STATE OF NEW YORK

10774

IN ASSEMBLY

April 1, 2026

Introduced by M. of A. RAMOS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Employees

AN ACT prohibiting the employment of certain United States immigration and customs enforcement agents or officers in certain state and local positions

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

Section 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

a. Beginning in 2025, immigration and customs enforcement agents and officers have threatened and intimated United States citizens and noncitizens alike, through untargeted arrests and brutality based on nothing more than a person's racial appearance, language spoken, means of earning a living, or exercise of first amendment-protected expression.

b. Beginning in 2025, the United States Department of Homeland Security has recruited agents and officers to immigration and customs enforcement with the promise of being unrestrained in the manner in which they can engage with civilians or by the laws of the United States or any State.

c. The current operations of immigration and customs enforcement demonstrate an immorality that New York cannot afford to have in its ranks of police officers, peace officers and teachers, whose duties include interacting with the public.

d. Ensuring that public employees, particularly those who interact with the public in unsupervised roles, are of sound mind and not likely to engage in racial profiling or brutalization is a matter of statewide concern.

§ 2. a. Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, persons employed by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement as an immigration and customs enforcement agent or officer at any time and in any capacity between September 1, 2025, and January 20, 2029, shall be disqualified from holding employment, whether with or without compensation, as a state employee, an employee of a political

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

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subdivision, a law enforcement officer, or a teacher on or after the effective date this act.

b. As used in this section:

(i) "Immigration and customs enforcement agent or officer" means a person responsible for or who provides direct support in the identification, arrest, detention, transport, processing, or removal of individuals violating federal immigration laws. "Immigration and customs enforcement agent or officer" shall include, but not be limited to, deportation officers and immigration enforcement agents.

(ii) "Law enforcement agency" means a state agency or political subdivision, or part thereof, determined by the attorney general to have law enforcement responsibilities.

(iii) "Law enforcement officer" means any person who is employed as a sworn member of any law enforcement agency, as defined in paragraph (ii) of this subdivision, department, division, or instrumentality who is statutorily empowered to act for the detection, investigation, arrest, conviction, detention, or rehabilitation of persons violating the criminal laws of the state. "Law enforcement officer" shall include, but not be limited to, police officers, as defined in section 1.20 of the criminal procedure law, and peace officers, as defined in section 2.10 of the criminal procedure law.

(iv) "Political subdivision" means any county, city, town, village, municipality, special district or school district or other political subdivision of the state or any instrumentality or agency of the political subdivision.

(v) "State agency" means any of the principal departments in the Executive Branch of State government, and any division, board, bureau, office, commission, or other instrumentality within or created by a department, and any independent State authority, commission, instrumentality, or agency, including any public institution of higher education.

(vi) "Teacher" means any regular teacher, special teacher, including any school librarian or physical training teacher, principal, vice-principal, supervisor, supervisory principal, director, superintendent, city superintendent, assistant city superintendent, district superintendent and other member of the teaching or professional staff of any class, public school, vocational school, truant reformatory school or parental school, and of any or all classes of schools within the state of New York, including schools on the Indian reservation, conducted under the order and superintendence of and wholly or partly at the expense of the New York state education department or of a duly elected board of education, board of school directors or board of trustees of the state or of any city or school district thereof. "Teacher," also includes any person employed in the state education department who at the time such person entered such employment, or within one year prior thereto, was a teacher within the foregoing definition, or who was engaged in such department in the performance of duties pertaining to instructional services prior to September first, nineteen hundred eighty-six or who provides instructional services at the New York state school for the blind or the New York state school for the deaf.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.