



SENATE MINORITY LEADER
BRIAN W. JONES

Senate Bill 554 Fact Sheet – Safety Before Criminal Sanctuary Act

SUMMARY

SB 554 provides limitations to Senate Bill 54 (2017), which declares California as a Sanctuary State. While maintaining existing limits on state and local engagement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), this bill prohibits local jurisdictions from further restricting cooperation and mandates cooperation for specific violent crimes already exempted under SB 54.

BACKGROUND

SB 54 (De León, 2017) designated California as a sanctuary state, restricting the use of state and local resources for federal immigration enforcement. However, the law included exceptions allowing—though not requiring—local law enforcement to cooperate with ICE for individuals convicted of specified felonies, including serious or violent crimes, child abuse, unlawful weapon possession or use, DUIs, trafficking controlled substances, human trafficking, rape, kidnapping, torture, gang activity, and those on the Sex and Arson Registry.

PROBLEM

San Diego County recently passed an ordinance declaring itself a “Super Sanctuary County,” banning law enforcement from cooperating with ICE for any offense—even those exempted under SB 54—unless a federal warrant is issued. This ordinance makes it easier for undocumented immigrants with convictions of violent felonies to return to San Diego County streets. This ordinance not only undermines

public safety but also increases the county’s misalignment with federal law.

SOLUTION

SB 554 prevents local jurisdictions from further restricting cooperation with federal immigration enforcement beyond what SB 54 already prescribes. It also mandates that local law enforcement cooperate with ICE in cases where SB 54 simply allows it, ensuring violent offenders are not shielded from federal immigration authorities.

SUPPORT

Congressman Darrell Issa
San Diego County Supervisor Jim Desmond
San Diego County Supervisor Joel Anderson
San Diego Deputy Sheriffs’ Association
Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco
El Cajon Mayor Bill Wells
Vista Mayor John Franklin
Carlsbad Mayor Keith Blackburn
San Marcos Councilman Ed Musgrove
The RAD Movement

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