrestee or prisoner through LESL twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Significant statistics from LESL for FY 2008:

- The number of requests for information sent to LESL increased from 4,000 in FY 1996 to 807,106 in FY 2008.
- During FY 2008, special agents at LESL placed 16,423 detainers on foreign nationals wanted by ICE for criminal and immigration violations.
- The records of more than 250,000 previously deported aggravated felons, immigration fugitives and wanted criminals are now in the NCIC system.
- Special agents at LESL confirmed 8,440 NCIC hits during FY 2008.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> See *id.* s. 1357(g)(1)-(9) (permitting the Department of Homeland Security to enter into agreements whereby appropriately trained and supervised state and local officials can perform certain immigration responsibilities); *id.* s. 1373 (establishing parameters for information-sharing between state and local officials and federal immigration officials); *id.* s. 1252c (authorizing state and local law enforcement officials to arrest aliens unlawfully present in the United States who have previously been convicted of a felony and deported).

<sup>14</sup> Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), codified at 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g) (1996), as amended by the Homeland Security Act of 2002, Public Law 107-296.

<sup>15</sup> Details taken from information provided on the website of ICE, <http://www.ice.gov/news/library/factsheets/287g.htm> (last visited March 8, 2011).

<sup>16</sup> Details taken from information provided on the website of ICE, <http://www.ice.gov/news/library/factsheets/lesl.htm> (last visited March 8, 2011).

## Employment & E-Verify

The federal Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA)<sup>17</sup> made it illegal for any U.S. employer to knowingly:

- Hire, recruit or refer for a fee an alien knowing he or she is unauthorized to work;
- Continue to employ an alien knowing he or she has become unauthorized; or
- Hire, recruit or refer for a fee, any person (citizen or alien) without following the record keeping requirements of the Act.<sup>18</sup>

The law established a procedure that employers must follow to verify that employees are authorized to work in the United States.<sup>19</sup> The procedure requires employees to present documents that establish both the worker's identity and eligibility to work, and requires employers to complete an "I-9" form for each new employee hired.<sup>20</sup> The IRCA provides sanctions to be implemented against employers who knowingly employ aliens who are not authorized to work.<sup>21</sup> Federal law contains no criminal sanction for working without authorization, although document fraud is a civil violation.<sup>22</sup> The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS – formerly the INS and now part of the Department of Homeland Security) enforces these provisions.<sup>23</sup>

In 1996, Congress passed the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA),<sup>24</sup> which, among other things, created various employment eligibility verification programs, including the Basic Pilot program. Originally, the Basic Pilot program (now referred to as E-Verify) was available in five of the seven States that had the highest populations of unauthorized aliens and initially authorized for only four years. However, Congress has consistently extended the program's life. It expanded the program in 2003, making it available in all fifty States. In 2008, the federal government began requiring any entity that maintained or applied for federal contracts to use E-Verify.<sup>25</sup>

E-Verify allows employers to ensure that they are hiring authorized workers by electronically comparing the identification and authorization information that employees provide with information contained in federal Social Security Administration (SSA) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) databases. To participate in E-Verify, the employer must sign a memorandum of understanding that governs the system's operation. After enrolling in E-Verify, employers must still complete the I-9 verification process.

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<sup>17</sup> Public Law 99-603, 100 Stat. 3359.

<sup>18</sup> 8 U.S.C. s. 1324a.

<sup>19</sup> *Id.*

<sup>20</sup> *Id.*

<sup>21</sup> *Id.* s. 1324a(a)(1)-(2).

<sup>22</sup> *Id.* s. 1324c.

<sup>23</sup> *Id.* s. 1324a.

<sup>24</sup> Public Law 104-208.

<sup>25</sup> History taken from information provided on the website of the Department of Homeland Security, <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=84979589cdb76210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=84979589cdb76210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD> (last visited March 8, 2011).

If the information that the employer submits matches the records in the federal databases, E-Verify immediately notifies the employer that the individual is employment authorized. If the information the employee has provided does not match the information in the federal databases, E-Verify issues a tentative nonconfirmation. Before issuing a tentative nonconfirmation, however, E-Verify will ask the employer to confirm that the information submitted is accurate to avoid inaccurate results based on typographical errors.

If a tentative nonconfirmation is issued, the employee is notified and given an opportunity to contact SSA or DHS to resolve any potential problem. Until there is a final determination, the employer may not terminate the employee for being unauthorized. Upon receipt of a final nonconfirmation, an employer must terminate the employee per the E-Verify memorandum of understanding. Other information regarding E-Verify:

- Free to employers; must register and agree to an MOU.
- Used by more than 243,000 employers.
- On average, 1,000 new employers enroll each week with the program.
- In FY 2010, the E-verify Program ran more than 16 million queries.<sup>26</sup>

E-Verify was the subject of an independent evaluation in 2009. This study concluded that E-Verify was 95.9 percent accurate in its initial determination regarding employment authorization.<sup>27</sup> E-Verify participants reported minimal costs to participate and were generally satisfied with the program.<sup>28</sup>

## **Law Enforcement and Corrections**

### ***Unauthorized Aliens in Prisons***

Information is not available to determine the total number of criminal aliens who are in jails and prisons in the United States. However, ICE estimates that 300,000 to 450,000 criminal aliens who are potentially removable are detained each year nationwide at federal, state, and local prisons and jails. These include illegal aliens in the United States who are convicted of any crime and lawful permanent residents who are convicted of a removable offense.

### ***Unauthorized Aliens in Florida Prisons***

Florida Model Jail Standard 4.01 provides in part “[w]hen a foreign citizen is received/admitted to a detention facility for any reason, the detention facility shall make notification using the guidelines as set forth by the U.S. Department of State.”<sup>29</sup> Generally, when a person is booked

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<sup>26</sup> Program description taken from information provided on the website of the Department of Homeland Security, <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=a16988e60a405110VgnVCM1000004718190aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=a16988e60a405110VgnVCM1000004718190aRCRD> (last visited March 8, 2011).

<sup>27</sup> United States Citizenship and Immigration Services; 2009 Westat Report at 116, [http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/E-Verify/E-Verify/Final%20E-Verify%20Report%2012-16-09\\_2.pdf](http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/E-Verify/E-Verify/Final%20E-Verify%20Report%2012-16-09_2.pdf) (last visited March 8, 2011).

<sup>28</sup> 2009 Westat Report at 169.

<sup>29</sup> [http://www.flsheriffs.org/our\\_program/florida-model-jail-standards/?index.cfm/referer/content.contentList/ID/408/](http://www.flsheriffs.org/our_program/florida-model-jail-standards/?index.cfm/referer/content.contentList/ID/408/) (last visited March 8, 2011).

into a local jail, jail officials use the information given by the detainee to help determine the person’s citizenship status. If a detainee admits he or she is not a U.S. citizen, or if there is reason to believe a detainee is not a U.S. citizen, jail officials attempt to determine the detainee’s citizenship status by submitting the detainee’s identification information through LESC.

ICE agents working in Florida prison reception centers investigate newly admitted inmates to identify those who may be aliens. If ICE notifies the Department of Corrections that they want to take an alien inmate into custody, the inmate is released into ICE custody when his or her sentence is completed. ICE may refuse to take custody of an alien inmate in some cases, such as when the alien is from a country to which he or she cannot be deported. Most alien inmates who complete their sentences in Florida prisons are released to ICE for further immigration processing, including possible deportation. These inmates are deported promptly after release from prison if they have been ordered out of the country and have no further appeals of their final deportation order.

The chart below shows the number of alien inmates released from Florida custody to ICE from 2000 through 2007:

YEAR OF RELEASE	EXPIRATION OF SENTENCE	COMMUNITY SUPERVISION	TOTAL
2000	433	169	602
2001	730	326	1,056
2002	793	323	1,116
2003	798	383	1,181
2004	752	348	1,100
2005	746	326	1,072
2006	754	354	1,108
2007	799	321	1,120
2008	885	337	1,222
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,690</b>	<b>2,887</b>	<b>9,577</b>

**Confirmed Aliens in Florida Prisons as of November 30, 2010<sup>30</sup>**

PRIMARY OFFENSE	NUMBER OF CONFIRMED ALIENS	Percent
MURDER/MANSLAUGHTER	1,278	22.66
SEXUAL/LEWD BEHAVIOR	1,000	17.73
ROBBERY	433	7.68
VIOLENT, OTHER	765	13.56
BURGLARY	733	12.99
PROPERTY THEFT/FRAUD/DAMAGE	220	3.90
DRUGS	976	17.30
WEAPONS	86	1.52

<sup>30</sup> Supplied by the Florida Department of Corrections.

OTHER	150	2.66
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,641</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**ICE Cooperative Programs**

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which is the investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security,<sup>31</sup> administers a number of programs that involve cooperation between federal immigration officers and state and local law enforcement. Florida currently participates in some of these programs aimed at identifying unauthorized immigrants in the state who have committed crimes.

The umbrella program that encompasses all other cooperative law enforcement programs is called ICE Agreements of Cooperation in Communities to Enhance Safety and Security (ACCESS). ACCESS was developed to promote the various programs or tools that ICE offers to assist state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies. Under this initiative, ICE works closely with other law enforcement agencies to identify an agency’s specific needs or the local community’s unique concerns. In developing an ACCESS partnership agreement, ICE representatives will meet with the requesting agency to assess local needs and draft appropriate plans of action. Based upon these assessments, ICE and the requesting agency will determine which type of partnership is most beneficial and sustainable before entering into an official agreement.<sup>32</sup>

The section 287(g) program, the Secure Communities Program,<sup>33</sup> the Criminal Alien Program,<sup>34</sup> and the Law Enforcement Support Center are all ACCESS initiatives currently operating in Florida.

**Section 287(g)**

For a discussion of s. 287(g) agreements, see the discussion of **Enforcement of Immigration Laws** above.

**Secure Communities**

The Secure Communities program assists in the identification and removal of criminal aliens held in local and state correctional facilities by using technology to share national, state, and local law enforcement data, such as fingerprint-based biometric information sharing, among agencies. Fingerprinting technology is used during the booking process to quickly and accurately

<sup>31</sup> U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, *ICE Overview*, available at <http://www.ice.gov/about/overview/> (last visited Mar. 11, 2011).

<sup>32</sup> U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, *ICE ACCESS*, available at <http://www.ice.gov/access/> (last visited Mar. 10, 2011).

<sup>33</sup> U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, *Secure Communities Activated Jurisdictions*, available at <http://www.ice.gov/doclib/secure-communities/pdf/sc-activated.pdf> (last visited Mar. 10, 2011).

<sup>34</sup> Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, *U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Identification of Criminal Aliens in Federal and State Custody Eligible for Removal from the United States*, (Jan. 2009), available at [http://www.dhs.gov/xoig/assets/mgmt/rpts/OIG\\_11-26\\_Jan11.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/xoig/assets/mgmt/rpts/OIG_11-26_Jan11.pdf) (last visited Mar. 10, 2011).

determine the immigration status of individuals arrested. The program focuses first on those who have been charged with or convicted of the most dangerous crimes. Fingerprints for all arrested individuals are submitted during the booking process and are checked against FBI criminal history records and DHS records.<sup>35</sup> As of June 22, 2010, ICE was using this information sharing capability in all Florida jurisdictions.<sup>36</sup>

### ***Criminal Alien Program***

The Criminal Alien Program (CAP) identifies, processes and removes criminal aliens incarcerated in federal, state, and local prisons and jails throughout the U.S. and in Florida. It was created to prevent criminal aliens from being released into the general public. The program secures a final removal order, prior to the termination of criminal aliens' sentences whenever possible. CAP deports criminals after their sentence is served and applies to aliens who have been convicted of any crime.<sup>37</sup> CAP agents work in state field offices and screen removable criminals through an electronic records check and interview process. Correctional facilities are requested to contact ICE prior to release of a criminal alien to allow ICE time to assume custody.<sup>38</sup>

### ***Law Enforcement Support Center***

Also within the Department of Homeland Security is the Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC), administered by ICE, answering queries from state and local officials regarding immigration status. A law enforcement agency can check the immigration status of an arrestee or prisoner through LESL twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Significant statistics from LESL for FY 2008:

- The number of requests for information sent to LESL increased from 4,000 in FY 1996 to 807,106 in FY 2008.
- During FY 2008, special agents at LESL placed 16,423 detainers on foreign nationals wanted by ICE for criminal and immigration violations.
- The records of more than 250,000 previously deported aggravated felons, immigration fugitives and wanted criminals are now in the NCIC system.
- Special agents at LESL confirmed 8,440 NCIC hits during FY 2008.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, *Secure Communities*, available at [http://www.ice.gov/secure\\_communities/](http://www.ice.gov/secure_communities/) (last visited Mar. 10, 2011).

<sup>36</sup> U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, *Secure Communities Activated Jurisdictions*, available at <http://www.ice.gov/doclib/secure-communities/pdf/sc-activated.pdf> (last visited Mar. 10, 2011).

<sup>37</sup> U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, *Criminal Alien Program*, available at <http://www.ice.gov/criminal-alien-program/> (last visited Mar. 10, 2011).

<sup>38</sup> Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, *U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Identification of Criminal Aliens in Federal and State Custody Eligible for Removal from the United States*, 3 (Jan. 2009), available at [http://www.dhs.gov/xoig/assets/mgmtrpts/OIG\\_11-26\\_Jan11.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/xoig/assets/mgmtrpts/OIG_11-26_Jan11.pdf) (last visited Mar. 10, 2011).

<sup>39</sup> Details taken from information provided on the website of ICE, <http://www.ice.gov/news/library/factsheets/lesc.htm> (last visited Mar. 8, 2011).



## **Rapid REPAT**

The ICE Rapid Removal of Eligible Parolees Accepted for Transfer (REPAT) program, in which Florida does not currently participate, is designed to expedite the deportation process of criminal aliens by allowing selected criminal aliens incarcerated in U.S. prisons and jails to accept early release in exchange for voluntarily returning to their country of origin.<sup>40</sup>

Rapid REPAT is a law enforcement tool that ensures that all criminal aliens serving a time in prison are identified and processed for removal prior to their release. The identification and processing of incarcerated criminal aliens prior to release reduces the burden on the taxpayer and ensures that criminal aliens are promptly removed from the U.S. upon completion of their criminal sentence. This program allows ICE to more effectively identify and quickly remove criminal aliens from the United States. ICE Rapid REPAT also allows ICE and participating states to reduce costs associated with detention space.<sup>41</sup>

### Key Elements of Rapid REPAT:

- In states where Rapid REPAT is implemented, certain aliens who are incarcerated in state prison and who have been convicted of non-violent offenses may receive conditional release if they have a final order of removal and agree not to return to the United States;
- Eligible aliens agree to waive appeal rights associated with their state conviction(s) and must have final removal orders; and
- If aliens re-enter the United States, state statutes must provide for revocation of parole and confinement for the remainder of the alien's original sentence. Additionally, aliens may be prosecuted under federal statutes that provide for up to 20 years in prison for illegally reentering the United States.<sup>42</sup>

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

This proposed committee bill prescribes multiple requirements relating to unauthorized aliens.

#### **Mandatory Participation by Employers in E-Verify (Sections 1-3)**

The bill requires every employer who hires a new employee on or after January 1, 2012, to register with the federal E-Verify Program and to verify the employment eligibility of the newly hired employee. An "employer" includes any person or agency employing one or more employees in this state. The employer must maintain a record of the verification for the longer of three years or the duration of the employment.

An employer who does not comply with the requirement is subject to having the employer's licenses suspended during the period of noncompliance. The bill specifies that suspension of a license must comply with a provision of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), s. 120.60(5), F.S., which requires notice to the licensee. The bill's definition of "license" includes licenses

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<sup>40</sup> U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, *Rapid REPAT*, available at <http://www.ice.gov/rapid-repat/> (last visited Mar. 11, 2011).

<sup>41</sup> *Id.*

<sup>42</sup> *Id.*

issued by agencies not subject to the APA (e.g., municipalities). Thus, the Legislature may wish to specify the manner in which licenses are to be suspended in those cases.

Under the bill, if an employer terminates an employee upon a determination that the employee is not work-eligible, the employer is not liable for wrongful termination, provided the employer complies with the E-Verify regulations.

The bill directs the Attorney General to request quarterly from the federal government a list of Florida employers registered with the E-Verify Program and to make the list available on the Attorney General's website.

These E-Verify requirements are proposed for codification in a new section of the Florida Statutes, s. 448.31, F.S. The bill also creates a corresponding definitions section, s. 448.30, F.S. In addition, the bill directs the Division of Statutory Revision to publish the two new sections as part III of ch. 448, F.S., titled "Unauthorized Aliens." Chapter 448, F.S., relates to general labor regulations.

#### **Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Cooperation with Federal Government (Section 4)**

The bill expresses the intent of the Legislature that law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in the state work cooperatively with the Federal Government to:

- Identify unauthorized immigrants and enforce state and federal immigration laws, and
- To maximize opportunities to transfer custody and detention of unauthorized immigrants who are accused or convicted of crimes from state and local governments to the federal government.

#### ***Delegated Enforcement Authority (287(g) Agreements)***

The bill calls for increased state participation in delegated authority from the federal government to enforce immigration laws under s. 287(g) of the federal Immigration and Nationality Act. Specifically, the bill:

- Directs the Department of Corrections to pursue an agreement with the Department of Homeland Security to have departmental employees or contractors trained as jail enforcement officers. If the department has not executed an agreement with the Department of Homeland Security by November 1, 2011, it must identify, in a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the obstacles to entering into the agreement. The department also must report annually on activities taken under the agreement.
- Provides statutory guidance related to the Department of Law Enforcement's existing 287(g) agreement with the federal government to have employees trained as task force officers. The department must report annually on activities under the agreement.
- Requires county sheriffs to explore the feasibility of signing 287(g) agreements with the Department of Homeland Security to have employees trained as either jail enforcement officers or task force officers. The bill specifies that if a sheriff determines that an agreement is feasible, he or she shall make such a request to the department.

### ***Identification of Aliens upon Arrest (Secure Communities Program)***

The bill codifies the current participation by the Department of Law Enforcement and all 67 county sheriffs in the Secure Communities Program operated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). It does so by:

- Requiring the Department of Law Enforcement to take all steps necessary to maintain its agreement with ICE, under which fingerprints submitted to the department by local law enforcement agencies upon the arrest of any individual are automatically checked against federal databases to assess the immigration status of the arrested person.
- Requiring arresting agencies to participate in the submission of fingerprints through the program. Because the bill codifies this requirement, it appears that it would become a violation of state law if a sheriff, for example, refused to participate in the program.

Under the Secure Communities Program, ICE is automatically notified when fingerprint data establishes that a person is an unauthorized alien. The bill requires an arresting agency to affirmatively notify the U.S. Department of Homeland Security if the agency learns – independent of the fingerprint process – that an arrestee is not lawfully present in the United States (e.g., if an arrestee volunteered the information).

### **Removal and Deportation of Criminal Aliens (Section 5)**

The bill authorizes the Department of Corrections to participate in the Rapid REPAT Program administered by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), under which nonviolent criminal aliens may be released from the state prison system to the custody and control of ICE. In addition to the prisoner being convicted of a nonviolent offense, the department must have received from ICE a final order of removal, and the secretary must determine that removal is appropriate. The bill specifies that a prisoner would not be eligible for release and repatriation if he or she would not meet the criteria for control release in Florida.<sup>43</sup> The bill does not require that the person have served a particular portion of his or her sentence.

Under the terms of the proposed statute, if the prisoner returns to the United States unlawfully, his or her release is revoked, and the department shall seek the prisoner's return to Florida to complete the remainder of his or her sentence. The department shall notify each prisoner who is eligible for removal of this condition.

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<sup>43</sup> **Note:** Due to a drafting error by professional staff of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, the cross-reference to the control release statute (see line 238) inadvertently omits a category of prisoners who are ineligible for control release under s. 947.146(3)(b), F.S. Because prisoners in this category would not likely qualify as “nonviolent,” which is a condition precedent for release under the Rapid REPAT Program, the cross-reference should be corrected to make it abundantly clear that such prisoners are not eligible for release under either control release or the Rapid REPAT Program. Section 947.146, F.S., creates the Control Release Authority (CRA), which is composed of members of the Parole Commission. The CRA is required to implement a system for determining the number and type of inmates who must be released into the community under control release in order to maintain the state prison system between 99 and 100 percent of its total capacity.

### **Study on Costs of Unauthorized Immigration; Request for Federal Reimbursement (Section 6)**

The bill directs the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI or agency) to conduct a study that quantifies the costs to the state attributable to unauthorized immigration. The shall prepare the report in consultation with the Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research, and submit it to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1, 2011. Based on the quantified costs and within a month after submitting the report, AWI shall request from the appropriate federal agency or official:

- reimbursement to the state of the quantified costs; or
- a corresponding reduction or forgiveness of any moneys owed to the federal government by the state due to borrowing to fund unemployment compensation claims.

Due to the increasing unemployment rate in the state, the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund has been paying out more funds than it has been collecting. The trust fund fell into deficit in August 2009, and since that time the state has requested more than \$2 billion in federal advances in order to continue to fund unemployment compensation claims.<sup>44</sup>

### **Effective Date (Section 7)**

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2011.

## **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

### **C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

### **D. Other Constitutional Issues:**

States are generally able to legislate in areas not controlled by federal law. "Congress has the power under the Supremacy Clause of Article VI of the [United States] Constitution to preempt state law."<sup>45</sup> Provisions comparable to those included in this proposed committee bill have been passed in other states and have faced legal challenges under the

<sup>44</sup> As of February 17, 2011. See U.S. Department of Treasury, Bureau of Public Debt, Treasury Direct, *Title XII Advance Activities Schedule*, [http://www.treasurydirect.gov/govt/reports/tfmp/tfmp\\_advactivitiessched.htm](http://www.treasurydirect.gov/govt/reports/tfmp/tfmp_advactivitiessched.htm) (last visited Feb. 21, 2011).

<sup>45</sup> *Northwest Central Pipeline Corp. v. State Corp. Comm'n of Kansas*, 489 U.S. 493, 509 (1989).

federal preemption doctrine. For instance, a challenge to the employment verification provision in Arizona's 2007 law is currently pending before the U.S. Supreme Court.<sup>46</sup>

In determining whether a state law is preempted, "the purpose of Congress is the ultimate touchstone."<sup>47</sup> In the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, Congress provided, "[t]he provisions of this section preempt any State or local law imposing civil or criminal sanctions (other than through licensing and similar laws) upon those who employ, or recruit or refer for a fee for employment, unauthorized aliens."<sup>48</sup>

The provision in the bill requiring employers to register with E-Verify authorizes sanctions in the form of license suspension. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit upheld against a preemption challenge a similar portion of an Arizona law requiring employers to use the federal Internet verification and authorizing licensure sanctions.<sup>49</sup> The Ninth Circuit reasoned that Arizona's revocation of business licenses fits squarely within the exception under the Immigration Reform and Control Act. In addition, the court rejected the plaintiff's argument that the law was impliedly preempted because the federal statute created E-Verify as a voluntary pilot program and Arizona made it mandatory. The court explained that, although Congress did not mandate E-Verify, it plainly envisioned and endorsed its increased usage through expansion of the pilot program.<sup>50</sup> As noted, the U.S. Supreme Court granted certiorari to consider the question of preemption.

## V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

### A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

### B. Private Sector Impact:

The mandatory use of E-Verify by all employers may have an economic impact on private employers. However, there is no fee for the use of the E-Verify Program, and employers are currently required to verify the immigration status of new employees.

Employers who fail to comply with the proposed committee bill's requirement to register with E-Verify and verify the employment eligibility of people hired on or after January 1, 2012, are subject to suspension of their licenses.

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<sup>46</sup> See *Chamber of Commerce of the United States, et. al. v. Whiting* (Case No. 09-115; argued before the U.S. Supreme Court on December 8, 2010).

<sup>47</sup> *Altria Group, Inc. v. Good*, 129 S.Ct. 538, 543 (2008).

<sup>48</sup> See 8 U.S.C. s. 1324a(h)(2) (unlawful employment of aliens).

<sup>49</sup> *Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc., v. Napolitano*, 558 F.3d 856 (9th Cir. 2009), *cert granted*, *Chamber of Commerce of U.S. v. Candelaria*, 130 S.Ct. 3498 (2010).

<sup>50</sup> *Chicanos Por La Causa*, 558 F.3d at 865-67.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The bill directs each county sheriff to explore the feasibility of entering into an agreement with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to have law enforcement officers trained to help enforce federal immigration law. Costs related to evaluating the feasibility should not be significant. Although the bill requires the sheriff to request an agreement with the federal government if the sheriff concludes that such a relationship is feasible, the bill does not specifically require the sheriff to execute an agreement, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) may decline to participate. A sheriff's office that chooses to enter into such an agreement may experience workload costs while any participating officers are not performing regular assignments during the period they are being trained by ICE.

The Department of Corrections may experience some administrative costs in identifying new and existing inmates who are eligible for release and transfer to federal custody under the Rapid REPAT Program. However, these costs may likely be offset by savings to the state associated with reduced detention space and costs in the state prison system.

The bill requires the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI or the agency) to conduct a study of the fiscal impacts of unauthorized immigration on the state. In addition, the bill requires AWI to request from the federal government reimbursement of those quantified cost or corresponding relief from moneys owed to the federal government from borrowing related to the payment of unemployment compensation.

The agency will incur costs related to preparation of the required study. To the extent the state is successful in securing federal reimbursement or other remuneration for costs related to unauthorized immigration, the state may benefit fiscally.

The mandatory use of E-Verify by all employers may have an economic impact on governmental employers.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**  
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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