

**GOVERNOR'S PROGRAM BILL**

**2026**

**MEMORANDUM**

An act to amend the civil rights law, in relation to enacting the sensitive location protection act

**Purpose:**

This bill would amend the Civil Rights Law to protect sensitive locations – schools, daycares, hospitals, houses of worship, and housing accommodations – from civil immigration enforcement, except where a federal agent has a judicial warrant.

**Summary of Provisions:**

Section 1 of the bill would name the legislation the “Sensitive Locations Protection Act.”

Section 2 of the bill would add a new Section 29 to Article 3 of the Civil Rights Law to require sensitive locations owned or operated by state, local, or public authorities to deny access to non-public areas of sensitive locations to civil immigration enforcement agents without a judicial warrant. Bill section 2 empowers sensitive locations owned or operated by private entities to adopt this same restriction, and provides that privately owned or operated entities may not be liable under state law for doing so.

Section 3 of the bill would allow either the Attorney General, a local government, or a private individual to enforce this law by applying for an order to the Supreme Court of the State of New York to obtain appropriate equitable and declaratory relief.

Section 4 of the bill would add a severability clause relating to any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this bill.

Section 5 of the bill would add the effective date.

**Existing Law:**

None.

**Justification:**

For decades, federal policy under presidential administrations of both parties has strictly limited warrantless civil immigration enforcement in sensitive locations such as schools, hospitals, and houses of worship. Recent federal changes have rolled back these protections, disrupting public

safety, school communities, access to care, and access to critical institutions. Further, reporting suggests that the federal government has instructed civil immigration enforcement agents that they have the purported authority to enter a person's home to arrest an immigrant subject to a final order of removal with only an administrative warrant, not a judicial warrant. Such a policy blatantly violates the Fourth Amendment, which protects against such trespasses by a government agency without a judicial warrant.

New Yorkers should be able to attend school, access childcare, seek medical care, worship, and reside in their private homes in peace. This legislation ensures that sensitive locations can be protected from civil immigration enforcement.

This bill would provide New Yorkers with security and safety by protecting non-publicly accessible areas of sensitive locations from civil immigration enforcement except where a federal officer has a judicial warrant.

**Legislative History:**

None.

**Budget Implications:**

None.

**Effective Date:**

Immediate.