

Attachment Item 2

During the process of your water meter exchange, service will be briefly interrupted. This interruption causes a pressure change, that can break sediment loose within the service line. Below is a set of instructions to flush the water distribution system.

FLUSHING INSTRUCTIONS AFTER METER EXCHANGE:

1. Open nearest outside hose spigot and let run.
2. With outside spigot still running, move to the lowest non-aerated faucet (bathtub or slop sink) let **cold water** run.
3. If non-aerated faucet is unavailable remove aerator (little screen screwed onto the end of each faucet).
4. Continue with **cold water** faucets, one by one, until you systematically open all faucets throughout your home.
5. Allow all faucets to run simultaneously for a minimum of 5 minutes.
6. Turn off each faucet, beginning at the highest level of your home.
7. Clean and re-install all aerators.

IMPORTANT!

- **Do not drink water during flushing process.**
- **Do not use **hot** water until flushing is complete.**

Attachment #1
Item 3

To: Harpers Ferry Town Council

From: Christian Pechuekonis

February 25, 2026

The following is a partial list of Gemini AI responses to my questions about immigration bills passed and pending with the WV Legislature. There will be two formal statements from the Town Council's of Ranson and Charles Town attached in separate documents.

West Virginia **House Bill 2008** from the **2023** Regular Session was a high-profile piece of legislation focused on **immigration law enforcement**.

The bill was signed into law by Governor Jim Justice on March 29, 2023, and officially took effect on **June 9, 2023**.

Key Provisions

The primary goal of the bill was to prevent "sanctuary city" policies within West Virginia and ensure local cooperation with federal immigration authorities. Its core components include:

- **Prohibition of Sanctuary Cities:** Local entities (counties, municipalities, and law enforcement) are strictly prohibited from adopting policies that restrict or prevent the enforcement of federal immigration laws.
- **Mandatory ICE Cooperation:** Local law enforcement and government agencies are required to communicate with **U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)** when they become aware of individuals residing in their jurisdiction who may be in the country illegally.
- **Inquiry Authority:** It specifically allows police officers, corrections officers, and other officials to inquire about the immigration status of a person who is under "lawful detention" or arrest.
- **Financial Penalties:** The bill established a **\$10,000 monthly fine** for any municipality or county found to be "knowingly harboring" illegal immigrants in violation of the law.
- **Anti-Discrimination Clause:** A specific section notes that officials may not consider race, color, language, or national origin while enforcing these laws, except as permitted by the U.S. or West Virginia Constitutions.

Context and Status

- **Chapter:** It is recorded as Chapter 282 of the Acts of the 2023 Regular Session.
- **Lead Sponsor:** Delegate Todd Longanacre (R-Greenbrier).
- **Current Standing:** It is currently active law in West Virginia.

Note: If you are looking for a more recent "House Bill 2008," there is a different HB 2008 in the **2025/2026** session which deals with **Executive Branch Reorganization** (moving the Office of Economic Development under the Department of Commerce). Because bill numbers reset with new legislatures, the 2023 version and 2025 version are entirely unrelated.

Would you like me to look into the specific legal definitions of "sanctuary city" as defined in this 2023 bill?

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Here are the critical details regarding **HB 5477**, which focuses on state cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.

Sponsors

The bill is sponsored by a group of Republican delegates:

- **Primary Sponsor:** Delegate Bill Ridenour (R - Jefferson)
 - **Cosponsors:** * Joe Funkhouser
 - Jim Butler
 - Rick Hillenbrand
 - Chris Phillips
 - Guy Ward
 - Josh Holstein
-

Key Provisions of HB 5477

The bill, titled "Relating to federal immigration enforcement," seeks to mandate and standardize how local and state law enforcement interact with federal authorities. Its most important parts include:

- **Mandatory 287(g) Participation:** Requires state-supported law enforcement agencies to apply for and maintain a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

- **Jail Enforcement Model:** * Facilities with **300+ beds** must seek the "Jail Enforcement Model," which allows designated officers to perform certain internal immigration officer functions.
 - Smaller facilities are required to seek the "Warrant Service Officer Model."
- **Minimum Cooperation Standards:** Mandates that law enforcement share information with ICE regarding the citizenship or immigration status of any individual and notify ICE before releasing an inmate who is subject to federal immigration action.
- **Financial Penalties:** Authorizes the withholding of certain state funds from agencies or municipalities that fail to comply with these enforcement requirements.
- **Attorney General Oversight:** Grants the state Attorney General the power to conduct audits and compliance reviews to ensure local agencies are following the law.
- **Immunity:** Provides legal immunity for state and local personnel who act in "good faith" while carrying out these new requirements.

Current Status

- **Introduced:** February 12, 2026.
- **Location:** Currently pending in the **House Judiciary Committee**.
- **Proposed Effective Date:** April 1, 2026 (if passed).

Below is a draft letter designed for the Town Council or Mayor to send immediately to Chairman JB Akers and the House Judiciary Committee. It is written to be firm but professional, focusing on the specific legal and budgetary concerns that resonate most with Chairman Akers' background as a trial attorney and former municipal official.

The possible impact of this letter is to possibly get JB Akers to modify or even table the proposed bill before it is voted on in his committee. If it gets out to the full House of Delegates which leans MAGA, it may pass. I am not aware if the Senate has similar legislation. Finally, the only way to defeat a passed bill is to have the Governor veto it. Not too likely. (Christian Pechuekonis)

TO: The Honorable JB Akers, Chair, House Judiciary Committee **FROM:** [Name of Municipality] Town Council **DATE:** February 24, 2026 **RE:** Concerns Regarding House Bill 5477 (Mandatory 287(g) Participation)

Dear Chairman Akers and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

As the governing body for the Town of [Town Name], West Virginia, we are writing to express our formal concerns regarding **House Bill 5477**, currently before your committee.

While our Town remains fully committed to upholding the mandatory cooperation requirements established by the Legislature in **HB 2008 (2023)** and **SB 615 (2026)**, we believe that the provisions in HB 5477 that mandate participation in the federal Section 287(g) program represent a significant unfunded mandate and a direct infringement on local municipal autonomy.

Specifically, the Council would like to highlight the following concerns:

- **Unfunded Administrative Burden:** Requiring our local officers to participate in federal 287(g) training—which often lasts four weeks—would leave our community under-patrolled during that period. The costs of backfilling those shifts and the administrative oversight required by §15-16-16 would fall entirely on our local taxpayers.
- **Erosion of Home Rule:** Our Town Council and Police Chief are in the best position to determine how to allocate our limited law enforcement resources to address the specific criminal activities affecting our residents. Mandating federal deputization limits our ability to prioritize local public safety.
- **Impact on Essential Public Safety Funding:** The enforcement mechanism in §15-16-19, which threatens to withhold state-supported funds, creates a "funding cliff" for smaller municipalities. This penalty could inadvertently weaken our overall law enforcement capabilities by stripping us of the very grants we use for equipment and narcotics enforcement.

We respectfully request that the Committee consider an amendment to HB 5477 that preserves the **voluntary** nature of the 287(g) program for municipalities, or at minimum, provides a "Safe Harbor" for towns that can demonstrate that participation would create a significant hardship for local emergency response times.

Thank you for your thoughtful leadership and for your dedication to the rule of law in West Virginia. We look forward to working with you to ensure our Town remains both compliant with state law and focused on the safety of our local residents.

Sincerely,

The [Town Name] Town Council [Town Address/Contact Info]

Instructions for Sending:

1. **Email Subject Line:** URGENT: Opposition/Concerns regarding HB 5477 - [Town Name]
2. **Send to:** jb.akers@wvhouse.gov
3. **CC:** Your local delegates (e.g., bill.ridenour@wvhouse.gov, joe.funkhouser@wvhouse.gov, and wayne.clark@wvhouse.gov).
4. **Timing:** Because the **March 1st committee deadline** is this Sunday, sending this by the close of business tomorrow is highly recommended.

Public Safety and Community Information Statement

Posted on [January 7, 2026](#) by [Darla Armstrong](#)

The City of Ranson is sharing the following statement to help provide clarity and understanding related to public safety, applicable law, and the City's responsibilities. The statement reflects the City's commitment to lawful governance, transparency, and respect for constitutional rights.

The City of Ranson would like to directly respond to recent questions, concerns, and public comments raised by members of our community. We recognize that these issues evoke strong emotions, and we believe it is important to address them with intention and transparency. The City Council expects and encourages civility and mutual respect in all interactions with law enforcement, whether that be city, county, or federal, both from law enforcement professionals operating within our community and from members of the public engaging with them. Conduct that undermines these values is inconsistent with the character of the Ranson community and the standards of leadership and respect this City Council seeks to uphold.

It is essential to recognize all municipalities in West Virginia are governed by state law which requires municipal law enforcement agencies to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement activities and expressly prohibits cities from adopting policies or ordinances that conflict with that requirement. The City is required to operate within those statutory obligations, and we do not have discretion to act outside of the law, even when there are differing perspectives across our community.

The City of Ranson does not participate in the federal immigration partnership program authorized under Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which allows state or local officers to act as federal immigration enforcement agents. City law enforcement officers are not deputized as federal immigration agents, and the City does not exercise independent authority to enforce federal immigration law beyond what is required under state and federal law.

The City's foremost responsibility remains the welfare and safety of all our community members. That responsibility is carried out consistent with federal and state law and with the constitutional protections afforded to every person.

Federal immigration enforcement activities are authorized by law but are also subject to constitutional limits. Those limits exist to protect individual rights and to guide the conduct of all law enforcement professionals operating within our community, including the following established protections:

Fourth Amendment protections prohibit warrantless entry onto private property. Law enforcement officers, including immigration enforcement officers, may not enter homes or nonpublic areas of businesses without a valid judicial warrant or the consent of a person with

lawful authority. Individuals may state “I do not consent to entry” or “I do not consent to a search.”

Fifth Amendment protections include the right to remain silent. Individuals are not required to answer questions, sign documents, or make statements. If a person chooses to speak, they must do so truthfully. First Amendment protections and the Right to Record Act protect the right to observe and record law enforcement activities, including immigration enforcement, so long as recording does not interfere with official duties.

Documentation requirements differ based on status. United States citizens are not required to carry proof of citizenship. Lawful permanent residents and certain other noncitizens over the age of eighteen are legally required to carry valid immigration documentation.

If individuals encounter immigration enforcement activity, remaining calm and composed helps promote the safety and dignity of everyone involved. Individuals are encouraged to follow lawful instructions provided by officers on the scene and to avoid actions that could escalate the situation. Approaching these situations with patience and restraint helps reduce risk and supports the wellbeing of the entire community.

If it is safe to do so, individuals may document the encounter or write down relevant details afterward. Anyone who believes their rights have been violated should contact qualified legal counsel to discuss appropriate and lawful options. Community members impacted by immigration enforcement can access further resources through the National Immigrant Justice Center.

The City’s role is not to direct or control federal enforcement activity but to promote public safety, lawful conduct, and respect for constitutional rights within our community. The City intends to provide clarity to the public and to affirm the City’s expectations regarding lawful, professional, and respectful conduct by all who serve and engage within our community. We remain committed to transparency, lawful governance, and providing accurate information so community members can better understand their rights, responsibilities, and expectations under the law.



City of Charles Town

101 East Washington Street, P.O. Box 14, Charles Town, WV 25414
Phone: (304) 725-2311 ♦ Web: www.charlestownwv.us

PUBLIC SAFETY PRACTICES RESOLUTION CONCERNING IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL LIMITS OF CHARLES TOWN

WHEREAS, the City of Charles Town recognizes and values the diverse contributions of all individuals, affirming its commitment to upholding the dignity and respect of all people; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charles Town affirms its commitment to public safety policies rooted in investments in violence prevention, mental health supports, economic opportunity, and constitutional policing with respect for civil and human rights for all; and

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor believe in upholding the due process rights enshrined in the United State Constitution and laws, including those afforded to undocumented persons within the United States; specifically, the Fifth Amendment provides that "No *person* shall...be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law (emphasis added);"

WHEREAS; municipalities in West Virginia are governed by W.Va. Code 15-16-3, which requires municipal law enforcement agencies to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement activities and expressly prohibits cities from adopting policies or ordinances that conflict with the provisions contained therein; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution is not intended to, and will not, obstruct, hinder, or interfere with the legal exercise of federal immigration enforcement authority, but rather is intended to, and will, enhance transparency, accountability, and public safety within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charles Town does not participate in the federal immigration partnership program authorized under Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. City law enforcement officers are not deputized as federal immigration agents, and the City does not exercise independent authority to enforce federal immigration law beyond what is required under state and federal law; and

WHEREAS, other law enforcement agencies in Jefferson County have entered into a 287(g) partnership agreement and have jurisdiction to enter and perform law enforcement activities within the City of Charles Town, creating the possibility that individuals may be subject to federal immigration enforcement by other law enforcement agencies within the Charles Town municipal limits; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charles Town Police Department is entrusted to, and capable of, enforcing local and state law in the City of Charles Town, and its law enforcement officers are trained to serve the communities they know, to de-escalate conflict, and to operate within clear systems of oversight; and

WHEREAS, in serving and protecting all City residents, the City does not stop, detain, arrest, or transfer individuals based solely on real or perceived immigration status; and

WHEREAS, Individuals facing immigration issues and needing assistance can contact the following resources: 1) Mountain State Justice at <https://mountainstatejustice.org/our-work/immigration/>;

2) Catholic Charities of WV at <https://www.ccwva.org/programs/west-virginia-immigration-refugee-resettlement-services/>; 3) WVU College of Law Immigration Clinic at <http://law.wvu.edu/clinics/immigration>; 4) the ACLU at <https://www.aclu.org/issues/immigrants-rights>;

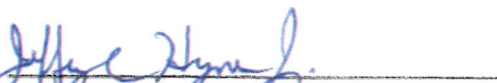
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHARLES TOWN, WEST VIRGINIA:

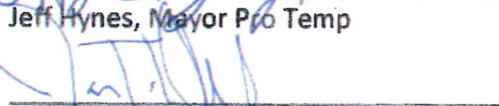
1. That the City of Charles Town remains committed to law enforcement approaches that keep our communities and residents safe, uphold civil rights, and respect the authority of local leadership;
2. That the City will continue to decline participation in a federal immigration partnership program pursuant to Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act and will not allocate City resources for immigration enforcement, except where required by law;

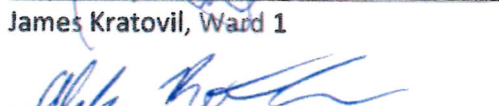
Approved this 2nd day of February 2026.

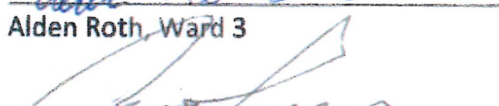

Micheal George, Mayor

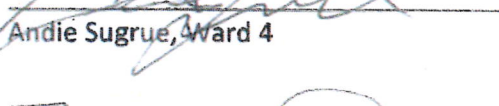
By Council:


Jeff Hynes, Mayor Pro Temp

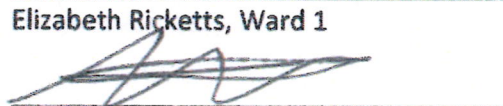

James Kratovil, Ward 1

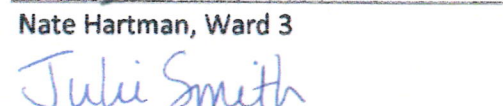

Alden Roth, Ward 3


Andie Sugrue, Ward 4


Brent Manuel, City Clerk


Elizabeth Ricketts, Ward 1


Nate Hartman, Ward 3


Julie Smith, Ward 4