

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1537 (Bryan, et al.)

As Amended August 21, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Prohibits a peace officer from engaging in any form of secondary employment that involves engaging in arresting, detaining, transporting, or deporting individuals pursuant to federal or out-of-state immigration laws.

Senate Amendments

- 1) State that the prohibition against peace officers engaging in secondary employment involving arresting, detaining, or deporting individuals pursuant to federal immigration law also encompasses engaging in those immigration enforcement actions pursuant to out-of-state immigration laws.
- 2) State that the prohibition against peace officers engaging in secondary employment does not include service with any branch of the United States Armed Forces.
- 3) Clarify that a violation of the above prohibition constitutes an act of serious misconduct rather than an act of dishonesty, and that decertification on such grounds is permissive.
- 4) Remove the requirement that peace officers report offers of secondary employment that involve assisting with or engaging in immigration enforcement and that officers report their response to the offer.
- 5) Change which type of secondary employment records must be maintained by a law enforcement agency and constitute public records under the California Public Records Act (CPRA), as follows:
 - a) Remove the requirement that the names of secondary employers and the number of peace officers employed by each secondary employer must be maintained by the law enforcement agency and constitute public records under the CPRA.
 - b) State that records of an officer's report to their employing agency of a conditional offer of secondary employment involving enforcing federal immigration laws, as specified, and records related to secondary employment involving enforcing federal immigration laws, as specified, including records of investigations into violations of that provision where there is a sustained finding that a violation did occur, shall be maintained by the law enforcement agency and shall constitute public records under the CPRA.
- 6) Modify findings and declarations and make technical and clarifying changes.

COMMENTS

As Passed by the Assembly, this bill: Prohibited peace officers from engaging in part-time or any other form of secondary employment for the United States (U.S.) Department of Homeland Security (DHS) or any other entity that engages in immigration enforcement.

Major Provisions

- 1) Prohibited an officer from engaging in casual, part-time, contract-based, or any other form of secondary employment for, and from being an independent contractor of, or volunteer for, DHS or its contractors, or any other entity that assists with or engages in immigration enforcement, as defined.
- 1) Provided that this prohibition applies notwithstanding existing provisions of law that permit officers to engage in part-time and off-duty employment, as specified.
- 2) Provided that for purposes of when a record relating to an incident involving dishonesty by an officer, as specified, is subject to disclosure under the CPRA, a violation of the above prohibition is an act of dishonesty and constitutes grounds for peace officer decertification, as specified.
- 3) Required an officer to report to their employing law enforcement agency any offer of, request for, or attempt at secondary employment that involves assisting with or engaging in immigration enforcement.
- 4) Made all records related to secondary employment of peace officers public records for purposes of the CPRA.
- 5) Defined the following terms:
 - a) "Law enforcement agency" (LEA) means any local or state entity that employs a peace officer.
 - b) "Immigration enforcement" means any and all efforts to investigate, enforce, or assist in the investigation or enforcement of any federal civil immigration law, and also includes any and all efforts to investigate, enforce, or assist in the investigation or enforcement of any federal criminal immigration law that penalizes a person's presence in, entry, or reentry to, or employment in, the U.S.

According to the Author

"Nearly a decade ago, California took a stand and explicitly prohibited collaboration between our State and federal immigration enforcement. But our law currently has a harmful loophole that allows police officers to moonlight with ICE. AB 1537 is straightforward. If your day job is to serve our communities, you should not be off the clock terrorizing those very same communities as an ICE agent."

Arguments in Support

According to *California Immigrant Policy Center*, a co-sponsor of this bill, AB 1537 would "ensure that certain local and state law enforcement officers cannot "moonlight" as deportation agents. With the Trump administration spending millions of dollars to poach local and state law enforcement officers for Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"), this bill is an essential public trust and accountability measure. With tailored amendments, the bill now only prohibits secondary employment that specifically involves "arresting, detaining, transporting, or deporting individuals pursuant to federal immigration laws."

"The state of California and the vast majority of individual law enforcement agencies already highly regulate secondary employment for law enforcement officers to prevent conflicts of interest, inefficiency, and negative impact on an agency's reputation or public trust. However,

nothing in state law currently prevents law enforcement officers from accepting secondary employment that involves engaging in immigration enforcement activities. AB 1537 closes this loophole, creating a clear statewide standard.

"The cost to implement AB 1537 is minimal. As mentioned above, impacted law enforcement agencies already have internal policies and infrastructure in place to track secondary employment, set conflict of interest parameters, and manage work hour limits for staff. Departments routinely process and monitor outside employment requests, volunteer assignments, and specialized duties for officers, probation and parole staff, and CDCR personnel. AB 1537 largely aligns with existing administrative policies rather than creating a new program. Moreover, AB 1537 has been amended so that only the most pertinent records are named in the bill as public records.

"AB 1537 (Bryan), offers a clear and practical solution: preventing local and state law enforcement officers from clocking in to a second job that involves arresting, detaining, transporting, or deporting community members. Local and state systems should not be turned into pipelines for deportation. AB 1537 reinforces those commitments by ensuring transparency, and accountability."

Arguments in Opposition

According to the *California Police Chiefs Association*, AB 1537 "prohibits California peace officers from accepting any secondary employment that 'involves engaging in arresting,

detaining, transporting, or deporting individuals pursuant to federal immigration laws.' While amended to exempt military service, the bill continues to impose a vague employment restriction, makes violations grounds for peace officer decertification, establishes new reporting requirements, and requires agencies to maintain and publicly disclose records related to covered secondary employment...

"AB 1537 prohibits secondary employment that 'involves engaging in' certain immigration-related activities but never defines what level of involvement is prohibited. Despite this ambiguity, the bill designates a violation as 'serious misconduct' that may result in POST decertification—a career-ending consequence for California peace officers.

"KEY CONCERNS

- 1) **Vague and Overbroad Standard:** The bill prohibits secondary employment that 'involves engaging in' immigration-related activities but leaves key terms undefined, creating uncertainty for officers, agencies, and POST.
- 2) **Expands Peace Officer Decertification:** A violation is deemed 'serious misconduct' and may serve as grounds for decertification. Officers should not risk losing their careers based on an ambiguous employment restriction.
- 3) **Could Discourage Legitimate Federal Public Safety Partnerships:** The bill creates uncertainty for officers considering lawful secondary employment with federal agencies investigating violent crime, gangs, narcotics, trafficking, terrorism, or fugitives.

- 4) Creates New Administrative and Public Records Burdens: Requires reporting of conditional offers of covered secondary employment and mandates agencies maintain and publicly disclose records without clear implementation or retention standards...

"California already has comprehensive laws governing state and local law enforcement interaction with federal immigration authorities through the California Values Act (SB 54). AB 1537 creates vague new restrictions, expands grounds for peace officer decertification, and imposes additional administrative burdens without demonstrating that existing law is inadequate."

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, "Major costs to state law enforcement entities to maintain employment records subject to the PRA (special funds, General Fund).

Major costs to local law enforcement entities to maintain employment records subject to the PRA. Reimbursement would be subject to a determination by the Commission on State Mandates (General Fund).

Minor to moderate costs to the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POS) to investigate violations of serious misconduct that may constitute grounds for decertification of employees."

VOTES:

ASM PUBLIC SAFETY: 5-3-1

YES: Schultz, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Wilson

NO: Alanis, Lackey, Ramos

ABS, ABST OR NV: Nguyen

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 10-4-1

YES: Wicks, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache

NO: Hoover, Dixon, Ta, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Pacheco

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 51-21-8

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Ortega, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Stefani, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO: Alanis, Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Ramos, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis

ABS, ABST OR NV: Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Pacheco, Petrie-Norris, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Soria, Valencia

UPDATED

VERSION: August 21, 2026

CONSULTANT: Ilan Zur / PUB. S. / (916) 319-3744

FN: 0004497