The CLEAR Act of 2003 - H.R. 2671 State-Local Police Immigration Enforcement Bill Outline

Authority: Clarifies in federal law that state and local law enforcement has authority to enforce immigration law. Helps ensure that states or localities do not interfere with such authority.

Individual Responsibility Assigned: Holds lawbreakers responsible for their illegal immigration. Adopts new penalties, plus asset forfeiture in certain cases, with the local jurisdiction that captures an illegal alien collecting half of the fine.

Information Sharing: Puts available information regarding violators of immigration law on NCIC. Encourages all jurisdictions, whether or not they have a policy of not enforcing immigration law, to collect and report basic information about the illegal aliens with whom their officers come in contact in carrying out their normal duties, such as name, address, a physical description, and the circumstances of the encounter (e.g., a traffic stop).

Additional Resources: Supplies additional resources to local law enforcement and Homeland Security. Increases authorization for SCAAP, detention and removal, and creates a new grant program for the purchase of equipment for housing and processing illegal aliens.

Better Coordination: Directs the federal government to take custody of illegal aliens caught by a state or local police agency or pay the locality to detain the aliens. Allows creation of a transportation system to routinely collect illegal aliens from localities, including the usage of ICE or Border Patrol or U.S. Marshals, a state or local law enforcement agency, or private contractors. Streamlines usage of local jail facilities for alien detention. Expands Institutional Removal Program access. Allows greater access to alien screening and processing through technology. Expands the Institutional Removal Program.

Federal Cooperation: Provides an administrative process for state and local law enforcers to hold uncooperative federal agencies accountable if there is a pattern or practice of routinely failing to cooperate or assist local police in a certain area with the enforcement of immigration violations.

Training: Provides for training of local officers in immigration law enforcement for those jurisdictions whose policy is to enforce immigration violations, but not as a condition for enforcing the law.

Legal Protection of Local Police: Grants police officers and law enforcement agencies immunity from legal liability for enforcing immigration law.