

Democracy Divas Power Hours Immigration Advocacy Toolkit

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Education Resources

- See the Bills for the 2025 Legislative session that are still active here: <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2025/bills>
- Find your state legislators: <https://iga.in.gov/information/find-legislators>
- See the legislators on key committees here: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1DwsVgKBiqvnyL2q7rz-FQg8MXFMKFPk3kD02LDjuSUY/edit?gid=0#gid=0>
- Learn more about the immigrants in Indiana from the American Immigration Council: <https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/indiana/>
- Learn about the demographics of your state legislator's district here: <https://censusreporter.org/>

House Bill 1393: Immigration Notice

Read the full bill here: <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2025/bills/house/1393/details>

Status

- HB 1393 context updated March 1, 2025
- As of Feb 18, 2025 Senate First reading: referred to Committee on [Corrections and Criminal Law](#)
- Authored by: [Rep. Garrett Bascom](#).
- Co-Authored by: [Rep. J.D. Prescott](#), [Rep. Jim Lucas](#), [Rep. Zach Payne](#).
- Sponsored by: [Sen. Aaron Freeman](#), [Sen. Randy Maxwell](#).

Talking Points

- Immigration regulation is a federal matter not a local matter
 - ICE already has detainer/hold and summons processes that liaise with agencies necessary.
- Our Indiana taxpayer money should not go towards immigration regulation when our local law enforcement have more pressing issues and limited time and resources
- Deportations will have a negative impact on local economies
- Deportation is harmful and cruel to families and communities

- racial profiling by law enforcement
- “Inefficiency”; extra burdens on law enforcement
 - Law enforcement is not trained in understanding immigration statuses.
 - This takes away law enforcement's focus on public safety.
- Indiana has a growing immigrant population with over 600,000 LatinE communities and over 220,000 Asian communities. Immigrant communities have \$16.4 billion household income with \$2.4 billion in spending power

Digest

Provides that, in the event that a law enforcement officer arrests an individual for a felony or a misdemeanor and has probable cause to believe that the individual is not lawfully present in the United States, the officer's law enforcement agency shall notify the county sheriff of the probable cause during the individual's intake process. Provides that a law enforcement officer shall arrest an individual in lieu of issuing a summons for a misdemeanor if the law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that the individual is not lawfully present in the United States. Requires the county sheriff to notify the proper authority. Provides that a law enforcement agency, including a county sheriff, or a law enforcement officer or other employee of a law enforcement agency, is immune from civil liability if there is reasonable belief that the notification requirements under this statute have been fulfilled.

Additional Takeaways & Talking Points

- Our Indiana law enforcement agencies have always had and have continued to use the ICE detainer/ holds whenever they have arrested someone and found them to not have the required documents to be in status in the United States. This bill now takes away the emphasis of focusing on the crime committed and public safety and moves it to a federal mandate of identifying who here is undocumented or illegal. Agencies will no longer be able to use the summons system that reduces the administrative burden of fingerprinting and intake with complicated information related to immigration status. Our agencies already have the tools required to liaise with ICE when needed; ICE has also always had the ability to be present

within our court system to administer their warrants as needed. This bill takes away our law enforcement's focus on public safety as their primary goal and creates a huge burden on them administratively without any additional resources or training.

- Our officers are not trained on understanding the varied immigration statuses people hold. For example, a victim of a crime that assists law enforcement by reporting a crime and being helpful with the prosecution of the crime, qualifies for a U-Visa. Only 10,000 visas are issued each year. The U-Visa process therefore currently takes 5-8 years for the victim to receive permanent residency. In the interim, for several years, all they will have is a pending petition for a visa. So, if this law passes in its current state, it ignores the vast majority of undocumented immigrants that are waiting for our immigration backlog to clear up and provide them for a clearly outlined immigration relief. Immigration courts have reported a backlog of 3.7 million pending petitions for relief; for many of these, besides an upcoming court date in 2-3 years, they will have no documents.
- Indiana has a growing immigrant population. With over 600,000 latino/hispanic and over 220,000 asian community members calling Indiana home, what messaging does this bill have for their safety. The only way for a probable cause of being here without documents can be attached to a crime, to trigger this bill's compliance, would be to ask everyone what their status in the U.S. might be. Indiana is not a border state; our immigrant communities are here as they have ties and family here. Immigrant communities have lower rates of crime than native communities; Indiana does not have a problem of increased crime due to the presence of new migrants. This bill signals to our current immigrant communities that have over 16.4 billion household income and 12.4B spending power, that you are not welcome here and despite their tremendous contributions to our income, their presence and dignity will be compromised.
- <https://fox59.com/news/immigration-notice-ice-bill-passes-out-of-indiana-house-committee/>
- If [HB 1393](#) becomes law, state and local law enforcement would need to report names, addresses and other identifying information of arrested individuals suspected of being in the country illegally to ICE.



- Rep Jim Lucas: “It’s not racist” “It is not racist,” Lucas said. “It couldn’t be further away from being racist. This is just a simple determination of somebody that has been arrested for a felony or misdemeanor of whether they are here legally or illegally.”

Text-Based Advocacy

How to write an effective email to your legislator

Here are some helpful Guidelines:

1. Be brief
2. State who you are, where you live (they need to know you are a constituent of their district) up front.
3. Name the bill you’re emailing about.
4. Choose 2-3 most important points to persuade your audience
5. Personalize! This is key for relationship building and so that they “count” your letter as unique and not “one form letter.”
6. Call for an action AND a response

<https://www.aclu.org/writing-your-elected-representatives>

Email Template

Subject Line:

I am [name] and I live at [address]. I am [insert text/feeling/perspective] about House Bill 1393.

[Body: Insert text and key points]

I urge [Senator name] to [insert text].

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[City, State, ZIP]

[Email Address]

[Date]

How to write a social media post with a strong call to action

- **Start with a strong hook.**
 -  **URGENT:** Indiana lawmakers are trying to pass SB 287, which would turn school board elections into partisan battle grounds.
- **Explain the harmful legislation simply, briefly and without jargon.** Add a personal angle if applicable.
 -  Federal and state laws, such as the Hatch Act, restrict government employees from engaging in specific political activities, including running in partisan elections. Transitioning school board elections to a partisan format may disqualify these individuals from candidacy, reducing the pool of experienced and knowledgeable candidates.
- **Provide ONE Call to Action** (What Can People Do Right Now?).
 -  Tell your legislator: “Vote NO on SB 287! Partisan politics don’t belong in our schools.” Call now: (317) 555-1234 or email rep.name@in.gov.
- **Use Strong but Responsible Language to Wrap Up**
 -  If we don’t stop SB 287, school board elections will turn into political battlegrounds, making it harder for independent voices to serve. Take action now!
- **Tag key individuals** (activists, journalists, organizations) and add a relevant image or infographic to boost engagement.

Social Media Template:

Hook: What counts as probable cause to believe that an individual is an immigrant?

Is it my accent? Is it my hair? Is it my skin? Is it my clothes?

Explanation: What if we told you that “House Bill 1393 Immigration Notice” encourages racial profiling and over-policing of over 1 million Hoosiers.

With over 600,000 LatinE and over 200,000 Asian American Hoosiers in the state, along with other marginalized and minority groups, we worry that Bill 1393

threatens resources, rights, and dignity of our immigrant community and beyond.

Bill 1393 requires that law enforcement arrest individuals if they have probable cause to believe that the individual is not lawfully present in the United States.

CTA: Find your legislators here _____ and tell them to vote, “NO” on this bill.

Wrap-up : Learn more about these bills and this issue here: -insert resource doc-

Any tags—people or hashtags

#1393StopProfilingMe
#DontProfileMe1393

Phone Call Advocacy

How to make an effective phone call to your legislator

- Know the bill number and name
- Be ready to give your name and address before getting into your talking points!
 - **Please Note:**
 - If you do not feel comfortable sharing your name and address, for fear of being targeted or any other reason, given the current political environment, you can share that, as is your right as a constituent.
 - Please feel empowered to tell the office that given the current leaks in the IRS and other government agencies, unless I am provided evidence and confirmation of how my constituent information is being stored, I only feel comfortable sharing my zip code and first name.
- Understand the key issue (have a 2-3 sentence summary of why it's harmful)
- Keep it short & polite
- Be respectful but firm
 - **DO** thank the staffer for their time.

- **DON'T** yell, threaten, or get personal
 - They are people too, and this could potentially harm your ability to build a relationship with the office.
- **DO** ask if they can confirm the legislator's stance.
 - If they support the bill, respectfully push back with facts.
 - If they oppose it, thank them and ask them to speak out publicly.
- **If you get voicemail:**
 - Leave a short message and **INCLUDE** your name and full street address to ensure your call is tallied.
 - Ask for a call back so you know that you were accounted for.
- **If voicemail is full, try again later or email.**

Phone Call Script

Hi my name is **[NAME]** and I'm a constituent from **[CITY]**.

I'm calling to **[insert text about the bill and your concern]**.

Do you know if Senator **[NAME]** supports this bill?

If yes→**[Key facts or points to consider about the harm it will do or the reasons why it's problematic and a request that they vote NO]**

If no→**[Text thanking them and asking them to speak out and vote NO]**

House Bill 1531: Various Immigration Matters

Read the full bill here: <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2025/bills/house/1531/details>

Status

- As of March 3, 2025 First reading: referred to Committee on [Judiciary](#)
- Authored by: [Rep. J.D. Prescott](#).

- Co-Authored by: [Rep. Chris Jeter](#), [Rep. Michelle Davis](#), [Rep. Garrett Bascom](#).
- Sponsored by: [Sen. Eric Koch](#), [Sen. Chris Garten](#).

Talking Points

- This bill signals to all law enforcement, government agencies, and post secondary institutions that they are now required to perform tasks related to federal immigration enforcement and that they will be liable for failure to comply.
 - There's strict liability for investigating immigration statuses and extends their resources to document and hold immigrants.
 - This also threatens funding freezes for raising concerns.
- Waste of our tax paying dollars
- Adds more burden to employers
- The bill clarifies that **federal immigration laws can be enforced by federal, state, or local law enforcement agencies**, prohibiting any governmental body or postsecondary educational institution from limiting or restricting such enforcement.
- Governmental bodies with custody of individuals subject to immigration detainer requests are required to:
 - Notify the judge authorized to grant or deny the individual's release on bail about the detainer request.
 - Record the detainer request in the individual's case file.
 - Comply with all requests made in the immigration detainer.
 - Inform the individual that they are being held pursuant to a federal immigration detainer request.
- The Attorney General is empowered to:
 - Investigate and bring actions against governmental bodies or postsecondary educational institutions that violate provisions related to immigration enforcement.
 - Issue cease and desist orders and impose civil penalties of \$10,000 for each violation.
 - Advise the Governor to withhold state funding from non-compliant governmental bodies for up to one year.
- Judges receiving notice of an immigration detainer request must:

- Ensure the notice is recorded in the court's records.
- Report individuals who are not U.S. citizens and have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency.
- The bill enhances the Attorney General's authority to investigate businesses suspected of employing undocumented immigrants and establishes penalties for those found in violation.

Again, there are concerns here about how this bill may encourage racial profiling, instill unnecessary fears within immigrant populations that may inhibit how they seek out education, medical help and community support, and the violation of constitutional rights. Detaining individuals solely based on an **immigration detainer request** (which is not a warrant) may **violate due process rights** under the Fourth Amendment.

Digest

Provides that if a law enforcement officer, governmental body, or a postsecondary educational institution is made a party to a civil suit and the attorney general determines that the suit has arisen out of certain acts, the attorney general shall defend the law enforcement officer, the governmental body, or the postsecondary educational institution throughout the action. Clarifies that the **enforcement of federal immigration laws may be carried out by federal, state, or local law enforcement.** **Removes the mens rea standard** in the statute concerning governmental entities or postsecondary institutions **violating the citizenship and immigration status information** and enforcement of federal laws chapter. Provides that a governmental body that has the custody of an individual who is the subject of an immigration detainer request **shall**: (1) provide the judge authorized to grant or deny the individual's release on bail notice that the individual is subject to an immigration detainer request; (2) record in the individual's case file that the individual is subject to an immigration detainer request; (3) comply with the immigration detainer request; and (4) inform the individual that the individual is being held pursuant to an immigration detainer request. **Provides immunity** to a governmental body or an employee of a governmental body for any action taken

concerning an immigration detainer request. Provides that if the attorney general determines that probable cause exists that a governmental entity has not complied with an immigration detention request, the attorney general may bring a court action to: (1) enjoin an act or practice constituting a violation of an immigration detention request; and (2) impose a civil penalty for noncompliance with an immigration detention request. Provides that if the attorney general determines a governmental body did not comply with an immigration detention order, upon the advice of the attorney general, the governor may order that state funding and grants be withheld to the governmental body for up to one year.

Requires a judge who receives notice that an individual is subject to an immigration detainer request to ensure that the notice of the immigration detainer request is recorded in the court's record. Prohibits an employer from knowingly or intentionally recruiting, hiring, or employing an unauthorized alien.

Provides that if the attorney general determines that probable causes exists that an employer has recruited, hired, or employed an unauthorized alien, the attorney general may enjoin the action and seek the suspension of the employer's operating authorizations. Requires a parole sponsor to submit certain information to the state department of revenue annually. Provides that the state department of revenue shall retain the information submitted by parole sponsors and may share the information with the attorney general. Provides that a governmental entity that employs a prosecuting official is entitled to investigative costs and costs in an indecent nuisance action

Additional Takeaways & Talking Points

- This bill signals to all law enforcement, government agencies, and post secondary institutions that they are now required to perform tasks related to federal immigration enforcement and that they will be liable for failure to comply. Here, we are holding local agencies accountable under “strict liability” for investigating immigration statuses, extending their resources to document and hold immigrants, and threatening them with funding freezes for raising concerns. This again is a misguided, disproportional, and waste of our taxpayer funds approach to what must be a more strategic response for a state like Indiana that is not on the border and does not have the problem governmental resources being used by undocumented immigrants. Here, a

small county with limited jail space, will now be forced to hold someone that may be driving without a license until ICE can come and process them. This without fully being trained on even assessing if this person has any pending immigration relief applications. Federal mandate is too broad and using our State's resources to meet it is failing to be diligent with our resources and priorities.

- Employers have the E-Verify tool that signals and allows federal agencies to interact with any immigrants that may be working without authorization. The clause that holds employers liable for retaining foreign nationals not only triggers wide concern in industries that rely on immigrant labor with heavier administrative burdens, it also makes it likely that they will violate protections against discrimination based on national origin.
- Parole sponsors are usually family members that have submitted their financial documents to take responsibility for any parolees that they've sponsored. The CHNV program was designed to let family members that wait for several years for a visa to be available to come wait in the U.S. while conditions in their countries had become dangerous. This program respected the concerns of U.S. Citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents that had family members in dangerous living conditions to be here with them while ensuring that they not be a financial burden on our government agencies for anything like food stamps or housing. By burdening these sponsors with additional scrutiny, for a program that has already been terminated, we are again signaling to our immigrant communities that are here lawfully that they are not welcome and that their interests are marginal to our State. For a lawful permanent resident, today, it takes over 2-3 years for their spouse to come live with them in the United States; for a citizen, it takes at least 1.5 but sometimes as much as 2-3 years as well. Our federal immigration system has been broken for a while, shall we now also make our State complicit in this with these additional burdens

Text-Based Advocacy

How to write an effective email to your legislator

Here are some helpful Guidelines:



1. Be brief
2. State who you are, where you live (they need to know you are a constituent of their district) up front.
3. Name the bill you're emailing about.
4. Choose 2-3 most important points to persuade your audience
5. Personalize! This is key for relationship building and so that they "count" your letter as unique and not "one form letter."
6. Call for an action AND a response

<https://www.aclu.org/writing-your-elected-representatives>

Email Template

Subject Line: Vote NO on HB 1393 and HB 1531

Dear Indiana State Senator:

My name is [name] and I live at [address]. I am [insert text/feeling/perspective] about House Bills 1393 and 1531, now being heard before the Indiana State Senate.

SUGGESTED TEXT:

I am writing to express my serious disagreement with two immigration bills (HB 1393 and HB 1531) currently being considered by the Indiana General Assembly.

HB 1393

HB 1393 will take away resources from police officers, investigators, and detectives who are working to strengthen public safety. Our law enforcement personnel are already overburdened. If passed, HB 1393 would burden them even further and distract from their actual and important responsibilities. HB 1393's provisions are not a good use of Indiana taxpayer money.

Please note that President Rick Snyder of the Indianapolis Fraternal Order of Police recently told [Fox 59 News](#) that immigration regulation is a federal matter and local law enforcement "cannot take enforcement action on federal crimes." Snyder adds "Our local officers, who are already understaffed, overworked and overburdened with state crimes, and specifically state violent crimes, specifically homicides, non-fatal shootings and stabbings – we need to be focusing on that." Consider, too, that Indiana has a [backlog of at least 600 rape kits of 2025](#), and that [only 57% of homicides](#) committed Indianapolis in 2024 have been solved. These issues should be the proper focus of our local law enforcement—not the divisive policies proposed in HB 1393 that only serve to install fear in Indiana's immigrant communities.

HB 1531

Again, HB 1531 demands that local law enforcement, government agencies, and schools do the work of immigration regulation. If passed, this misguided bill would set an unreasonable bar not only by overburdening our already-unresourced public institutions but threatening them with funding freezes and other counterproductive consequences. How is this a net-positive for Indiana?

I urge you to do the right thing for Hoosiers and vote NO on HB 1393 and 1531. Let's invest our taxpayer money into the things make life better – not worse - for the people of Indiana.

Sincerely,

[name, address, city, state, ZIP, email address, phone numbers]

GENERAL TEMPLATE:

I am [name] and I live at [address]. I am [insert text/feeling/perspective] about House Bill 1393.

[Body: Insert text and key points]

I urge [Senator name] to [insert text].

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[City, State, ZIP]

[Email Address]

[Date]

How to write a social media post with a strong Call to Action (CTA)

- **Start with a strong hook.**
 -  **URGENT:** Indiana lawmakers are trying to pass SB 287, which

would turn school board elections into partisan battle grounds.

- **Explain the harmful legislation simply, briefly and without jargon.** Add a personal angle if applicable.
 -  Federal and state laws, such as the Hatch Act, restrict government employees from engaging in specific political activities, including running in partisan elections. Transitioning school board elections to a partisan format may disqualify these individuals from candidacy, reducing the pool of experienced and knowledgeable candidates.
- **Provide ONE Call to Action** (What Can People Do Right Now?).
 -  Tell your legislator: “Vote NO on SB 287! Partisan politics don’t belong in our schools.” Call now: (317) 555-1234 or email rep.name@in.gov.
- **Use Strong but Responsible Language to Wrap Up**
 -  If we don’t stop SB 287, school board elections will turn into political battlegrounds, making it harder for independent voices to serve. Take action now!
- **Tag key individuals** (activists, journalists, organizations) and add a relevant image or infographic to boost engagement.

Social Media Template:

Hook

Explanation

CTA

Wrap-up

Any tags—people or hashtags

Phone Call Advocacy

How to make an effective phone call to your legislator

- **Know the bill number and name**
- **Understand the key issue** (have a 2-3 sentence summary of why it’s harmful)
- **Keep it short & polite**

- **Be respectful but firm**
 - **DO** thank the staffer for their time.
 - **DON'T** yell, threaten, or get personal
 - **DO** ask if they can confirm the legislator's stance.
 - If they support the bill, respectfully push back with facts.
 - If they oppose it, thank them and ask them to speak out publicly.
- **If you get voicemail:**
 - Leave a short message and **INCLUDE** your name and full street address to ensure your call is tallied.
 - Ask for a call back so you know that you were accounted for.
- **If voicemail is full, try again later or email.**

Phone Call Script Example(s):

"Hello my name is _____ *[say your name]* and I'm a constituent of _____ *[say your State Senators name]* from _____ *[say Street Address & City]*

[PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU DO NOT FEEL COMFORTABLE SHARING YOUR STREET ADDRESS, EXPLAIN WHY, AND TELL THEM YOUR ZIP CODE SHOULD BE MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR THEIR TALLIES].

I'm calling to discuss **HB1393 and HB1531, please note both bills have passed into the Senate.** Both bills will have a harmful impact on the capacity of Hoosier law enforcement, it would violate the separation of the federal and state governing, and Hoosier taxpayer dollars would end up spending their hard earned money paying for something that the federal government is responsible for.

When it comes time to vote, I ask that the Senator vote NO against these two harmful bills. Thank you for your time."

IF YOU HAVE THE TIME, YOU CAN CONTINUE TO ASK:

"Do you know if Senator _____ *[say their name]* supports this bill?"

If yes→ *[Share any points to consider about the harm it will do or the reasons why it's problematic and a request that they vote NO]*

- **KEY FACTS YOU CAN USE:**



- **HB1531** clarifies that federal immigration laws can be enforced by federal, state, or local law enforcement agencies. Our law enforcement agencies are already extremely busy, given that there are several thousand crimes unsolved every year.
 - Why are we adding more stress to their plate with this bill?
- **HB1393** focuses on the topic of immigration regulation, which as we know is a federal matter not a local matter. ICE already has detainer/hold and summons processes that liaise with agencies necessary.
 - Our Indiana taxpayer money should not go towards immigration regulation when our local law enforcement have more pressing issues and limited time and resources.

If no→ *[Text thanking them and asking them to speak out to the public and their colleagues and vote NO]*

Example #2: Now you try it!

“Hi my name is **[NAME]** and I’m a constituent from **[CITY]**.

I’m calling to **[insert text about the bill and your concern]**.

Do you know if Senator **[NAME]** supports this bill?

If yes→**[Key facts or points to consider about the harm it will do or the reasons why it’s problematic and a request that they vote NO]**

If no→**[Text thanking them and asking them to speak out and vote NO]”**

Script for Voicemail