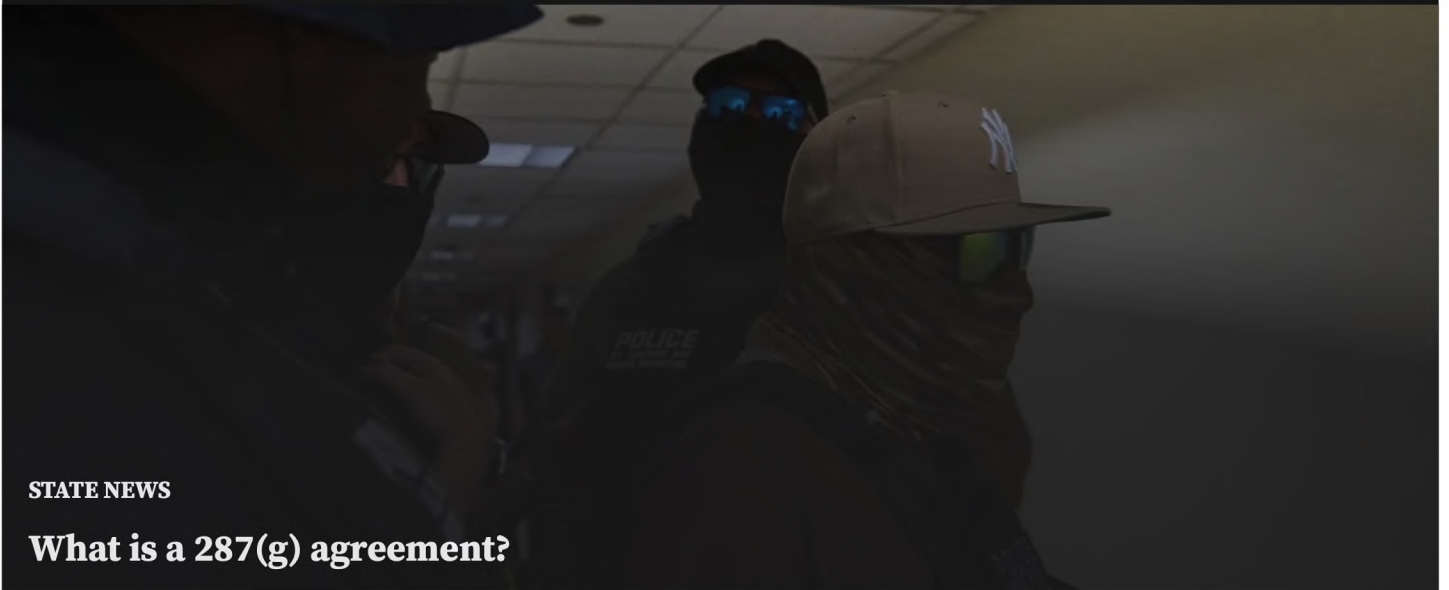


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STATE NEWS

What is a 287(g) agreement?

U.S. federal agents working for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detain immigrants and asylum seekers reporting for immigration court proceedings at the Jacob K. Javits Federal Building's U.S. Immigration Court in New York, New York, Thursday, July 24, 2025. (Photo by DOMINIC GWINN/Middle East Images/AFP via Getty Images)

The 287(g) program allows local law enforcement agencies to act as federal immigration agents, but critics argue that it damages public trust in local police. The governor's proposal would expand on Executive Order 170, which directs state agencies not to ask about immigration status or use state resources for civil immigration enforcement unless specifically required by law. New York Governor Kathy Hochul has proposed voiding the state's 14 current 287(g) agreements with ICE and prohibiting future agreements.

by: [Johan Sheridan](#)

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ALBANY, N.Y. (NEXSTAR) — The 287(g) program is a federal partnership initiative named after Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Enacted in 1996, the law lets the Department of Homeland Security enter into written agreements with state and local law enforcement agencies.

These memorandums of agreement deputize some local officers to act as federal immigration agents. They remain under local payroll, but get federal training and operate under the supervision of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

In New York, participating agencies typically follow the Jail Enforcement Model, where correction officers can interview individuals who are already in custody about their immigration status. They can also check DHS databases for past deportations or warrants and issue detainers, which are requests to hold someone for ICE for up to 48 hours beyond their scheduled release.

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There's also a Warrant Service Officer program, training and certifying local officers to execute administrative warrants on detainees within their facility for ICE. And the Task Force Model, for mobile enforcement, has local patrol officers join federal agents on raids in the field.

Critics argue that 287(g)s damage public trust in local police, since many New Yorkers weren't born in the U.S. and might not be citizens. But proponents call it an important tool for keeping criminals out of communities.

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Governor Kathy Hochul's administration reports 14 current 287(g)s in New York, including Broome, Madison, Nassau, Niagara, and Rensselaer Counties. She has proposed voiding these contracts and banning future agreements.

The governor's proposal would codify and expand on Executive Order 170, issued in 2017, directing state agencies not to ask about immigration status or use state resources for civil immigration enforcement unless specifically required by law. The proposed legislation would presumably close loopholes and enshrine those directives into law—but only through June 2029.

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The Attorney General's office has clarified that local law enforcement is not legally required to honor civil detainer requests from ICE because they are voluntary administrative requests, not warrants signed by a judge. Current state guidance warns that holding an individual solely on a civil detainer after their release date may violate the Fourth Amendment, and local counties could be liable for false imprisonment, paid for with taxpayer money.

Related video: [Gov. Hochul proposes bill to limit local law enforcement working with ICE:](#)



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