

Lee Administration, Legislative Leadership Introduce Illegal Immigration Agenda

Legislation will enforce immigration laws and strengthen public safety

On Day One of the Trump administration, President Trump signed [executive orders](#) to halt illegal immigration, secure our nation's borders, and restore public safety in America.

During the special session convening January 27, the Lee administration will propose legislation to build on Tennessee's work to provide critical support at the Southern border and keep communities safe by ensuring our state is ready to assist President Trump in carrying out his immigration enforcement agenda.

The legislation includes a comprehensive framework to strengthen immigration enforcement across Tennessee by creating a new division within the Department of Safety, supporting local law enforcement participation in federal programs, and revisiting state-issued identification policies.

Key components of the plan include:

1. **Establishing the Centralized Immigration Enforcement Division (CIEO):** Creates a new division within the Department of Safety to ensure efficient resource allocation and effective enforcement of immigration laws. Appointed by the Governor, the Chief Immigration Enforcement Officer (CIEO) will coordinate directly with the Trump Administration on federal immigration policies and implementation.
2. **Raising standards for obtaining state-issued IDs:** Restricts eligibility for state-issued IDs to U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, and individuals with federal authorization for a specified period, introduces visually distinctive markers on temporary licenses issued to non-citizens, and mandates proof of citizenship for renewal or reinstatement of driver licenses.
3. **Local accountability:** Creates a Class E felony offense for local officials who adopt or maintain sanctuary city policies in violation of state law and empowers the Tennessee Attorney General to initiate removal proceedings for officials convicted of violating anti-sanctuary city provisions.
4. **Incentivizing local government participation in enforcement of federal immigration policies:** Incentivizes local governments to enter into agreements with federal authorities under the 287(g) program to assist with immigration law enforcement, detention, and removal efforts and establishes penalties for officials who fail to comply with enforcement mandates.
5. **Creating Immigration Enforcement Grant Program:** Allocates funding for local governments to assist with training law enforcement officers, operational expenses and purchasing necessary equipment, and other eligible activities to support federal and state immigration policies.