

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

Bill No. 97-25

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Councilmembers Patoka & Young

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By the County Council, December 1, 2025

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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

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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  
7

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.  
23

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.

14  
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.

§ 3-1-605. DUTIES.

THE OFFICE SHALL:

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

(I) IMPROVE ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND  
RESOURCES FOR IMMIGRANTS; AND

(II) STRENGTHEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMMIGRANTS TO  
PARTICIPATE IN THE CIVIC LIFE OF THE COUNTY;

(2) COORDINATE COUNTY AND STATE POLICIES REGARDING ISSUES  
AFFECTING IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTY;

(3) IN CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT AGENCIES, DEVELOP,  
IMPLEMENT, AND COORDINATE POLICIES THAT FACILITATE COUNTY AGENCIES'  
COMPLIANCE WITH ALL FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LANGUAGE ACCESS  
LAWS;

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

(I) ADDRESSING IMMIGRANT NEEDS AND CONCERNS;

(II) BRINGING IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES TOGETHER FOR  
THE PURPOSE OF COLLECTIVE ENGAGEMENT;

(III) ACCESS TO AND DELIVERY OF SERVICES AND  
INFORMATION TAILORED TO IMMIGRANTS;

(IV) IMMIGRANT AWARENESS OF CIVIL RIGHTS PROTECTIONS  
AND RELATED LAWS; AND

(V) ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMMIGRANTS;

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

(6) ADVOCATE FOR:

(I) THE EQUAL TREATMENT OF IMMIGRANTS UNDER LAW;

(II) EQUITABLE ACCESS FOR IMMIGRANTS TO GOVERNMENT  
SERVICES; AND

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

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

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

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

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

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

7  
8 § 3-1-606. REPORTING.

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

11 (1) THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE; AND

12 (2) ANY SPECIFIC POLICY OR LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO  
13 ADVANCE THE GOALS OF THE OFFICE AND THE NEEDS OF IMMIGRANT  
14 COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTY.

15  
16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that, within 180 days of the effective  
17 date of this Act, the County Administrative Officer shall submit a report to the County Executive  
18 and County Council detailing whether any positions or budgets will be consolidated under the  
19 Office of Immigrant Affairs, and, if so, shall include the plan for doing so and the timeline for  
20 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.