

HOUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

BILL NUMBER: 2771

Support _____ Oppose X Neutral _____

Testimony Will Be: In Person Oral _____ Webex Oral _____ Written Only X

For Meeting on 02/25/2026
(Date)

Testimony By: Giovannie Goné
(Name of person testifying)

On Behalf Of: Kansas Hispanic & Latino American Affairs Commission
(Association, Corporation, Individual)

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TESTIMONY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS
House Bill 2771

Submitted on behalf of the Kansas Hispanic & Latino American Affairs Commission (KHLAAC)
February 24, 2026

Chairman Kessler and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Kansas Hispanic & Latino American Affairs Commission in opposition to House Bill 2771. House Bill 2771 would require county sheriffs operating jails to enforce federal immigration detainers, mandate insurance coverage for law enforcement agencies that engage in federal immigration enforcement, shift certain federal court liabilities to the State of Kansas, require representation by the Attorney General in specified civil actions, and authorize sheriffs to enter into interlocal cooperation agreements without approval from county commissions. Taken together, these provisions raise serious constitutional, fiscal, and public safety concerns.

1. Constitutional and Civil-Liberty Concerns

HB 2771 permits the detention of individuals based solely on ICE detainer requests, without a judicial warrant or underlying state criminal charge. Federal courts in multiple jurisdictions have found that prolonged detention based only on administrative ICE detainers may violate the Fourth Amendment's protections against unreasonable seizure. Enacting this legislation would expose Kansas and its local governments to similar constitutional challenges and legal uncertainty.

2. Risk of Wrongful Detention of U.S. Citizens and Lawful Residents

ICE detainers have a documented history of errors, including the misidentification of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents. Although HB 2771 includes release provisions, it effectively places the burden on detained individuals to prove their citizenship or lawful status—often without immediate access to documentation. This approach creates an unacceptable risk of wrongful detention and undermines fundamental due-process protections.

3. Shifting Financial Liability to the State

HB 2771 requires the State of Kansas to assume responsibility for certain federal court judgments or settlements arising from ICE-related detentions. This creates an open-ended fiscal risk for Kansas taxpayers, particularly if litigation increases. The bill socializes liability at the state level while leaving discretionary enforcement decisions with local agencies, an imbalance that is neither fiscally prudent nor accountable.

4. Strain on Local Law-Enforcement Resources

Immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility. Requiring local sheriffs and jail staff to hold individuals beyond their release dates, coordinate with federal agencies, and manage related legal exposure diverts limited local resources away from core public-safety responsibilities. Even with state-provided legal representation, the operational burden on local law enforcement remains significant.

5. Community Trust and Public-Safety Impacts

Public safety depends on trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve. When residents fear that reporting crimes or seeking assistance may result in immigration consequences for themselves or their loved ones, they

are far less likely to cooperate with police. Victims of domestic violence may remain silent, witnesses may decline to come forward, and crimes may go unreported making all Kansans less safe.

For decades, local law-enforcement agencies across Kansas have worked intentionally to build trust with immigrant and Latino communities, recognizing that cooperation and communication are essential to effective policing. HB 2771 threatens to undo this progress by compelling officers to assume a role outside their primary mission of protecting public safety.

Conclusion

House Bill 2771 is unnecessary and prioritizes immigration enforcement over constitutional safeguards, local control, fiscal responsibility, and community trust. It exposes Kansas to increased legal and financial risk while undermining public safety and long-standing relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

For these reasons, the Kansas Hispanic & Latino American Affairs Commission respectfully urges the committee to reject HB 2771 and instead pursue policies that promote constitutional integrity, public safety, and stability for all Kansans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Geovannie Gone, LMAC, MS

Chair of the Kansas Hispanic Latino American Affairs Commission

Members of the KHLAAC Commission:

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