

Date of Hearing: August 20, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 841 (Rubio) – As Amended June 19, 2025

Policy Committee:	Judiciary	Vote:	9 - 0
	Public Safety		7 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: Yes Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill prohibits an employee of a covered facility from allowing access to nonpublic areas of the facility for immigration enforcement activity, except as specified.

Specifically, this bill prohibits an employee of a homeless shelter, rape crisis center, domestic violence shelter, family justice center, or human trafficking service provider (“covered facility”) from, to the extent possible, allowing access to nonpublic areas of the facility for the purposes of immigration enforcement without a valid judicial warrant or court order, except as required by state or federal law, or as required to administer a state or federally supported facility.

The bill requires the director of a covered facility (or their designee) to grant access for immigration enforcement purposes if the director is provided all of the following:

- 1) A valid identification.
- 2) A written statement of purpose.
- 3) A valid judicial warrant.

FISCAL EFFECT:

No state costs.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Background.** From 2007 to 2025, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) followed internal policies that limited immigration enforcement activities at certain sensitive locations, including schools, churches, health care facilities, and social services providers, including domestic violence and homeless shelters. These policies were enacted to ensure that immigration enforcement activities did not interfere with people’s access to essential services or engagement in essential activities, unless exigent circumstances required otherwise. Essentially, ICE was directed to enforce immigration laws without interfering too much with people’s daily lives. In 2025, when the Trump administration took office, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) rescinded ICE’s long-standing internal policies and issued a series of new directives that provided conflicting guidance about when and where ICE may conduct enforcement activities, but largely eliminating protections for sensitive locations.

- 2) **Purpose.** The author intends this bill to prevent employees of sensitive covered facilities from providing access to private spaces for the purpose of immigration enforcement. According to the author:

Domestic violence shelters and other similar locations are meant to be places of healing and recovery for vulnerable individuals who have been attacked. But if fear keeps someone from walking through the door of these safe spaces that provide critical services, we as a society have failed them. It is clear that in the absence of compassionate federal policy, the state must take action to ensure domestic violence shelters and similar locations are seen as safe spaces for the vulnerable people who need their services.

The bill does not specify an enforcement mechanism – in other words, it is not clear if there would be any consequences for an employee of a covered facility who violated the bill's provisions. As discussed in the analysis of this bill by the Assembly Committee on Judiciary, this may be an intentional omission, since prior similar legislation that imposed civil penalties was overturned as unconstitutional when challenged in court.

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