

Date of Hearing: April 21, 2026

Counsel: Ilan Zur

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Nick Schultz, Chair

AB 1627 (Ávila Farías) – As Amended April 15, 2026

**As Proposed to be Amended in Committee**

**SUMMARY:** Defines “law enforcement officer,” for purposes of an existing provision of law that disqualifies a person from becoming a peace officer if they were employed in law enforcement by any state or the federal government and committed certain misconduct in their prior law enforcement role, to include a law enforcement officer employed in any state or United States territory or by the federal government who engages in immigration enforcement, as defined. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Defines the following terms, for purposes of an existing provision of law that disqualifies, from becoming a peace officer, any person previously employed in law enforcement in any state or by the federal government, whose name is listed in a specified national decertification index or any other database designated by the federal government whose certification as a law enforcement officer in that jurisdiction was revoked for misconduct, or who, while employed as a law enforcement officer, engaged in serious misconduct that would have resulted in their certification being revoked by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) if employed as a peace officer in this state.
  - a) “Employed in law enforcement” and “law enforcement officer” include a law enforcement officer employed in any state or United States territory or by the federal government who engages in immigration enforcement.
  - b) “Immigration enforcement” includes 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 United States.
- 2) Includes a severability clause.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Disqualifies each of the following persons, except as specified below, from holding office as a peace officer or being employed as a peace officer by any state or local agency, as specified:
  - a) Any person who has been convicted of a felony, or of any offense in any other jurisdiction which would be a felony if committed in this state.

- b) Any person who has been discharged from the military for committing an offense, as adjudicated by a military tribunal, which would be a felony if committed in this state.
  - c) Any person who, after January 1, 2004, has been convicted of a crime based upon a verdict or finding of guilt of a felony by the trier of fact, or upon the entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a felony, regardless of whether a court declares the offense a misdemeanor or the offense becomes a misdemeanor by operation of law, as specified.
  - d) Any person who has been charged with a felony and adjudged to be mentally incompetent, as specified.
  - e) Any person who has been found not guilty by reason of insanity of any felony.
  - f) Any person who has been determined to be a mentally disordered sex offender, as specified.
  - g) Any person adjudged addicted or in danger of becoming addicted to narcotics, convicted, and committed to a state institution as specified.
  - h) Any person who, following exhaustion of all available appeals, has been convicted of, or adjudicated through an administrative, military, or civil judicial process requiring not less than clear and convincing evidence, as having committed an act that is a violation of a specified forgery offense, alteration of jury-lists, jury tampering, or falsifying jury lists, specified perjury offenses, specified falsifying evidence offenses, specified witness intimidation offenses, and specified offenses against public justice, including any act committed in another jurisdiction that would have been a violation of any of those sections if committed in this state.
  - i) Any person who has been issued a peace officer certification, as specified, and has had that certification revoked by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), has voluntarily surrendered that certification, as specified, or, having met the minimum requirement for issuance of certification, has been denied issuance of certification.
  - j) Any person previously employed in law enforcement in any state or United States territory or by the federal government, whose name is listed in the National Decertification Index of the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training or any other database designated by the federal government whose certification as a law enforcement officer in that jurisdiction was revoked for misconduct, or who, while employed as a law enforcement officer, engaged in serious misconduct that would have resulted in their certification being revoked by the commission if employed as a peace officer in this state. (Gov. Code, § 1029, subd. (a)(1)-(11).)
- 2) Specifies that a plea of guilty to a felony pursuant to a deferred entry of judgment program, as specified, shall not alone disqualify a person from being a peace officer unless a judgment of guilty is entered, as specified. (Gov. Code, § 1029, subd. (b)(1).)

- 3) Specifies that a person who pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, or who is found guilty by a trier of fact of, an alternate felony-misdemeanor drug possession offense and successfully completes a program of probation, as specified, shall not be disqualified from being a peace officer solely on the basis of the plea or finding if the court deems the offense to be a misdemeanor or reduces the offense to a misdemeanor. (Gov. Code, § 1029, subd. (b)(2).)
- 4) Specifies that any person who has been convicted of a felony, other than a felony punishable by death, in this state or any other state, or who has been convicted of any offense in any other state which would have been a felony, other than a felony punishable by death, if committed in this state, and who demonstrates the ability to assist persons in programs of rehabilitation may hold office and be employed as a parole officer of CDCR or the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), or as a probation officer in a county probation department, if the person has been granted a full and unconditional pardon for the felony or offense of which they were convicted, although CDCR, DJJ, or the probation department may still refuse to employ that person regardless of their qualifications. (Gov. Code, § 1029, subd. (c).)
- 5) States that none of the above section limits or curtails the power or authority of any board of police commissioners, chief of police, sheriff, mayor, or other appointing authority to appoint, employ, or deputize any person as a peace officer in time of disaster caused by flood, fire, pestilence or similar public calamity, or to exercise any power conferred by law to summon assistance in making arrests or preventing the commission of any criminal offense. (Gov. Code, § 1029, subd. (d).)
- 6) States that none of the above prohibits a person from holding office or being employed as a superintendent, supervisor, or employee having custodial responsibilities in an institution operated by a probation department, if at the time of the person's hire a prior conviction of a felony was known to the person's employer, and the class of office for which the person was hired was not declared by law to be a class prohibited to persons convicted of a felony, but as a result of a change in classification, as provided by law, the new classification would prohibit employment of a person convicted of a felony. (Gov. Code, § 1029, subd. (e).)
- 7) Requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to supply POST with necessary disqualifying felony and misdemeanor conviction data for all persons known by the department to be current or former peace officers, and permits POST to use the information for decertification purposes. (Gov. Code, § 1029, subd. (f).)
- 8) Specifies that this data, once received by the POST, shall be made available for public inspection, including documentation of the person's appointment, promotion, and demotion dates, as well as certification or licensing status and the reason or disposition for the person leaving service. (Gov. Code, § 1029, subd. (f).)
- 9) Requires CDCR and the Department of the Youth Authority to complete a background investigation, using as guidelines standards defined by POST, of any applicant for employment as a peace officer before the applicant may be employed or begin training as a peace officer, and specifies, to reduce potential duplication of effort by individual institutions, that investigations shall be accomplished by each department on a centralized or regional basis to the extent administratively feasible. (Gov. Code, § 1029.1.)

- 10) Requires every law enforcement agency (LEA) to require a peace officer or prospective peace officer to undergo a fingerprint-based state and national criminal history background check. (Gov. Code, § 1030, subd. (a).)
- 11) Requires an LEA to submit to the DOJ fingerprint images and related information for a peace officer or prospective officer who is subject to a state and national criminal history background check, as specified, and requires the DOJ to provide a state- or federal-level response, as specified. (Gov. Code, § 1030, subd. (b).)
- 12) Establishes minimum standards for peace officers, including that they: 1) are legally authorized to work in the U.S. under federal law; 2) are at least 18 years of age; 3) are fingerprinted for purposes of searching local, state, and national fingerprint files to disclose a criminal record; 4) are of good moral character, as determined by a thorough background investigation; 5) are a high school graduate or have attained other specified educational levels; 6) are free from any physical, emotional, or mental condition, including bias against race, ethnicity, gender, nationality, religion, disability, or sexual orientation, that might adversely affect the exercise of peace officer powers, and specifies that these provisions shall be interpreted and applied consistent with federal law and regulations (Gov. Code, § 1031, subds. (a)-(h).)
- 13) Requires, for purposes of performing a thorough background investigation for applicants not currently employed as a peace officer, as required in the above paragraph, or in the case of an applicant for a position other than a sworn peace officer within an LEA, an employer shall disclose employment information relating to a current or former employee, upon request of a law enforcement agency, if all of the following conditions are met:
  - a) The request is made in writing.
  - b) The request is accompanied by a notarized authorization by the applicant releasing the employer of liability.
  - c) The request and the authorization are presented to the employer by a sworn officer or other authorized representative of the employing law enforcement agency. (Gov. Code, § 1031.1, subd. (a).)
- 14) Defines employment information, as described above, to include written information in connection with job applications, performance evaluations, attendance records, disciplinary actions, eligibility for rehire, and other information relevant to the performance of a peace officer or other law enforcement agency applicant, except information prohibited from disclosure by any other state or federal law or regulation. (Gov. Code, § 1031.1, subd. (c).)

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Author's Statement:** According to the author, "Beginning in 2025, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers have terrorized California residents, United States citizens and noncitizens alike, through untargeted arrests and brutality based on nothing more

than a person's racial appearance, language spoken, their employment, or First Amendment-protected speech.

“The United States Department of Homeland Security has recruited peace officers to ICE with the promise of being unrestrained in the manner in which officers engage with civilians or by the laws of the State of California.

“In the past thirty-five years, state and local law enforcement agencies in California have made great strides in community relations, professionalism and accountability, but that trust is fragile. The public must be assured that California's law enforcement agencies are staffed by trained, professional and moral officers, and not infected by the culture of racism and brutality that currently defines ICE. Californians deserve public servants who respect the Constitution and the rule of law and our kids also deserve to be educated by role models, not individuals tied to fear and intimidation.

“AB 1627, the Misconduct Ends Law-enforcement Trust Act of 2026, would disqualify any person who has been employed by ICE from being employed as a peace officer or public-school teacher in California. AB 1627 makes it clear: masked agents who are willing to break the law, are unfit for positions of authority in California.”

- 2) **Background: Increased Federal Immigration Enforcement Efforts:** President Trump has vowed to carry out the largest deportation program in U.S. history during his second term. The White House previously set a goal of 1 million annual deportations.<sup>1</sup> On January 20, 2025, the President issued an order titled “Protecting the American People Against Invasion.” The order states that “[i]t is the policy of the United States to faithfully execute the immigration laws against all inadmissible and removable aliens, particularly those aliens who threaten the safety or security of the American people. Further, it is the policy of the United States to achieve the total and efficient enforcement of those laws, including through lawful incentives and detention capabilities.”<sup>2</sup> Notable provisions of this order include: 1) directing the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to set enforcement priorities, emphasizing criminal histories; 2) establishing Homeland Security Task Forces in each state; 3) requiring all noncitizens to register with DHS, with civil and criminal penalties for failure to register; 4) directing DHS to collect all civil fines and penalties from undocumented individuals, such as for unlawful entry or attempted unlawful entry; 5) expanding the use of expedited removal; 6) building more detention facilities; 7) encouraging federal/state cooperation, as specified; 8) encouraging voluntary departure, as specified; 9) limiting access to humanitarian parole and Temporary Protected Status; 10) directing the U.S. Attorney General and DHS to ensure that “sanctuary” jurisdictions do not receive access to federal funds; 11) reviewing federal grants to non-profits assisting undocumented persons and denying public benefits to undocumented persons; and 12) hiring more U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) officers.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Politico, *Trump got \$170 billion for immigration. Now he has to enact it* (July 5, 2025), available at: <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/07/05/trump-got-170-billion-for-immigration-now-he-has-to-enact-it-00439785>

<sup>2</sup> The White House, *Protecting the American People Against Invasion* (Jan. 20, 2025), available at:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/protecting-the-american-people-against-invasion/>

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

Immigration arrests have significantly increased since President Trump's second term began.<sup>4</sup> ICE removals in California were substantially similar to the numbers from the previous year in the first few months of Trump's second term; however, beginning in the summer, removals significantly ramped up.<sup>5</sup> Data indicates that ICE deported at least 8,250 people from California in the first nine months of 2025.<sup>6</sup> From June 6 to June 22, 2025, federal immigration enforcement teams arrested 1,618 immigrants for deportation in Los Angeles and the surrounding Southern California regions.<sup>7</sup> In response to the protests, President Trump deployed National Guard troops and Marines to L.A. over the objections of state officials.<sup>8</sup> In September and October of 2025, federal immigration officers arrested more than twice as many people in the region of San Diego as they did in the entirety of 2024.<sup>9</sup> Such aggressive immigration enforcement efforts have resulted in an uptick in immigration-enforcement-related deaths, including the January 24, 2026, shooting of Alex Pretti by U.S. CBP officers.<sup>10</sup> Recent reporting found that it is the deadliest year for those in immigration detention in over two decades.<sup>11</sup> Since October 23rd, 2025, more people have died in ICE custody than in the entire prior fiscal year.<sup>12</sup> The rapid increase in immigration arrests has contributed to overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, and issues related to healthcare and food access in detention centers.<sup>13</sup>

The increase in federal immigration enforcement under the Trump Administration has also been associated with aggressive federal recruitment efforts, including efforts to recruit California peace officers to join federal immigration agencies.<sup>14</sup> ICE has taken steps to significantly expand hiring, such as giving out \$50,000 signing bonuses, offering student loan forgiveness, lowering the age limit for recruits from 21 to 18, and waiving the 37-year-old hiring cap, among others.<sup>15</sup> This has raised concerns that this may lead some California peace officers to leave their roles to pursue employment in federal immigration enforcement.

- 3) Peace Officer Qualifications:** To become a peace officer, a person must meet certain minimum standards: 1) they are legally authorized to work in the U.S. under federal law; 2) are at least 18 years of age; 3) are fingerprinted for purposes of searching local, state, and national fingerprint files to disclose a criminal record; 4) are of good moral character, as

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<sup>4</sup> Albert Sun, *Immigration Arrests Are Up Sharply in Every State. Here Are the Numbers*, New York Times (June 27, 2025), available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/06/27/us/ice-arrests-trump.html>

<sup>5</sup> Mathew Miranda, *ICE deportations in California surged in the thousands as 2025 went on*, Sacramento Bee (Jan. 12, 2026), available at: <https://www.sacbee.com/news/california/article314213552.html>

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> Andrea Castillo, *More than 1600 immigrants detained in Southern California this month, DHS says*, Los Angeles Times (June 25, 2025), available at: <https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2025-06-25/more-than-1-600-immigrants-detained-in-southern-california-this-month-dhs-says>

<sup>8</sup> Bill Hutchinson, *LA protests timeline: How ICE raids sparked demonstrations and Trump to send in the military*, ABC News (June 11, 2025), available at: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/timeline-ice-raids-sparked-la-protests-prompted-trump/story?id=122688437>.

<sup>9</sup> Fry and Uzcategui-Ligget, *Immigration Arrests surge by 1,500% in San Diego: 'I feel the temperature rising'*, Cal Matters (Jan. 29, 2026), available at: <https://calmatters.org/justice/2026/01/san-diego-immigration-arrest-surge/>

<sup>10</sup> David McSwane, *Two CBP Agents Identified in Alex Pretti Shooting*, ProPublica (Feb. 1, 2026), available at: <https://www.propublica.org/article/alex-pretti-shooting-cbp-agents-identified-jesus-ochoa-raymundo-gutierrez>

<sup>11</sup> Bustillo and Mukherjee, *Immigration detention on track for deadliest fiscal year since 2004*, NPR (March 10, 2026), available at: <https://www.npr.org/2026/03/10/g-s1-111238/immigration-detention-deaths-custody>

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> Sharp, et al., *ICE offers big bucks – but California police officers prove tough to poach*, Los Angeles Times (Sept. 22, 2025), available at: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-09-22/ice-poaching-cops>

<sup>15</sup> Ray and Sanchez, *ICE expansion has outpaced accountability. What are the remedies?* Brookings (Jan. 26, 2026), available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/ice-expansion-has-outpaced-accountability-what-are-the-remedies/>

determined by a thorough background investigation; 5) are a high school graduate or other specified educational achievements; and 6) are free from any physical, emotional, or mental condition, including bias against race, ethnicity, gender, nationality, religion, disability, or sexual orientation, that might adversely affect the exercise of peace officer powers. (Gov. Code, § 1031, subds. (a)-(f).) For purposes of conducting thorough background investigations for peace officer applicants, employers are required to disclose employment information about an employee, upon request of an LEA, if the request is made in writing, is accompanied by a notarized authorization by an applicant releasing the employer of liability, and the request and authorization are presented to the employer by an authorized representative of the employing LEA. (Gov. Code, § 1031.1, subd. (a).) Employment information that must be disclosed includes written information in connection with job applications, performance evaluations, attendance records, disciplinary actions, eligibility for rehire, and other information relevant to the performance of a peace officer or other law enforcement agency applicant, except as specified. (Gov. Code, § 1031.1, subd. (c).)

In addition to these minimum standards, certain factors, such as a felony conviction and certain misconduct, disqualify a person from becoming a peace officer. More specifically, any of the following disqualifies a person from holding office or being employed as a peace officer: 1) a felony conviction or an offense in another jurisdiction which would be a felony if committed in this state; 2) military discharge for committing an offense which would be a felony if committed in this state; 3) conviction for a felony even if the court reduces the offense to a misdemeanor or the offense becomes a misdemeanor by operation of law; 4) a person charged with a felony who is adjudged to be mentally incompetent; 5) being found not guilty by reason of insanity for any felony; 7) adjudication as a mentally ordered sex offender; 8) adjudication as being addicted to narcotics and commitment to a state institution; 9) conviction of, or adjudication through an administrative, military, or civil judicial process requiring at least clean and convincing evidence that a person committed specified forgery, tampering, witness intimidation, and other offenses against public justice, as specified; 10) POST revocation of peace officer certification, as specified; 11) revocation of certification and being listed in the National Decertification Index for any person previously employed in law enforcement in any state or by the federal government or committing serious misconduct that would have resulted in decertification by POST if employed as a peace officer in this state. (Gov. Code, § 1029, subd. (a) (1)-(11).)

- 4) **Effect of this Bill:** As noted above, a federal law enforcement officer or law enforcement officer of another state can be disqualified from becoming a peace officer in California based on misconduct committed in their prior law enforcement positions. Specifically, existing law disqualifies “[a]ny person previously employed in law enforcement in any state or United States territory or by the federal government, whose name is listed in the National Decertification Index of the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training or any other database designated by the federal government whose certification as a law enforcement officer in that jurisdiction was revoked for misconduct, or who, while employed as a law enforcement officer, engaged in serious misconduct that would have resulted in their certification being revoked by the commission if employed as a peace officer in this state.” (Gov. Code, § 1029, subd. (a) (11).) Serious misconduct includes, among other things, dishonesty related to the reporting, investigation or prosecution of a crime, abuse of power, physical abuse, including excessive or unreasonable force, sexual assault, and demonstrating bias on the basis of race, national origin, gender identity or expression, housing status, sexual orientation, mental or physical disability, or any other

protected status. (Pen. Code, § 13510.8, subd. (b).) Accordingly, a person previously employed in law enforcement by the federal government or another state, who engages in serious misconduct such as racial bias, can already be disqualified from becoming a peace officer in California. However, it may be difficult to enforce this basis for disqualification if the previous law enforcement employer does not make efforts to hold their officers accountable for misconduct or maintain records of such misconduct.

In an effort to ensure this provision of law encompasses law enforcement misconduct that occurs during immigration enforcement operations, this bill defines “law enforcement officer” and “employed in law enforcement” for purposes of this existing basis for disqualifying federal and out-of-state officers, to include a law enforcement officer employed in any state or United States territory or by the federal government who engages in immigration enforcement, as defined.

- 5) **Argument in Support:** No longer applicable.
- 6) **Argument in Opposition:** No longer applicable.
- 7) **Related Legislation:**
  - a) AB 1896 (González and Rivas) would disqualify a person from being a peace officer, and from public employment more generally, if they were previously employed by an entity that engages in immigration enforcement, as defined, during the period beginning January 20, 2025, and ending January 20, 2029, except as specified. AB 1896 is being heard in this Committee today.
  - b) SB 938 (Menjivar) would disqualify a person from being a peace officer if they were previously employed by an entity that assists in immigration enforcement, as defined, after January 20, 2025, except as specified. SB 938 is being heard in Senate Public Safety today.
- 8) **Prior Legislation:**
  - a) AB 17 (Cooper), of the 2021-2022 Legislative Session, would have disqualified a person from being a peace officer if the person has been discharged from the military for committing an offense that would have been a felony if committed in California or if the person has been certified as a peace officer and has had that certification revoked by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training. AB 17 did not receive a hearing in this Committee.
  - b) AB 60 (Salas), of the 2021-2022 Legislative Session, would have required a peace officer’s certificate to be suspended, revoked, or canceled when the person is ineligible to be a peace officer or when the person has been subject to a sustained termination for serious misconduct, as defined, on or after January 1, 2022. AB 60 did not receive a hearing in this Committee.
  - c) SB 2 (Bradford), Chapter 409, Statutes of 2021, granted new powers to POST to investigate and determine peace officer fitness and to decertify officers who engage in

“serious misconduct” and made changes to the Bane Civil Rights Act to limit immunity as specified.

- d) AB 1022 (Holden), of the 2019-2020 Legislative Session, would have, among other things, disqualified a person from being a peace officer for, as a peace officer, using excessive force that results in great bodily injury or death, or for a peace officer’s failure to intercede in another officer’s excessive use of force, as specified. AB 1022 was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- e) SB 731 (Bradford), of the 2019-2020 Legislative Session, would have, among other things, disqualified a person who has been convicted of certain crimes against public justice, including falsification of records, bribery, or perjury, from obtaining employment as a peace officer. AB 731 was never heard on the Assembly Floor.
- f) SB 221 (Romero), Chapter 297, Statutes of 2003, among other things, expands the grounds for disqualification of a person from being a peace officer for the conviction of a felony to include any person who, after January 1, 2004, who has been convicted of a crime based upon a verdict or finding of guilt of a felony by the trier of fact, or upon the entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a felony.
- g) AB 882 (Cedillo), of the 2001-2002 Legislative Session, would have required the disqualification of a peace officer after the commission of specified crimes. AB 882 failed passage in the Senate Public Safety Committee.

## **REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

### **Support**

California Public Defenders Association  
California School Employees Association  
United Domestic Workers/afscme Local 3930

### **Opposition**

Arcadia Police Officers' Association  
Brea Police Association  
Burbank Police Officers' Association  
California Association of Highway Patrolmen  
California Association of School Police Chiefs  
California Coalition of School Safety Professionals  
California Narcotic Officers' Association  
California Reserve Peace Officers Association  
California State Sheriffs' Association  
Claremont Police Officers Association  
Corona Police Officers Association  
Fullerton Police Officers' Association  
Los Angeles School Police Management Association

Los Angeles School Police Officers Association  
Murrieta Police Officers' Association  
Newport Beach Police Association  
Newport Beach; City of  
Palos Verdes Police Officers Association  
Placer County Deputy Sheriffs' Association  
Pomona Police Officers' Association  
Riverside County Sheriff's Office  
Riverside Police Officers Association  
Riverside Sheriffs' Association  
Upland; City of

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