

Wilmington, Delaware
February 19, 2026

#xxxx

WHEREAS, House Substitute 1 for House Bill 94 (HS 1 for HB 94), An Act Amending

Sponsor:

Titles 10 and 11 of the Delaware Code Relating to Law Enforcement Cooperation in Federal

**Council
Member
Owens**

Immigration Enforcement, would prohibit law enforcement from cooperating with federal law enforcement agencies conducting civil immigration enforcement activities at child-serving entities, places of worship, and health care facilities, unless authorized by the Attorney General; and

WHEREAS, HS 1 for HB 94 aligns with the priorities of Wilmington City Council by supporting effective public safety practices that ensure residents, regardless of immigration status, can access child-serving entities, places of worship, and health care facilities without being deterred by State or local law enforcement cooperating in civil immigration enforcement activities at essential community locations; and

WHEREAS, the absence of clear rules governing State and local civil immigration enforcement practices may create uncertainty for law enforcement agencies regarding their roles and responsibilities, increasing the risk of unintended impacts on residents' interactions with law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, defined statewide standards governing State and local cooperation in civil immigration enforcement practices provide clarity and uniformity across jurisdictions, supporting consistent public safety responsibilities within the existing authority; and

WHEREAS, an Education Week Research Center national survey of educators found that 86% reported having students from immigrant families, 50% reported that students expressed fear or anxiety related to federal immigration enforcement, 75% reported that these feelings

interfered with students' learning, and 24% reported reduced student attendance and distraction, or lack of engagement in class; and

WHEREAS, immigration enforcement in places of worship and health care facilities has discouraged participation in religious or spiritual activities and seeking necessary medical care, affecting the ability of these entities to serve their intended purpose within the community; and

WHEREAS, states across the country, including New York, Illinois, and California, have adopted policies similar to HS 1 for HB 94, limiting local law enforcement cooperation with federal immigration enforcement at sensitive locations; and

WHEREAS, HS 1 for HB 94 supports residents' ability to access child-serving entities, places of worship, and health care facilities by limiting State or local law enforcement involvement in civil immigration enforcement, ensuring that routine interactions with State or local law enforcement in these settings will not result in civil immigration enforcement; and

WHEREAS, HS 1 for HB 94 establishes clear and consistent statewide limits on State and local law enforcement cooperation in civil immigration enforcement activities at sensitive locations. This legislation strengthens public safety for all by reducing barriers to accessing essential locations and services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that this Legislative Body is strongly in favor of HS 1 for HB 94 (HS 1 for HB 94), An Act Amending Titles 10 and 11 of the Delaware Code Relating to Law Enforcement Cooperation in Federal Immigration Enforcement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council urges the honorable members of the Delaware General Assembly to support HS 1 for HB 94.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This resolution expresses the strong support of House Substitute 1 for House Bill 94 (HS 1 for HB 94), An Act Amending Titles 10 and 11 of the Delaware Code Relating to Law Enforcement Cooperation in Federal Immigration Enforcement.

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