STATE OF NEW YORK

8539

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

October 22, 2025

Introduced by Sen. RAMOS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to the use of state or municipal property for civil immigration enforcement activity and providing protections for persons on such property

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "New York state ICE-free zones act".

§ 2. The executive law is amended by adding a new subdivision 170-k to read as follows:

§ 170-k. Civil immigration enforcement activity on state or municipal property. 1. Definitions. As used in this section:

(a) "State or municipal property" means any real property or facility owned, leased, controlled, or managed by the state or any municipal subdivision thereof or by any department, bureau, board, commission, authority or any other agency or instrumentality of the state or any municipal subdivision thereof.

(b) "Civil immigration enforcement activity" means detention, arrest, questioning, processing, transportation, or surveillance conducted by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement or any federal officer or employee who is responsible for enforcement of the federal Immigration and Nationality Act, in connection with civil removal proceedings; provided, however, that "civil immigration enforcement activity" does not include any such action conducted with a valid judicial warrant.

(c) "Immigration enforcement officer" means any federal officer or employee who is responsible for enforcement of the federal Immigration and Nationality Act, in connection with civil removal proceedings, and shall include any employee of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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(d) "Judicial warrant" means a warrant or order that is signed by a United States district judge or federal magistrate judge and that demonstrates probable cause to believe an individual has committed a crime or offense.

(e) "Designated signage" means signage, posted in conspicuous locations, stating that property may not be used for civil immigration enforcement activity.

(f) "Responsible official" means the person or office, or the designee of such person or office, with operational responsibility for the state or municipal property. "Responsible official" shall include, but not be limited to, facility managers and superintendents of such property.

2. No state or municipal property may be used, occupied, leased, loaned, or otherwise made available, whether temporarily or permanently, for civil immigration enforcement activity unless such civil immigration enforcement activity is conducted pursuant to a valid judicial warrant which specifies that such activity may be conducted at a particular property for a specified civil immigration enforcement activity.

3. (a) Within thirty days after the effective date of this section, the responsible official of each state or municipal property shall provide designated signage at entrances of such property or near staging areas, parking lots, or other areas of such property that are accessible to the public or federal personnel stating that such property is publicly owned and may not be used for civil immigration enforcement activity by immigration enforcement officers without a valid judicial warrant.

(b) In addition to the signage required pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision, the responsible official may also place physical barriers as appropriate to restrict access to parts of state or municipal property that are not intended for public access; provided, however, that such physical barriers shall not unreasonably interfere with the normal public use of such state or municipal property.

4. No person present on state or municipal property shall be subject to questioning, detention, or arrest by an immigration enforcement officer unless the immigration enforcement officer presents a valid judicial warrant applicable to such person or location.

5. Any responsible official who becomes aware of an attempted or actual violation of subdivision four of this section shall notify the attorney general who may investigate and bring an action in the state supreme court and may recover any reasonable costs incurred as a result of investigation.

6. This section is intended to regulate the use of state or municipal property and shall not be construed to regulate the conduct of federal agencies in federal territories.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.