

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025-2026 SIMULATION SESSION

SENATE BILL

NO. 59

Introduced by Senator _____ Melissa Hurtado _____

September 20th, 2025

The Farmworker Protection from Warrantless ICE Enforcement Act.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SB 59, as introduced, Senator Hurtado. **The Farmworker Protection from Warrantless ICE Enforcement Act.**

Under the Immigrant Worker Protection Act (AB 450, 2018), employers cannot let ICE into nonpublic workplace areas or share employee records without a judicial warrant or court order. Workers must also be notified if their records are reviewed. More recently, new laws have expanded protections. The No Secret Police Act (SB 627, 2025) requires ICE officers to show their faces and IDs. The Safe Haven Schools Act (AB 49, 2025) and SB 98 (2025) prevent ICE from entering schools without a warrant and require notice if agents are present. SB 805 and SB 81 (2025) provide similar protections for hospitals.

Farmworkers remain vulnerable to immigration enforcement while laboring in agricultural fields. Unlike schools, hospitals, or traditional workplaces, these open worksites lack legal safeguards, leaving workers exposed to sudden and disruptive ICE raids. This bill closes that gap by requiring a judicial warrant and state oversight before immigration enforcement actions may take place in agricultural fields. Oversight and enforcement responsibilities will rest with the Labor Commissioner’s Office, in coordination with the Attorney General’s Office. To support implementation, education, and compliance monitoring, the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Labor Commissioner’s Office, to be allocated in consultation with the Attorney General’s Office.

Vote: majority Appropriation: yes Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the Farmworker Protection from Warrantless ICE Enforcement Act.

SEC. 2.

(a) Approximately 800,000 farmworkers are employed in California annually, with over 50% estimated to be undocumented, making the sector highly vulnerable to labor disruptions from ICE raids.

(1) Unlike schools, hospitals, and workplaces, agricultural fields lack statutory protections requiring judicial oversight before ICE enforcement actions.

(A) It is the intent of the Legislature to ensure that immigration enforcement in agricultural fields is conducted only pursuant to judicial warrants and subject to state oversight, thereby safeguarding workers from unwarranted detention and disruption.

(B) To support implementation, education, and compliance monitoring, the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Labor Commissioner's Office, for allocation in consultation with the Attorney General's Office.

SEC. 3. Agency Oversight and Responsibilities

(a) The Labor Commissioner's Office shall monitor ICE enforcement activities in agricultural fields.

(1) LCO shall conduct outreach and education programs for farmworkers and employers regarding their rights and responsibilities under this act.

(A) Maintain records of enforcement actions and ensure compliance with the warrant requirement.

(2) The California Attorney General's Office shall Coordinate with federal authorities when enforcement actions are planned and advise on any legal disputes or challenges arising under this act.

(4) Worker Protections

(A) Farmworkers have the right to be notified if ICE enforcement is planned in their work area, except in cases of exigent circumstances as defined by law.

(B) Employers are prohibited from disclosing personal information about employees to ICE unless presented with a valid judicial warrant or subpoena.

(C) Employers must cooperate with state oversight but shall not voluntarily grant ICE access to agricultural fields or employee records outside the requirements of this act.

(5) Reporting and Accountability

(A) The Labor Commissioner's Office shall submit an annual report to the Legislature detailing enforcement actions, compliance levels, and outreach efforts.

(B) The report shall include recommendations for improvements to ensure farmworker protections are effective.

SEC. 3. Enforcement and Education

(a) Education and outreach programs shall be developed to inform farmworkers and employers of their rights and responsibilities under this act.

(b) Oversight of enforcement actions in agricultural fields shall be conducted by the Labor Commissioner's Office, in coordination with the Attorney General's Office.

(c) State agencies may issue guidance and best practices to assist employers in compliance and to reduce inadvertent violations.

SEC. 4. Prohibition on Warrantless Immigration Enforcement

(a) No immigration enforcement agency, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), shall conduct enforcement actions in agricultural fields without first presenting a valid judicial warrant.

(b) Oversight of enforcement actions in agricultural fields shall be conducted by the Labor Commissioner's Office, in coordination with the Attorney General's Office.

SEC. 5. Enactment

(a) This act shall take effect immediately upon enactment.