



Immigration

During the 2017 legislative session, the General Assembly considered measures related to bonds for individuals who are later deported, sanctuary policies, and the collection of racial, ethnic, and immigration information by the federal government. The General Assembly also considered a measure expressing opposition to recent federal immigration actions.

Bonds for Individuals Who Are Removed From the Country

Under prior law, when a bond was posted for a person who was later deported because he or she was illegally present in the country, the bond was forfeited. Under *House Bill 17-1369*, the person who posts the bond may be exonerated from liability if he or she shows satisfactory evidence that the person on whose behalf the bond was posted has been removed from the country.

Sanctuary Policies

"Sanctuary policies" are official or unofficial local government policies that prohibit or discourage peace officers from cooperating with federal immigration officers to enforce federal immigration law. *House Bill 17-1134* would have created a civil remedy against the state or local governments and their elected officials for creating sanctuary policies. The bill also would have created a crime of rendering assistance to an illegal alien that could be brought against an elected official for

creating a sanctuary jurisdiction. A similar bill, *Senate Bill 17-281*, prohibited sanctuary policies and also prohibited jurisdictions from encouraging the physical harboring of an alien in violation of federal law. Both bills were postponed indefinitely by the House State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee.

Collection of Immigration Information

House Bill 17-1230 would have prohibited a state or political subdivision from providing the race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, national origin, or immigration status of a Colorado resident to the federal government, unless the state or local government determined the information was for a legal or constitutional purpose. The state and local governments were further prohibited from assisting in the creation of a registry, placing an identifier on individuals, or detaining individuals based upon their race, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, or religious affiliation. The bill was postponed indefinitely in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Resolution on Federal Immigration Action

In January 2017, President Donald Trump signed an executive order prohibiting entry of any refugee awaiting re-settlement in the United States for 120 days. The order also barred citizens of Iraq, Iran, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, Libya, and Yemen from entering the United States for 90 days and barred entry by all Syrian refugees into the United States for

Immigration (cont'd)

an indefinite period of time. The General Assembly considered House Joint Resolution 17-1013 which requested that President Trump rescind the executive order, and absent immediate action by the President, that Congress act to supersede and render moot the executive order. The resolution was postponed indefinitely by the Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee.