



Background on Maine's New ICE Out Laws

Three new ICE Out of Maine laws will protect our communities from reckless and dangerous federal abuses of power: ICE Out of Policing, ICE Out of Our Homes, and ICE Out of Schools and State Healthcare.

In January 2026, the Trump administration launched “Operation Catch of the Day” in Maine. Federal officials claimed they would target only the “worst of the worst” and help keep communities safe. Instead, communities across the state watched as roughly 200 of their neighbors, coworkers, friends, and family members were detained.

In response to the Trump administration’s lawless campaign, Maine lawmakers enacted three ICE Out of Maine Laws. These laws will protect our communities and ensure that local officials, agencies, and resources are not used to support reckless and chaotic federal immigration enforcement operations.

QUICK FACTS

- There are three ICE Out of Maine laws: ICE Out of Policing, ICE Out of Our Homes, and ICE Out of Schools and State Healthcare.
- ICE Out laws will take effect on July 29, 2026.
- Hundreds of public officials are responsible for implementing the laws, including 107 police departments, 253 school districts, and 16 sheriff’s departments.
- Maine communities are stronger and safer without ICE.
- Mainers looked out for each other during “Operation Catch of the Day.” Now, ICE Out laws are drawing a line between our communities and rogue federal agents.
- ICE Out of Maine Laws will strengthen communities and ensure Maine resources are not used to support rogue federal agencies operating outside the law.

ICE OUT OF POLICING

The need for ICE Out of Policing:

ICE Out of Policing will refine local law enforcement's scope of work, preventing them from supporting mass deportation efforts. People are more likely to report a crime, serve as a witness in court, and call for help when they see something wrong if they know their police are not acting as deportation agents. This law will make Maine communities safer by building community trust and ensuring no person is forced to choose between calling for help in an emergency or facing deportation.

Police and jails in Maine have long collaborated with and supported federal immigration operations. The ACLU of Maine obtained hundreds of public records showing cooperation throughout the state and across dozens of agencies. The investigation uncovered dozens of instances in which state and local law enforcement stopped drivers for minor traffic offenses. Instead of simply handling the traffic violation, officers frequently held people on the side of the road for hours, waiting for ICE or CBP, who would then take them into custody. These stops may violate the state and federal constitutions when people are held beyond what the Fourth Amendment allows, and when officers stop someone based on their race.

In one case, an Oxford County sheriff's deputy asked other agencies to watch for a specific vehicle and detain its passengers for Border Patrol. Scarborough Police located the car, detained the occupants, and held them until Border Patrol arrived. The detainees posed no public safety threat.

In South Paris, two people found their friend who had attempted to end their life. The friends called 911. At the scene, South Paris Police called Border Patrol, claiming they needed help translating. Border Patrol arrested both of the friends who were simply trying to help during an emergency.

In all, the ACLU of Maine found roughly 80 instances across 28 agencies that led to someone being handed over to ICE or CBP, and we're still uncovering more.

What does ICE Out of Policing do?

ICE Out of Policing will limit Maine law enforcement's participation in the federal government's mass deportation campaign by prohibiting the following:

- Civil immigration detention in Maine jails (including honoring ICE detainers, Border Patrol holds, and ICE detention contracts)
- Jail communications with ICE about the release dates of people being detained
- Police handovers to ICE
- Use of immigration enforcement officers for “interpretation” services
- 287(g) agreements, which deputize Maine police to perform federal immigration enforcement

Who is regulated by ICE Out of Policing?

The primary ICE Out of Policing law regulates any agency within Maine that is “charged with enforcement of state, county or municipal laws or with managing custody of detained persons,” including any “employee” or “agent” working for them. 5 M.R.S. § 4761(7) (definition of “law enforcement agency”). Specific examples cited in the statute include municipal and university police departments, sheriff’s departments, and the Maine State Police, Maine Department of Corrections, and Maine Department of Public Safety.

ICE OUT OF OUR HOMES

The need for ICE Out of Our Homes:

Every person has the right to feel safe in their own home. Homes have always had a higher legal standard for the privacy and safety people enjoy within. The ICE Out of Our Homes law will help protect renters and landlords from rogue federal agents.

Landlords could deliberately share sensitive information with immigration agents to retaliate against a renter, or they could be bullied into sharing that information even when they don’t want to. For instance, the lawful eviction process includes procedures to promote fairness. In some cases, it could be cheaper for a landlord to attempt to have their tenant deported rather than going through the eviction process. Landlords could also force substandard living conditions upon tenants by threatening to share their immigration status with ICE if the tenant exercises their rights. This law will require landlords to protect sensitive information unless they are presented with a valid judicial warrant.

What does ICE Out of Our Homes do?

This law prohibits landlords from disclosing certain personal and sensitive details about tenants, such as a tenant's national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or alien registration number, among other details.

If a landlord breaks the law, there are clear penalties: the tenant can recover the actual damages they suffered or \$1,000, whichever is greater, as well as reasonable attorney's fees. The tenant can also obtain a court order to prevent recurrence of the unlawful conduct.

Who is regulated by ICE Out of Our Homes?

Landlords and anyone operating on their behalf will be required to follow the ICE Out of Our Homes law.

ICE OUT OF SCHOOLS AND STATE HEALTHCARE

The need for ICE Out of Schools and State Healthcare:

Communities are strongest and safest when all people can safely access the essential places where we learn and heal. Access to public schools, state healthcare, and state libraries is essential for safe and healthy communities.

For decades, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) had a longstanding policy prohibiting immigration arrests at sensitive locations like schools, healthcare facilities, and libraries, given the serious public health and safety consequences of conducting operations at these places. In January of 2025, the Trump administration rescinded that policy, unleashing ICE to pursue arrests even in these highly sensitive areas. This law will reinstate these protections for public schools, state libraries, and state healthcare facilities.

What does ICE Out of Schools and State Healthcare do?

This law will require employees in certain state-operated locations to deny federal immigration agents access to private information and private spaces unless agents present a valid judicial warrant. It will empower frontline employees at public schools, state libraries, and state healthcare facilities to protect the people they serve by establishing a clear legal process, ensuring employees are not inappropriately pressured, bullied, or coerced by ICE agents trying to break the law or endanger the people in their care.

The law directs the Attorney General’s Office to issue model policies limiting federal immigration enforcement in sensitive locations “to the fullest extent possible,” to “ensur[e] that facilities providing services to members of the public remain safe and accessible to all state residents regardless of immigration status.”

The law requires that public schools, state healthcare facilities, and state libraries adopt the attorney general’s model policies three months after they are published by the AG. The law further allows, but does not require, that private schools, non-state healthcare facilities, childcare facilities, non-state public libraries, and houses of worship adopt the AG’s model policies limiting immigration enforcement at those sites.

Who is regulated by ICE Out of Schools and State Healthcare?

Public schools, public pre-schools, public colleges and universities, state healthcare facilities, and state libraries.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the legislative history for each law?

ICE Out of Policing:

- LD 1971: Prohibits state, county, and local law enforcement agencies from engaging in most forms of cooperation with federal immigration enforcement efforts. It passed the Legislature on June 18, 2025, and became law without the governor’s signature on January 11, 2026. [See more here.](#)
- LD 2058: Clarifies that a longstanding Maine law requiring jails to hold criminal arrestees for other law enforcement agencies does not require jails to hold civil arrestees for ICE or Border Patrol (or any other agency carrying out civil immigration enforcement). It passed the Legislature on April 6, 2026, and was signed into law on April 13, 2026. [See the legislative history and public law here.](#)

ICE Out of Schools and State Healthcare

- LD 2106 bars public schools, state healthcare institutions, and state libraries from giving immigration enforcement agents access to nonpublic areas or providing access to sensitive records unless they can produce a valid judicial warrant. It

passed the Legislature on April 14, 2026, and was signed into law on April 23, 2026.

[See the legislative history and public law here.](#)

ICE Out of Our Homes

- LD 2176: Prohibits landlords from disclosing certain personal information about tenants, including tenants' national origin or immigration status. It passed the Legislature on April 8, 2025, and became law without the governor's signature on April 22, 2026. [See the legislative history and public law here.](#)

How many entities are affected by ICE Out laws?

ICE Out of Maine laws will affect a wide range of public entities at the state and local level, including:

- 107 police departments
- 16 sheriff departments
- 12 state agencies and divisions
- 17 housing authorities
- 253 school districts and all charter schools
- All public colleges and universities
- 21 libraries
- 2 state hospitals

How will Maine's ICE Out laws be enforced?

The ICE Out laws will depend on state and local officials fully implementing them. Immigrants' rights advocates will work with public officials and activate concerned Mainers to apply political pressure if needed.

How are the ICE Out laws different from related local ordinances?

As of July 22, 2026, five cities have adopted ordinances that create even stronger protections than the statewide ICE Out laws: Bar Harbor, Lewiston, Portland, Rockland, and Waterville. The ordinances clarify the role of all city employees – including police – ensuring they are focused on local needs instead of the president's mass deportation agenda. ICE Out of Policing applies only to law enforcement. Immigrants' rights advocates still encourage local efforts to pass these ordinances and build upon statewide protections.

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RESOURCES

- [Legal analysis of Maine's ICE Out Laws](#)
- [ICE Out of Maine campaign](#)
- [Agents of Chaos and Cruelty: How the Trump Administration's National Deportation Policing Force Has Attacked American Communities](#)
- [Lighthouse Maine: Immigrant Defense Hub and ICE Activity Tracker](#)