



**Committee:** PS/GO  
**Committee Review:** At a future date  
**Staff:** Ludeen McCartney-Green, Legislative Attorney  
**Purpose:** To introduce agenda item – no vote expected  
**Keywords:** #countyvalueact#immigrationguidance

AGENDA ITEM #1C  
January 20, 2026  
**Introduction**

## **SUBJECT**

Bill 3-26, Administration – Immigration Enforcement Guidance – Required (The County Values Act)

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Mink

Cosponsors: Councilmembers Stewart, Jawando, Friedson, Evans, Sayles, and Glass

## **EXPECTED ATTENDEES**

None

## **COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

- N/A; Introduction

## **DESCRIPTION/ISSUE**

Bill 3-26 would:

- (1) require the County Executive to develop and publish certain guidance related to immigration enforcement action at County facilities;
- (2) require County departments to adopt certain policies consistent with the Executive's guidance;
- (3) limit access to certain areas for immigration enforcement, subject to certain conditions; and
- (4) generally amend the laws regarding County administration and immigration enforcement in the County.

## **SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS**

- N/A

### **This report contains:**

Staff Report  
Bill 3-26

Pages 1-3  
©1

**Alternative format requests for people with disabilities. If you need assistance accessing this report you may [submit alternative format requests](#) to the ADA Compliance Manager. The ADA Compliance Manager can also be reached at 240-777-6197 (TTY 240-777-6196) or at [adacompliance@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:adacompliance@montgomerycountymd.gov)**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

January 15, 2026

TO: County Council

FROM: Ludeen McCartney-Green, Legislative Attorney

SUBJECT: Bill 3-26, Administration – Immigration Enforcement Guidance – Required (The County Values Act)

PURPOSE: Introduction – no Council votes required

Bill 3-26, Administration – Immigration Enforcement Guidance – Required (The County Values Act), Lead Sponsor Councilmember Mink, Co-sponsored by Councilmembers Stewart, Jawando, Friedson, Evans, Sayles, and Glass, is scheduled to be introduced on January 20, 2026. A public hearing and joint Public Safety (PS) & Government Operations (GO) committee worksession will be scheduled at a later date.

Bill 3-26 would:

- (1) require the County Executive to develop and publish certain guidance related to immigration enforcement action at County facilities;
- (2) require County departments to adopt certain policies consistent with the Executive's guidance;
- (3) limit access to certain areas for immigration enforcement, subject to certain conditions; and
- (4) generally amend the laws regarding County administration and immigration enforcement in the County.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this bill is to establish a County law that governs interactions with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on County property and within County facilities. The Bill seeks to reaffirm the County's values of equity, inclusiveness, dignity, and justice, and to maintain community trust by clearly separating County services from federal immigration enforcement.

## BACKGROUND

Bill 3-26 seeks to mirror and align with Laws of Maryland, Chapter 718 of 2025, referred to as, The Maryland Values Act.<sup>1</sup> The Maryland Values Act requires that: 1) public schools, public libraries, and certain units of the executive branch of State or local government that operate at a “sensitive location” to “deny access” to any portion of the sensitive location not accessible to the public to any individual who is seeking access “for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration law” unless: (1) the individual presents a valid warrant issued by a federal; or 2) exigent circumstances exist.<sup>2</sup>

The Act also directs the Office of the Attorney General to develop and publish guidance to inform the public and State agencies about certain topics related to immigration enforcement activities and sensitive locations, including complying with existing legal obligations. Proposed State Government Article (“SG”), § 6-111(b). Under the Act, public schools, public libraries, and units of the executive branch of State or local government that operate at a sensitive location must implement policies consistent with the Attorney General’s guidance by October 1, 2025.<sup>3</sup>

## BILL SPECIFICS

**Restrict ICE access to non-public areas.** Bill 3-26 (The County Values Act) would, among several things, restrict ICE access to: 1) non-public areas of County facilities unless there are a valid federal judicial warrant or exigent circumstances; and 2) prohibit the use of County-owned or County-controlled parking lots, garages, and vacant lots as a staging, processing, or operation area for civil immigration enforcement activities, with limited public safety and legal exceptions.

**Require signage for County-controlled/owned property.** The legislation directs the County Executive to identify and install clear signage at the entrance of County properties (parking lots, garages, or vacant lots) that have been or may be used for immigration enforcement operations, and implement physical barriers (gates, fence, etc.), where appropriate. The Bill also requires County employees to report unauthorized use of County property. Further, the County must provide template signage for businesses that choose to restrict ICE access in non-public areas.

**Immigration Enforcement Guidance for County Departments.** Additionally, the Act requires the County Executive, in coordination with the Office of County Attorney, to develop comprehensive immigration enforcement guidance for County departments, including training, procedures, signage, and model policies. Departments must designate officials to respond to ICE visits and ensure staff are trained on the guidance.

**Compliance with Federal Law.** The Act expressly preserves compliance with federal law and does not restrict the lawful exchange of information regarding immigration or citizenship status.

---

<sup>1</sup> House Bill 1222, “Public Safety – Immigration Enforcement – The Maryland Values Act.

<sup>2</sup> Maryland General Assembly. <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebpage/Legislation/Details/HB1222/?ys=2025rs>

<sup>3</sup> Attorney General Review Letter for House Bill 1222.

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebpage/Legislation/Details/HB1222/?ys=2025rs>

This packet contains:

Bill 3-26

Circle #

1

Bill No. 3-26  
Concerning: Administration – Immigration  
Enforcement Guidance – Required  
(The County Values Act)  
Revised: 1/12/2026 Draft No.3  
Introduced: January 20, 2026  
Expires: December 7, 2026  
Enacted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Executive: \_\_\_\_\_  
Effective: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunset Date: None  
Ch.       , Laws of Mont. Co.       

## COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

---

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Mink  
Co-sponsors: Councilmembers Stewart, Jawando, Friedson, Evans, Sayles, and Glass

---

### AN ACT to:

- (1) require the County Executive to develop and publish certain guidance related to immigration enforcement action at County facilities;
- (2) require County departments to adopt certain policies consistent with the Executive's guidance;
- (3) limit access to certain areas for immigration enforcement, subject to certain conditions; and
- (4) generally amend the laws regarding County administration and immigration enforcement in the County.

By adding

Chapter 2, Administration  
Article XV, Immigration Enforcement Guidance  
Sections 2-160, 2-161, 2-162, 2-163, 2-164, 2-165, and 2-166

<b>Boldface</b>	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
<b>[Single boldface brackets]</b>	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
<b>[[Double boldface brackets]]</b>	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

*The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:*

1           **Sec. 1. Article XV (Sections 2-160, 2-161, 2-162, 2-163, 2-164, and 2-165) of**  
2           **Chapter 2 is added as follows:**

3           **ARTICLE XV. IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT GUIDANCE.**

4           **2-160. Short Title.**

5            This Article is known as “The County Values Act.”

6           **2-161. Purpose.**

- 7           (a) The purpose of this Act is to uphold the County’s values of equity,  
8           inclusiveness, dignity, and justice for all;
- 9           (b) explain how County departments should respond to Immigration and  
10           Customs Enforcement actions;
- 11           (c) provide model policy language and guiding principles to help  
12           departments and facilities adopt consistent practices;
- 13           (d) maintain community trust by separating County services from federal  
14           immigration enforcement; and
- 15           (e) limit the use of County property for federal immigration enforcement  
16           purposes to enhance public trust, ensure equitable access to public  
17           facilities, and preserve County resources for local governmental  
18           purposes.

19           **2-162. Definitions.**

20           In this Section, the following words and phrases have the following meanings:  
21           *County facility* means a building controlled by the County that provides services  
22           to the public.

23           *County-owned or County-controlled property* means real property owned,  
24           leased, or otherwise under the control or management authority of the County,  
25           including parking lots, garages, and vacant lots.

26 Department means any executive branch County department, agency, division,  
 27 or other body, or person established by authority of an order, executive order, or  
 28 County Council order.

29 Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) means the federal enforcement  
 30 agency responsible for enforcing civil immigration law, which may also include  
 31 any entity or personnel authorized to enforce civil immigration law.

32 Staging area means an area used to assemble, mobilize, deploy vehicles,  
 33 equipment, materials, or personnel for carrying out civil immigration  
 34 enforcement operations.

35 **2-163. ICE access in County facilities – warrant requirement.**

36 (a) A County employee or contractor must not grant an ICE officer access or  
 37 assist an officer in entering any portion of a County facility that is not  
 38 accessible to the general public, unless:

39 (1) there are exigent circumstances; or

40 (2) the officer presents a valid warrant issued by a federal court.

41 (b) Nothing in this Section authorizes a County employee or contractor to  
 42 interfere with, restrict, or impede an immigration officer when access has  
 43 been denied or consent to entry has been withheld.

44 **2-164. Prohibition on use of County property for ICE enforcement.**

45 (a) Any County-owned or County-controlled parking lot, garage, or vacant  
 46 lot must not be used for ICE enforcement activities, including  
 47 surveillance, staging, processing, detention, or vehicle storage, unless  
 48 required by law or authorized by a valid judicial warrant.

49 (b) Any area or space identified under subsection (d) is not available to the  
 50 general public for similar activities; in addition, federal, state, or local  
 51 government entities or personnel will not receive special or enhanced  
 52 access to County property for civil immigration enforcement operations.

53 (c) This section does not apply to:

54 (1) any temporary access necessary to address an immediate threat to  
55 public safety; or

56 (2) publicly available areas open to the general public, where the  
57 County lacks legal authority to restrict entry.

58 (d) The County Executive must identify all County-owned or controlled  
59 parking lots, vacant lots, or garages that either have been used or are  
60 likely to be used in the future as a staging area, processing location, or  
61 operations base for civil immigration enforcement.

62 (e) The County Executive must ensure that all such County properties  
63 identified under subsection (d) have clear signage stating:  
64 “This property is owned or controlled by Montgomery County. It may  
65 not be used for civil immigration enforcement as a: Staging Area,  
66 Processing Location, or Operations Base.”

67 (f) The County Executive must ensure that, wherever appropriate, physical  
68 barriers such as locked gates are used to limit access to County-owned or  
69 County-controlled parking lots, vacant lots, or garages consistent with the  
70 purpose of this Section.

71 (g) Reporting unauthorized use. A County employee who becomes aware of  
72 the unauthorized use of County-owned or County-controlled property  
73 must immediately report the violation to the employee’s department  
74 director. A reported violation must include as much information as  
75 possible, including time, location, and a description of what was  
76 observed. Failure to report unauthorized use of property may result in  
77 disciplinary action.

78 **2-165. Immigration enforcement guidance for County departments.**

(a) Guidance by the County Executive. The County Executive, in consultation with the Office of the County Attorney, must create and publish immigration enforcement guidance for County staff and contractors. The guidance must:

- (1) establish an immigration enforcement action plan that provides a step-by-step process if ICE visits a County facility;
- (2) indicate the process a facility should use when designating certain areas for public or non-public use;
- (3) include model policies and sample scripts covering various scenarios involving potential ICE interaction;
- (4) explain how to distinguish between different types of warrants and civil detainers;
- (5) include policies and practices for departments to guide interactions between County staff and ICE officials, ensuring that immigration enforcement activities are carried out in the least disruptive and safest possible manner;
- (6) include measures that would limit liability exposure for County staff at County facilities; and
- (7) include recommendations for complying with existing legal obligations and limitations at County facilities while balancing public safety and accessibility at those facilities.

(b) Responsibilities of each Department. Unless otherwise required by state law, each department must:

- (1) ensure County employees and contractors are trained on the Executive's policies and guidance;
- (2) designate a supervisor or manager to serve as the designated official responsible for handling visits by ICE;

106 (3) provide a phone number for frontline staff to contact a designated  
107 official at any time;

108 (4) where applicable, identify areas that are open to the general public  
109 and post signage at the entrance that states: "Not open to the public.  
110 You do not have consent to enter for civil immigration  
111 enforcement purposes without authorization from a designated  
112 official"; and

113 (5) include any other department-specific measures to assist County  
114 staff in balancing the interaction with ICE.

115 (c) Signage for private use. The County Executive must develop a signage  
116 template available on the County's website for business owners and  
117 leaseholders to use. The owner or lessee may choose to use the signage  
118 template to identify and lawfully restrict non-public areas in which they  
119 would prohibit activities related to civil immigration enforcement.

120 (d) Executive regulations. The County Executive may, under Method 3,  
121 establish regulations and standards as necessary to accomplish the  
122 purposes and intent of this Article. The regulations must be at least as  
123 stringent and consistent as this Article.

124 **2-166. Compliance with Federal law.**

125 No provision in this Article may be interpreted as preventing a law enforcement  
126 agent from sending or receiving information from any local, state, or Federal  
127 agency regarding the citizenship or immigration status of an individual in  
128 accordance with applicable federal or constitutional law.