



## About the North STAR Act (Safety. Trust. and Respect.)

SF 2724 (Fateh) and HF 2860 (Feist)

The role of state and local government is to promote the health, safety and well-being of all Minnesotans. The North STAR Act will help accomplish this by ensuring that state and local resources are not redirected for civil immigration enforcement, so that all Minnesotans can access the services they deserve without fear of detention and deportation. **The North STAR Act explicitly does not interfere with cooperating with Federal law enforcement or anyone else as part of criminal investigations, whether state or federal.**

### This law is necessary because:

- Minnesota state and local government agencies need clear guidelines regarding engagement with, and support for, immigration agencies on immigration-related enforcement. **This will allow state and local agencies to focus their limited resources on health, safety and well-being.**
- Trust in government agencies is crucial, especially when protecting public health and protecting communities from crimes such as domestic violence, drug abuse and human trafficking. Research shows that immigrant communities trust a government agency more when they know it will not work with, and share resources with, federal immigration agencies.

### The North STAR Act would:

- **Draw a clear line between federal immigration policies and state objectives such as public safety, public health, and access to institutions like courts and law enforcement.** This is vital in order to keep people free from fear that they may be questioned or detained based on immigration status, or simply profiled.
- Prevent the sale or sharing of data of Minnesota residents (citizen or not) with civil federal immigration agencies.
- Ensure that county jails are used for criminal law enforcement only, and not for housing immigrants detained by ICE.
- Eliminate the financial risk to state and local agencies of making improper immigration decisions, especially in deciding complicated questions of immigration status that are the responsibility of Federal agencies.
- Assist agencies to follow state laws that limit police collaboration with immigration agencies and that protect access to legal protections for immigrant survivors of violence.

### The North STAR Act would Benefit:

- All Minnesota government agencies, creating clear guidelines regarding engagement with immigration agencies on immigration-related enforcement.
- **All immigrants, who could participate more fully in the life of our state,** when they no longer fear that a non-criminal encounter with a state or local government agency could result in their arrest and possible detention by Federal authorities.
- **All Minnesota residents, institutions and businesses that would reap the advantages from increased contributions that immigrants make to Minnesota's diversity and economic success.**



# The North STAR Act: Explaining the Language

The main focus of the North STAR (Safety, Trust and Respect) Act is to **prohibit state and local government agencies from using state and local resources in support of civil immigration enforcement**, including:

- Sharing or collecting sensitive and private data.
- Inquiring into a person's immigration status.
- Cooperating with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) programs.
- Stopping a person to investigate an immigration violation or to inquire about immigration status.
- Making a government database available for immigration enforcement.
- Transferring a person to any federal authority for purposes of immigration enforcement, unless there is a judicial warrant.
- Detaining immigrants in state, county, or municipal facilities for any reason other

The actual prohibitions are more detailed in the text of the legislation. Most of these prohibitions apply to agents of state or local government. **They are not permitted to act contrary to ICE's "sensitive locations" policy, which prohibits immigration enforcement at certain places—including schools, medical facilities, places of worship, and social services establishments.** The legislation doesn't include legally required types of cooperation, such as with Federal judicial warrants. The bill recognizes that Minnesota has some state laws that require the collection of immigration data that are necessary to achieve legitimate public purposes, and this bill would not supersede those laws except for criminal law enforcement.

The legislation establishes model policies for government entities, employee training of the requirement of the law, and gives enforcement authority to the Attorney General.

The underlying rationale is to **ensure that the role of state and local government agencies is to promote the health, safety, and general well-being of all Minnesota residents, not to enforce Federal immigration laws.**

The legislation:

- Prohibits government agents from asking someone's immigration status, in order to protect all people of color from racial profiling and harassment.
- Avoids the erosion of trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities.
- Removes a perceived barrier that immigrants may have from receiving eligible public benefits and services.

**The lead sponsor in the Senate is Senator Omar Fateh (SF 2724), and the lead sponsor in the House is Representative Sandra Feist (HF 2860).**