

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 5714

C 237 L 25
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Declaring civil immigration enforcement as unprofessional conduct of bail bond recovery agents.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Trudeau, Torres, Hasegawa, Nobles, Valdez and Wilson, C.).

Senate Committee on Law & Justice
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Business

Background: Bail Bond Agents and Bail Bond Recovery Agents. Bail bond agencies, bail bond agents, and bail bond recovery agents must be licensed by the Department of Licensing (DOL). A bail bond agency is a business that sells and issues bonds, or provides security in the form of property, to ensure the appearance of a criminal defendant. A bail bond agent is an employee of a bail bond agency and a bail bond recovery agent works under contract with a bail bond agent to apprehend fugitive criminal defendants for whom a bail bond has been posted. Bail bond recovery agents are not considered law enforcement officers.

Bail bond agents and bail bond recovery agents are subject to discipline by DOL for unprofessional conduct. Behavior categorized as unprofessional conduct may be general across all business and profession licensees, such as unlicensed practice, misrepresentations, or criminal violations, or it may be specific to bail bond agents and bail bond recovery agents. Unprofessional conduct specific to bail bond agents and bail bond recovery agents include:

- failure to meet the qualifications of the license or comply with the profession's regulations and laws;
- mishandling funds or other collateral or improperly failing to return collateral;
- failing to keep records and maintain a trust account;
- any conduct in a bail bond transaction which demonstrates bad faith, dishonesty, or untrustworthiness;
- wearing badges or making statements to create the false impression that the bail bond

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- agent is a sworn law enforcement officer;
- hiring or performing the functions of a bail bond recovery agent without proper licensing and contracts or without adequate care for the safety or property of persons other than the defendant; or
- using a dog in the apprehension of a fugitive criminal defendant.

Unprofessional conduct may be disciplined through an order by DOL's disciplinary authority requiring revocation or suspension of the license, restriction of practice, a program of education or treatment, censure, probation, denial of license renewal, a fine up to \$5,000 per violation, or other corrective action.

Civil Immigration Warrants. A civil immigration warrant is any warrant issued by a federal immigration authority for a violation of federal civil immigration law. A civil immigration warrant includes, but is not limited to, administrative warrants issued on forms I-200 or I-203, or their successors, and civil immigration warrants entered in the national crime information center database.

Summary: It is considered unprofessional conduct for a bail bond agent or bail bond recovery agent to:

- use a bail bond recovery agent's position to enforce a civil immigration warrant; or
- fail to keep confidential by sharing a defendant's immigration status to anyone outside the bail bond agency's business.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	44	5
House	58	37

Effective: July 27, 2025