



SB 4 PUBLIC SAFETY FACT SHEET

For more information contact:
Robert Heyman (915-801-7440 or rheyman@bnhr.org)

OUR PRINCIPLES

We believe in community safety for all people.

- Community safety embraces individual and communal well-being and comes through inclusion.
- Our communities are safest when all people feel comfortable reporting crimes to law enforcement.

BILL OVERVIEW

This bill entangles local law enforcement in carrying out federal immigration enforcement by:

- 1) Facilitating immigration checks by local law enforcement in the course of stops/arrests, and
- 2) Mandating cooperation between jails and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

SB4 applies to all local law enforcement, *including uniformed officers working for institutions of higher education*. The bill explicitly prohibits local agencies and governments from taking any steps to prevent or discourage law enforcement officers from inquiring about immigration status when they make a stop or they risk losing state funding and even facing criminal penalties.

PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS OVER SB4

Public Safety: Local law enforcement agencies need the trust and cooperation of all communities in order to effectively fight crime. Unauthorized immigrants, documented immigrants, and citizens living in mixed-status families all need to feel confident that police are there to protect them. **SB4 erodes this trust, makes law-abiding residents turn away from law enforcement, empowers criminals, and undermines public safety.**

Overriding Local Law Enforcement: Empowering individual officers to make stops in defiance of local policy or allowing them to sue for policy changes disrupts the ability of law enforcement executives to set priorities for public safety and corrodes the chain of command. **Laws like SB4 infringe on local decision-making in favor of 'Big Government' mandates.**

Unfunded State Mandates: Law enforcement agencies are already understaffed, leaving local officials to carefully manage scarce resources. Requiring officers to verify the immigration status of people they stop would add a tremendous additional workload competing for these scarce resources. **SB4 is an unfunded state mandate on local law enforcement and taxpayers.**

Liability Risks: Federal immigration law is complex and agencies would need to specially train their officers or risk making errors. **SB4 offers no training for local law enforcement leaving taxpayers to pay the liability from errors enforcing immigration law. SB4 also risks liability from unlawful discrimination and racial profiling by rogue officers.**

SB4, an unfunded mandate, erodes public trust in law enforcement, undermines public safety, opens the door for racial profiling, and limits local law enforcement's ability to set priorities to meet local needs.

Additional Resources

National Fraternal Order of Police Letter: www.aila.org/infonet/police-oppose-policy-change-santuary-cities

Major County Sheriff's Association Letter: www.aila.org/infonet/sheriffs-assoc-on-santuary-cities

Major City Chiefs and Major County Sheriffs' Associations Letter <http://immigrationforum.org/blog/chiefs-and-sheriffs-oppose-immigration-enforcement-policies-undermining-community-policing-house-letter/>

Major Cities Chiefs' Position Paper: www.majorcitieschiefs.com/pdf/news/2013_immigration_policy.pdf