Governor Pritzker’s Immigration Policies

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SENATE BILL 667

Also known as Illinois Way Forward Act:

• Ends detention centers in Illinois,
• Limits police cooperation with Immigration Customs and Border (ICE) agents
• Prohibits law enforcement from asking about or investigating the immigration or citizenship status of a person being held in custody and;
• Lastly it gives the state attorney general's office the authority to investigate purported violations of the law.

Illinois General Assembly, SB667, 2021
SENATE BILL 667

• House Bill 667 states that local government agreements with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement allowing jails to hold immigrant detainees awaiting court hearings must end by January 2022 and new agreements are prohibited.
  • Currently, three Illinois counties - Kankakee, Pulaski and McHenry - have such agreements at local jails and house roughly 260 immigrant detainees overall, according to ICE.
  • While most ICE detention centers are private nationwide, none exist in Illinois as indicated by House Bill 2040 signed into law in 2019.

Illinois General Assembly, SB667, 2021
Unless presented with a federal criminal warrant, or otherwise required by federal law, a law enforcement agency or official may not:

(1) participate, support, or assist in any capacity with an immigration agent’s enforcement operations, including any collateral assistance such as coordinating an arrest in a courthouse or other public facility, providing use of any equipment, transporting any individuals, or establishing a security or traffic perimeter surrounding such operations, or any other on-site support;

(2) give any immigration agent access, including by telephone, to any individual who is in that agency’s custody;

(3) transfer any person into an immigration agent’s custody;

Illinois General Assembly, SB667, 2021
SENATE BILL 667

(4) permit immigration agents use of agency facilities or equipment, including any agency electronic databases not available to the public, for investigative interviews or other investigative or immigration enforcement purpose;

(5) enter into or maintain any agreement regarding direct access to any electronic database or other data-sharing platform maintained by any law enforcement agency, or otherwise provide such direct access to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, United States Customs and Border Protection or any other federal entity enforcing civil immigration violations;

(6) provide information in response to any immigration agent's inquiry or request for information regarding any individual in the agency's custody; or
(7) provide to any immigration agent information not otherwise available to the public relating to an individual's release or contact information, or otherwise facilitate for an immigration agent to apprehend or question an individual for immigration enforcement.

(i) Nothing in this Section shall preclude a law enforcement official from otherwise executing that official’s duties in investigating violations of criminal law and cooperating in such investigations with federal and other law enforcement agencies (including criminal investigations conducted by federal Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)) in order to ensure public safety.
SENATE BILL 1596

- Adds immigration/citizenship status as a category for consideration of a hate crime. (amends criminal code 2012)
- Protected categories include: race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability and national origin
- Senate Bill 1596 reads as follows: “...a hate crime, the commission of the specified criminal acts against a person because of the actual or perceived citizenship or immigration status of the person”.

Illinois General Assembly, SB1596, 2021
SENATE BILL 1596

- Someone convicted of a hate crime is subject to a Class 4 felony for the first offense and a Class 2 felony for subsequent offenses.
- If someone commits a hate crime in or near a religious building, cemetery or mortuary, school or other educational facility, public park, or ethnic or religious community center, then they are subject to a Class 3 felony on the first offense.

Illinois General Assembly, SB1596, 2021
HOUSE BILL 121
HOUSE BILL 121

• Prohibits work employment discrimination based on a person’s work authorization status
  • aimed at protecting people covered by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival program, or DACA
• Work Authorization Status (definition): the status of being a person born outside of the United States, and not a U.S. citizen, who is authorized by the federal government to work in the United States.

Illinois General Assembly, HB121, 2021
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

HOUSE BILL 121

Provides that it is a civil rights violation for:

1. any employer to refuse to hire, to segregate, to engage in harassment, or to act with respect to recruitment, hiring, promotion, renewal of employment, selection for training or apprenticeship, discharge, discipline, tenure or terms, privileges or conditions of employment on the basis of work authorization status;

2. any employment agency to fail or refuse to classify properly, accept applications and register for employment referral or apprenticeship referral, refer for employment, or refer for apprenticeship on the basis of work authorization status;

Illinois General Assembly, *HB121*, 2021
3. any labor organization to limit, segregate, or classify its membership, or to limit employment opportunities, selection and training for apprenticeship in any trade or craft, or otherwise to take or fail to take, any action which affects adversely any person’s status as an employee or as an applicant for employment or as an apprentice, or as an applicant for apprenticeships, or wages, tenure, hours of employment, or apprenticeship conditions on the basis of work authorization status; and

Illinois General Assembly, HB121, 2021
4. any employer to refuse to honor work authorization based upon the specific status or term of status that accompanies the authorization to work. Provides that it is a civil rights violation for a person, or for 2 or more persons, to conspire to retaliate against a person because he or she has opposed that which he or she reasonably and in good faith believes to be discrimination based on work authorization status. Makes conforming changes.

Illinois General Assembly, HB121, 2021
SENATE BILL 2665
SENATE BILL 2665

Creates the Illinois Immigrant Impact Task Force: with the sole purpose of examining specified issues related to immigrant communities in this State, and to report its findings and recommendations on or before May 31, 2022. Repeals the Act on January 1, 2023.

Illinois General Assembly, SB2665, 2021
EXECUTIVE ORDER 17

Creates a Welcome Office for immigrants and refugees in Illinois. The office shall be created and housed within the Illinois Department of Human Services and reporting to the Office of the Governor and the Secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services.

Illinois.gov, Executive Order 17, 2021
EXECUTIVE ORDER 17

The Welcoming Illinois Office shall have the following duties, powers, and responsibilities:

1. Convene and lead internal and external stakeholders to coordinate and develop a policies and practices blueprint to make Illinois a more welcoming and equitable state for immigrants and refugees, including but not limited to implementation of the Immigrant Impact Task Force Act and other relevant statutes.

2. Identify, research, analyze, and address economic and demographic trends and issues related to immigrants and refugees to better serve immigrant and refugee communities.

3. Make policy recommendations to the Governor on issues impacting immigrants and refugees, including strategies to eliminate employment barriers, improve health outcomes, and strengthen social services.

Illinois.gov, Executive Order 17, 2021
4. Work with State agencies identified by the Governor’s Office as part of an interagency effort to ensure that there is access to critical services and supports for resiliency and recovery for the immigrant and refugee communities in Illinois.

5. Develop and implement outreach campaigns, community resources and record gathering processes to ensure that immigrant and refugee communities have access to services and programs for which they are eligible at state and federal levels.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Chicago Appleseed: ChicagoAppleseed.org

Where can you find more information?

Some resources:

- **Enlace**
  - Legal Clinic
  - Clinic Hours every Tuesday 3-5 pm
    - Ph: 773-893-0798
THANK YOU!

This is not legal advice. Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts does policy and advocacy, but no direct legal representation.