



House of Representatives
Judiciary Committee

Chairman Bob Goodlatte

H.R. 2406, IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT AUTHORIZATION ACT

This bill authorizes for the first time in law U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). This agency is tasked with enforcing our nation's immigration and custom laws in the interior of the United States. Below are key components of the bill.

Focuses ICE's Mission

The legislation focuses ICE's mission to meet its original goal: "to protect America by enforcing the full range of immigration and customs laws within the interior of the United States." This will ensure that ICE is dedicated to enforcing all immigration laws, not just a select few.

Maximizes ICE's Efficiency and Effectiveness

The bill establishes for the first time in statute ICE's Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). It clarifies HSI's responsibilities to include investigations relating to national security, worksite enforcement of our immigration laws, human trafficking, RICO (racketeering) offenses, weapons smuggling, and immigration benefits and document fraud. HSI will also administer the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center, the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center, the Bulk Cash Smuggling Center and the National Export Enforcement Coordination Center.

The bill establishes for the first time in statute ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO). It clarifies that ERO is ICE's primary component for immigration enforcement within the United States. ERO will be responsible for identifying, apprehending, detaining and removing aliens unlawfully present or removable on criminal or other grounds, including aliens who are members of criminal gangs.

Provides ICE with the Resources Necessary to Accomplish Its Mission

The bill, consistent with President Trump's Executive Order, authorizes ICE to hire an additional 10,000 deportation officers, 2,500 detention officers, and immigration 60 prosecutors.

Provides ICE Officers with the Resources They Need to Safely Do Their Jobs

The bill provides ICE deportation officers with enhanced arrest authority. It requires ICE to provide them with high-quality body armor and reliable effective weapons. It establishes a pilot program to allow them to electronically collect biometric data, process and serve charging documents and issue detainers while in the field.

Strengthens Compliance with the Law:

The bill establishes the Office of Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA), which currently does not appear in the law. The Principal Legal Advisor provides legal and policy advice to the agency and represents the Department in immigration court litigation.

Enhances Integrity and Responsibility at ICE

The bill establishes the Office of Professional Responsibility in order to investigate allegations of misconduct involving ICE employees. The Office will also conduct inspections and reviews of agency operations and actions to ensure ICE's effectiveness.

The bill also establishes an ICE Advisory Council to advise Congress and the Department as to ICE's organizational structure, the effectiveness of its immigration enforcement efforts and policies and to recommend improvements. The Council will also advise as to the needs of ICE personnel and ICE officers and prosecutors will be represented on the Council.

Provides Services to Victims of Crime Rather than to Illegal Immigrants

The bill codifies the Trump Administration's newly created Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement Office (VOICE). The office will provide information to the victims of crimes committed by aliens as well as to the family of victims regarding their attackers and available resources. The bill prohibits ICE from operating an Office of the Public Advocate, which was created by the Obama Administration to assist those illegal immigrants it was ICE's duty to enforce the law against.