

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2025, Legislative Day No. 20

Bill No. 97-25

Councilmembers Patoka, Young & Jones

By the County Council, December 1, 2025

A BILL
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Government Reorganization – Office of Immigrant Affairs

FOR the purpose of establishing an Office of Immigrant Affairs; defining certain terms; establishing the purpose and duties of the Office; establishing a Chief of Immigrant Affairs who shall lead the Office; establishing certain annual reporting requirements for the Office; requiring a report be submitted to the County Executive and Council regarding certain consolidation of budgets and positions; and generally relating to the Office of Immigrant Affairs.

BY adding

Sections 3-1-601 through 3-1-606
Article 3 – Administration
Title 1 – The Executive Branch
Subtitle 6 – Office of Immigrant Affairs
Baltimore County Code, 2015

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from bill.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE
2 COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Laws of Baltimore County read as follows:

3

4 ARTICLE 3 – ADMINISTRATION

5 Title 1 – The Executive Branch

6 Subtitle 6 – Office of Immigrant Affairs

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8 § 3-1-601. DEFINITIONS.

9 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE, THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
10 INDICATED.

11 (1) “AGENCY” MEANS ANY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE, OR DIVISION OF
12 BALTIMORE COUNTY GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED UNDER THE COUNTY
13 CHARTER OR CODE, AN EXECUTIVE ORDER, OR COUNTY COUNCIL ACTION.

14 (2) “CHIEF” MEANS THE CHIEF OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS.

15 (3) “OFFICE” MEANS THE OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS.

16 (4) “IMMIGRANT” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS A RESIDENT OF
17 BALTIMORE COUNTY AND WHOSE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN IS A COUNTRY OTHER
18 THAN THE UNITED STATES.

19

20 § 3-1-602. OFFICE ESTABLISHED.

21 THERE IS AN OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE
22 COUNTY EXECUTIVE.

1 § 3-1-603. PURPOSE.

2 THE PURPOSE OF THE OFFICE IS TO:

3 (1) PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
4 INTEGRATION OF THE COUNTY'S IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES;

5 (2) SERVE AS A SOURCE OF SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE AND DATA
6 ON THE ISSUES AND FACTS REGARDING IMMIGRANTS IN THE COUNTY;

7 (3) MONITOR, ANALYZE, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
8 EXISTING OR PROPOSED POLICIES AND ACTIONS, AT ALL LEVELS OF
9 GOVERNMENT, FOR THEIR IMPACT ON IMMIGRANTS;

10 (4) SERVE AS A MEANS FOR IMMIGRANT VOICES TO BE HEARD AND
11 UNDERSTOOD BY COUNTY AGENCIES AND ELECTED OFFICIALS; AND

12 (5) FACILITATE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN IMMIGRANTS AND
13 COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

15 § 3-1-604. PERSONNEL.

16 (A) THE CHIEF OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS SHALL ADMINISTER THE OFFICE
17 WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE.

18 (B) THE OFFICE SHALL HAVE THE PERSONNEL CONSIDERED NECESSARY
19 TO CARRY OUT THE FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ASSIGNED TO IT.

20 (C) THE CHIEF SHALL SUPERVISE THE OPERATIONS OF THE
21 ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF OF THE OFFICE, INCLUDING THE HIRING, DIRECTION,
22 AND DISCHARGE OF STAFF MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNTY
23 PERSONNEL LAWS.

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2 § 3-1-605. DUTIES.

3 THE OFFICE SHALL:

4 (1) ADVISE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, THE COUNTY COUNCIL, AND
5 COUNTY AGENCIES ON WAYS TO:

6 (I) IMPROVE ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND
7 RESOURCES FOR IMMIGRANTS; AND
8 (II) STRENGTHEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMMIGRANTS TO
9 PARTICIPATE IN THE CIVIC LIFE OF THE COUNTY;

10 (2) COORDINATE COUNTY AND STATE POLICIES REGARDING ISSUES
11 AFFECTING IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTY;
12 (3) IN CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT AGENCIES, DEVELOP,
13 IMPLEMENT, AND COORDINATE POLICIES THAT FACILITATE COUNTY AGENCIES'
14 COMPLIANCE WITH ALL FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LANGUAGE ACCESS
15 LAWS;

16 (4) ASSESS, RESEARCH, AND COMPILE DATA RELATED TO
17 IMMIGRANTS IN THE COUNTY, INCLUDING:

18 (I) ADDRESSING IMMIGRANT NEEDS AND CONCERNS;
19 (II) BRINGING IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES TOGETHER FOR
20 THE PURPOSE OF COLLECTIVE ENGAGEMENT;
21 (III) ACCESS TO AND DELIVERY OF SERVICES AND
22 INFORMATION TAILORED TO IMMIGRANTS;

1 (IV) IMMIGRANT AWARENESS OF CIVIL RIGHTS PROTECTIONS

2 AND RELATED LAWS; AND

3 (V) ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

4 OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMMIGRANTS;

5 (5) REVIEW PROPOSED COUNTY AND STATE LEGISLATION AND
6 ASSESS ITS IMPACT ON THE ECONOMIC, PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND
7 INTELLECTUAL WELFARE OF IMMIGRANTS;

8 (6) ADVOCATE FOR:

9 (I) THE EQUAL TREATMENT OF IMMIGRANTS UNDER LAW;
10 (II) EQUITABLE ACCESS FOR IMMIGRANTS TO GOVERNMENT
11 SERVICES; AND

12 (III) CHANGES IN PUBLIC POLICY, SERVICE DELIVERY, AND
13 FUNDING THAT WOULD IMPROVE THE SERVICES AVAILABLE TO IMMIGRANTS;

14 (7) ADVANCE THE OFFICE'S MISSION BY WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP
15 WITH COUNTY AGENCIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, COMMUNITY
16 ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR;

17 (8) AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHIEF, PROVIDE RESOURCES,
18 INCLUDING STAFF, IF NECESSARY, TO COUNTY AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND
19 COMMISSIONS AND COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUPS TO PROVIDE STRATEGIC
20 GUIDANCE AND MONITORING OF INITIATIVES RELEVANT TO THE PURPOSE OF
21 THE OFFICE;

22 (9) SERVE AS A LIAISON BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND ITS
23 IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES;

(10) SOLICIT COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER INPUT REGARDING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE, INCLUDING CONSULTATIONS WITH COUNTY AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS, ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES RELEVANT TO IMMIGRANTS; AND

(11) PERFORM OTHER DUTIES AS REQUIRED BY THE COUNTY
EXECUTIVE OR COUNTY COUNCIL.

§ 3-1-606. REPORTING.

ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30 OF EACH YEAR, THE OFFICE SHALL SUBMIT A
REPORT TO THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY COUNCIL DETAILING:

(1) THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE; AND

(2) ANY SPECIFIC POLICY OR LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO

ADVANCE THE GOALS OF THE OFFICE AND THE NEEDS OF IMMIGRANT

COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that, within 180 days of the effective date of this Act, the County Administrative Officer shall submit a report to the County Executive and County Council detailing whether any positions or budgets will be consolidated under the Office of Immigrant Affairs, and, if so, shall include the plan for doing so and the timeline for such consolidation.

1 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Act, having been passed by
2 the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, shall take effect 14 days after its
3 enactment.