

Senate Bill 8 Explained

View our entire 89th Legislative Session Recap series [here](#).

Official Bill Caption

Relating to agreements between certain sheriffs and the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement to enforce federal immigration law and a grant program to cover the costs of implementing those agreements.

What it Does

SB 8 commands Texas sheriffs to enter into agreements with ICE authorizing their employees and contractors to enforce federal immigration law, including serving immigration warrants and questioning individuals about their immigration status. The mandate applies to sheriffs of counties that operate a jail or contract with a vendor to operate a jail.

Sheriffs signing the agreements must allocate resources to immigration enforcement duties. SB 8 does not guarantee additional funding, but allows the comptroller to accept gifts, grants, and donations to establish and administer a grant program to fund the duties. The Attorney General can sue any sheriff who fails to comply with SB 8. The law takes effect January 1, 2026.

Why it Matters

When local law enforcement officers are forced to act as immigration agents, it erodes community trust, making everyone less safe. Immigrants' rights advocates also fear that SB 8 will lead to racial profiling of

Black and brown people. Further, this unfunded mandate may divert much-needed resources from public safety measures to immigration enforcement.

As of August 2024, Gov. Greg Abbott has spent 11 billion taxpayer dollars to deploy DPS and state troopers to border communities—subjecting our communities of color to over-policing.

What's Next

Tell your state and federal legislators we need to invest in real public safety solutions that unite communities rather than forcing sheriffs to do ICE's job and enacting policies that profile our neighbors and separate families. You can also support organizations in your area who provide support for immigrant communities.

We're building power to create the Texas we deserve. Join our movement for change at www.tfn.org/join-us!

