

# An Obstacle Course for Local Officers — Putting Every Californian at Risk

## *California Immigration Enforcement Legislation Overview*

California's attempts to regulate and restrict ICE are leaving local officers in their wake. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has already issued an emergency injunction blocking California from interfering with ICE operations — the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution doesn't leave much room for debate. Yet Sacramento keeps advancing a new wave of bills that have nothing to do with immigration enforcement, actively undermine local law enforcement and fracture critical partnerships.

**Here is what Sacramento is advancing under the banner of "immigrant protection" — and why each bill is a threat to public safety:**

### **SB 1105 (Pérez) Law enforcement.**

#### **What the Bill Does**

- Restricts participation in joint federal and interstate task forces
- Requires additional state approval before interagency coordination
- Removes federal officers' limited arrest authority in California

#### **Public Safety Risks**

- Slows or prevents the rescue of human trafficking victims
- Delays time-sensitive investigations (e.g., child abductions, violent crime)
- Reduces intelligence sharing and access to critical investigative tools
- Creates enforcement gaps that organized criminal networks can exploit
- Introduces bureaucratic delays when rapid coordination is critical in emergencies

#### **PORAC Position**

- **Oppose** — Weakens partnerships that disrupt trafficking, remove illegal weapons, and apprehend violent offenders

## AB 1537 (Bryan) Peace officers: secondary employment.

### What the Bill Does

- Prohibits officers from off-duty work, volunteering, or service with DHS (including the military reserves, Coast Guard, and FEMA)
- Applies career-ending decertification to lawful, off-duty activity

### Public Safety Risks

- Reduces disaster response capacity during wildfires, floods, and earthquakes
- Limits support for roles unrelated to immigration, including cybersecurity, infrastructure protection, homeland security operations, and more
- Exposes officers' private employment to public disclosure, creating safety risks

### PORAC Position

- **Oppose** — Restricts lawful, off-duty service and reduces the availability of trained personnel in critical public safety roles

## SB 747 (Wiener/Wahab) Civil rights: deprivation of federal constitutional rights, privileges, and immunities.

### What the Bill Does

- Creates a new state-level cause of action allowing individuals to sue public employees for alleged violations of rights, privileges, or immunities
- Allows recovery of damages, attorney's fees, and expert costs

### Public Safety Risks

- Increases litigation exposure for officers performing lawful duties
- Encourages costly and time-consuming lawsuits, even when claims lack merit
- Creates a chilling effect on proactive policing and enforcement decisions
- Adds financial and administrative burdens on officers and agencies

### PORAC Position

- **Oppose** — Expands liability in a way that discourages proactive policing and exposes officers to increased legal risk without clear public safety benefit

## SB 627 (Wiener) Law enforcement: masks.

### Passed September 2025 – What the Bill Does

- Restricts when local peace officers can wear face coverings – including sunglasses and helmets – on duty while **federal officers remain fully exempt**, as the Ninth Circuit Court ruled the law violates the Supremacy Clause

### Public Safety Risks

- Leaves local officers more vulnerable to litigation for simply doing their jobs
- Creates inconsistent and confusing standards in joint operations

### PORAC Position

- **Oppose** – Applies unevenly, stripping protections for local officers while having no impact on federal agents

## SB 1004 (Wiener) Law enforcement: masks.

### What the Bill Does

- Expands SB 627 to include state peace officers under mask restrictions while **federal officers will remain fully exempt** – the Ninth Circuit Court has already ruled this violates the Supremacy Clause

### Public Safety Risks

- Leaves local and state officers more vulnerable to litigation for simply doing their jobs
- Reinforces inconsistent and confusing standards across agencies in joint operations

### PORAC Position

- **Oppose** – Expands flawed policy established under SB 627

## SB 938 (Menjivar) Peace officers: qualifications.

### What the Bill Does

- Disqualifies individuals from becoming a peace officer if they previously worked for a federal immigration enforcement agency after January 20, 2025
- Imposes a 10-year waiting period before those individuals can apply for eligibility

## SB 938 (Menjivar) Peace officers: qualifications. Cont.

### Public Safety Risks

- Shrinks the pool of qualified candidates based on employment history – not merit – during a historic staffing shortage
- Excludes individuals who have already met rigorous federal law enforcement standards
- Undermines recruitment efforts at a time when agencies are struggling to hire and retain officers

### PORAC Position

- **Oppose** – Restricts the hiring of qualified candidates and worsens California's public safety staffing crisis

## The Bottom Line

Taken together, these bills don't form a coherent public safety policy – they form an obstacle course designed to make law enforcement harder at every turn. California's communities deserve better than legislation crafted to score political points at the expense of public safety and effective policing.