

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 26-0144
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Gray, Parker, and Ramos
Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Dorsey, Conway, Middleton, Bullock, Porter, Blanchard,
Jones, Glover, Torrence, and McCray and President Cohen
Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2026
Assigned to: Public Safety Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Office of the
City Administrator, Sheriff's Office, Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, Circuit
Court for Baltimore City, Baltimore Police Department, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs,
Office of Equity and Civil Rights

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Baltimore City Policies and Procedures – Safe Spaces and Communities**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a covered entity from discriminating against an individual based
4 on actual or perceived immigration status; restricting a covered entity from coordinating with
5 federal immigration officials under certain circumstances; requiring a covered entity to
6 adhere to certain data governance standards; requiring a covered entity to adopt a certain
7 immigration action response plan; establishing policies and procedures for the Baltimore
8 Police Department's interactions with federal immigration officials; defining certain terms;
9 providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to a covered entity's interactions
10 with federal immigration officials.

11 BY adding

12 Article 4 - Community Relations
13 Sections 4-1 to 4-6 to be under the new subtitle designation,
14 "Subtitle 4. Federal Immigration Enforcement"
15 Baltimore City Code
16 (Edition 2000)

17 BY adding

18 Article 17 - Police Department
19 Section 2-3
20 Baltimore City Code
21 (Edition 2000)

22 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
23 Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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Baltimore City Code

Article 4. Community Relations

SUBTITLE 4. FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

§ 4-1. Definitions.

(A) *IN GENERAL.*

IN THIS SUBTITLE, THE FOLLOWING TERMS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) *AGENCY.*

“AGENCY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 4-101(B) OF THE CITY GENERAL PROVISIONS ARTICLE.

(C) *COVERED ENTITY.*

“COVERED ENTITY” MEANS:

(1) ANY AGENCY THAT DELIVERS A DIRECT PUBLIC SERVICE; OR

(2) ANY LEGAL ENTITY THAT ENTERS INTO A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY AND RECEIVES MONEY FROM THE CITY TO SUPPORT, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, ITS OPERATIONS.

(D) *DIRECT PUBLIC SERVICE.*

“DIRECT PUBLIC SERVICE” MEANS THE PROVISION OF A GOOD OR SERVICE, INCLUDING A MONETARY GOOD, THAT IS DELIVERED BY A COVERED ENTITY.

(E) *IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTION.*

“IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTION” MEANS ANY AND ALL EFFORTS CONDUCTED BY AN IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF LOCATING, APPREHENDING, DETAINING, OR REMOVING AN INDIVIDUAL WHO THE IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL BELIEVES IS VIOLATING FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAW.

(F) *IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTION RESPONSE PLAN; PLAN.*

“IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTION RESPONSE PLAN” OR “PLAN” MEANS A SET OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ADOPTED BY A COVERED ENTITY TO GUIDE THE COVERED ENTITY’S PREPARATION FOR AND RESPONSE TO AN INTERACTION WITH AN IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL.

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1 (G) *IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL.*

2 “IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL” MEANS ANY EMPLOYEE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
3 OF HOMELAND SECURITY, ANY EMPLOYEE OF UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION AND
4 CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT, OR ANY FEDERAL OFFICIAL WHO ENGAGES IN AN IMMIGRATION
5 ENFORCEMENT ACTION.

6 **§ 4-2. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.**

7 (A) *IN GENERAL.*

8 A COVERED ENTITY MAY NOT, UNLESS REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW, STATE LAW, OR A
9 COURT ORDER:

- 10 (1) ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOUSING INDIVIDUALS SUBJECT
11 TO DETENTION ON CIVIL IMMIGRATION CHARGES;
- 12 (2) ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR ANY PURPOSE RELATED TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF
13 FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAWS;
- 14 (3) EXPEND OR USE CITY FUNDS, RESOURCES, OR PERSONNEL TO INVESTIGATE,
15 QUESTION, APPREHEND, DETAIN, OR ARREST AN INDIVIDUAL SOLELY FOR AN
16 ACTUAL OR SUSPECTED VIOLATION OF FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAW;
- 17 (4) CONDITION THE PROVISION OF A CITY SERVICE OR BENEFIT ON THE ACTUAL OR
18 PERCEIVED CITIZENSHIP OR IMMIGRATION STATUS OF THE INDIVIDUAL SEEKING
19 THAT SERVICE OR BENEFIT;
- 20 (5) ALLOW AN IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL TO ACCESS A SPACE THAT IS NOT REGULARLY
21 ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC WITHIN A FACILITY OPERATED BY A COVERED ENTITY;
- 22 (6) ALLOW AN IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL TO ACCESS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS BEING
23 DETAINED BY OR IS IN THE CUSTODY OF A COVERED ENTITY;
- 24 (7) ALLOW AN IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL TO USE A COVERED ENTITY’S FACILITIES,
25 INFORMATION, OR EQUIPMENT FOR AN IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTION
26 PURPOSE; OR
- 27 (8) ALLOW AN IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL TO ACCESS ANY INFORMATION REGARDING AN
28 INDIVIDUAL WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF AN IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTION,
29 UNLESS THE INDIVIDUAL HAS CONSENTED TO THE DISCLOSURE.

30 (B) *DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITED.*

31 A COVERED ENTITY MAY NOT COERCE, INTIMIDATE, THREATEN, OR ACT WITH BIAS
32 AGAINST ANY INDIVIDUAL BASED ON ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED CITIZENSHIP OR
33 IMMIGRATION STATUS OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR THEIR FAMILY.

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1 (C) *REQUEST FROM IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL.*

2 IF A COVERED ENTITY RECEIVES A REQUEST FROM AN IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL FOR
3 INFORMATION REGARDING AN INDIVIDUAL, TO DETAIN AN INDIVIDUAL, OR TO NOTIFY
4 IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS OF THAT INDIVIDUAL'S LOCATION, THE COVERED ENTITY SHALL,
5 UNLESS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW, STATE LAW, OR A COURT ORDER:

6 (1) ASK FOR AND DOCUMENT THE IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL'S IDENTIFICATION;

7 (2) IF THE REQUEST MADE BY AN IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL WAS IN WRITING, PROVIDE A
8 COPY OF THAT REQUEST TO THE INDIVIDUAL IN QUESTION; AND

9 (3) NOTIFY THE INDIVIDUAL IN QUESTION WITHIN 48 HOURS.

10 **§4-3. DATA GOVERNANCE.**

11 A COVERED ENTITY MAY NOT:

12 (1) ASK AN INDIVIDUAL TO DISCLOSE THEIR CITIZENSHIP OR IMMIGRATION STATUS UNLESS
13 THE INFORMATION IS REQUIRED BY A LAW, A COURT ORDER, OR IS NECESSARY FOR A
14 CITY FUNCTION;

15 (2) STORE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING AN INDIVIDUAL'S CITIZENSHIP OR IMMIGRATION
16 STATUS, UNLESS THE INFORMATION IS REQUIRED BY A LAW, A COURT ORDER, OR IS
17 NECESSARY FOR A CITY FUNCTION; OR

18 (3) INVESTIGATE OR ASSIST IN AN INVESTIGATION REGARDING AN INDIVIDUAL'S
19 CITIZENSHIP OR IMMIGRATION STATUS, UNLESS THE INQUIRY OR INVESTIGATION IS
20 REQUIRED BY LAW, A COURT ORDER, OR A JUDICIAL WARRANT.

21 **§ 4-4. IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTION RESPONSE PLAN.**

22 (A) *IN GENERAL.*

23 A COVERED ENTITY SHALL CREATE AND ADOPT AN IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTION
24 RESPONSE PLAN TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.

25 (B) *DESIGNATED OFFICIAL.*

26 A COVERED ENTITY SHALL DESIGNATE AN OFFICIAL WITHIN THE ENTITY WHO SHALL SERVE
27 AS THE PRIMARY POINT OF CONTACT FOR ISSUES RELATED TO IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT
28 ACTIONS.

29 (C) *CONTENTS OF PLAN.*

30 A COVERED ENTITY'S IMMIGRATION ACTION RESPONSE PLAN SHALL INCLUDE:

31 (1) A RESPONSE PROTOCOL FOR COMMUNICATION AND INTERACTION WITH AN
32 IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL;

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1 (2) PREVENTATIVE MEASURES THE ENTITY WILL TAKE TO PREVENT AN IMMIGRATION
2 OFFICIAL FROM ACCESSING A SPACE THAT IS NOT REGULARLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE
3 PUBLIC, UNLESS THE IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL DISPLAYS A JUDICIAL WARRANT OR
4 EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE SUCH ACCESS; AND

5 (3) THE STEPS THE COVERED ENTITY WILL TAKE TO ENSURE ALL EMPLOYEES ARE
6 INFORMED OF THE PLAN AND REMAIN IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PLAN.

7 (D) *PLAN TO BE RETAINED.*

8 A COVERED ENTITY SHALL SUBMIT A COPY OF ITS IMMIGRATION ACTION RESPONSE PLAN
9 TO THE MAYOR’S OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS.

10 **§ 4-5. REPORTING.**

11 (A) *IN GENERAL.*

12 NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1 OF EACH YEAR, AN AGENCY SHALL SUBMIT TO THE MAYOR’S
13 OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS A REPORT THAT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

14 (1) THE NUMBER OF REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION OR ACCESS TO FACILITIES THAT THE
15 AGENCY RECEIVED FROM IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS, IF ANY, AND HOW THE AGENCY
16 RESPONDED TO EACH REQUEST; AND

17 (2) THE NUMBER OF TIMES THE AGENCY VIOLATED THE TERMS OF THIS SUBTITLE, IF
18 ANY.

19 (B) *REPORTS TO BE COMPILED AND SUBMITTED.*

20 NO LATER THAN MARCH 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE MAYOR’S OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS
21 SHALL COMPILE THE REPORTS RECEIVED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION
22 AND SUBMIT A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL.

23 (C) *ANNUAL REVIEW BY CITY SOLICITOR.*

24 IF THIS SUBTITLE IS PREEMPTED BY ANY CHANGE IN FEDERAL, STATE, OR INTERNATIONAL
25 LAW, THE CITY SOLICITOR SHALL PROVIDE NOTICE OF THE PREEMPTION TO THE MAYOR
26 AND CITY COUNCIL.

27 **§ 4-6. TRAINING.**

28 (A) *IN GENERAL.*

29 THE MAYOR’S OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS SHALL DEVELOP AND DELIVER TO ALL
30 EMPLOYEES OF A COVERED ENTITY A TRAINING COURSE REGARDING:

31 (1) HOW AN EMPLOYEE SHALL RESPOND IN THE EVENT THAT AN IMMIGRATION
32 OFFICIAL ENTERS A FACILITY OPERATED BY A COVERED ENTITY;

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1 (2) THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A COVERED ENTITY DURING AN
2 INTERACTION WITH AN IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL; AND

3 (3) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.

4 (B) *BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT.*

5 THE BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS EXCLUDED FROM THE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS
6 IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION IF IT DEVELOPS AND DELIVERS AN EQUIVALENT
7 TRAINING DESIGNED FOR POLICE OPERATIONS.

8 **Article 17. Police Department**

9 **Subtitle 2. Police Department**

10 **§ 2-3. IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.**

11 (A) *DEFINITIONS.*

12 (1) *IN GENERAL.*

13 IN THIS SUBTITLE, THE FOLLOWING TERMS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

14 (2) *IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTION.*

15 “IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTION” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 4-1 OF CITY
16 CODE ARTICLE 4.

17 (3) *IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL.*

18 “IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 4-1 OF ARTICLE 4 OF CITY
19 CODE ARTICLE 4.

20 (B) *IN GENERAL.*

21 THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT ENGAGE IN, ASSIST, OR SUPPORT IMMIGRATION
22 ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS UNLESS:

23 (1) THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUIRED TO EXECUTE A CRIMINAL WARRANT OR COURT
24 ORDER ISSUED BY A FEDERAL OR STATE COURT; OR

25 (2) AS OTHERWISE REQUIRED BY LAW, INCLUDING THE TERMS OF THE BALTIMORE CITY
26 CONSENT DECREE.

27 (C) *DE-ESCALATION.*

28 THE DEPARTMENT MAY BE PRESENT AT THE SCENE OF AN IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT
29 ACTION TO DE-ESCALATE ANY DIRECT THREAT TO LIFE OR PUBLIC SAFETY.

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1 (D) *IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL INTERACTION PROCEDURE.*

2 IF THE DEPARTMENT INTERACTS WITH AN IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL WHO IS CONDUCTING AN
3 IMMIGRATION ACTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANY APPLICABLE
4 LAW:

- 5 (1) INQUIRE WHETHER ANY INDIVIDUAL BEING HELD BY THE IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL IS
6 BEING HELD PURSUANT TO A WARRANT, A COURT ORDER, OR PROBABLE CAUSE;
- 7 (2) REQUEST THE NAME OF ANY INDIVIDUAL BEING HELD BY THE IMMIGRATION
8 OFFICIAL;
- 9 (3) DOCUMENT THE INTERACTION ON THE OFFICER’S BODY-WORN CAMERA, IN
10 ADHERENCE WITH DEPARTMENT POLICY; AND
- 11 (4) REQUEST AND DOCUMENT THE IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL’S LAW ENFORCEMENT
12 CREDENTIALS AND VERIFY THEIR IDENTITY BY REQUESTING THEY REMOVE ANY
13 MASK OR FACE COVERING.

14 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That within 90 days of the taking effect of this
15 Ordinance, each covered entity shall:

- 16 (1) review all applications, questionnaires, interviews, or other forms used in relations to
17 its benefits or services and remove any questions regarding citizenship or immigration
18 status, unless it is necessary for a City function;
- 19 (2) delete any information regarding an individual’s citizenship or immigration status,
20 unless it is necessary for a City function; and
- 21 (3) review its confidentiality practices and ensure they comply with the terms of this
22 Ordinance.

23 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That the provisions of this Ordinance do not
24 apply to any entity that currently has a written agreement with the City and receives money from
25 the City to support, in whole or in part, its operations, until such time that the entity renews its
26 existing agreement with the City or enters into a new written agreement with the City.

27 **SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the date it is
28 enacted.