

TN E.D.ucation Project

'TIL WE ALL KNOW

The TN E.D.ucation project is a grassroots campaign that educates Tennesseans in order to build more confident communities that are empowered and organized to defend themselves against bullying, tyranny, and legal bodies involved in illegal activities.

Because of the impact of laws coming into effect July 1st, this preliminary informational packet was created. Information and resources will continue to update as new laws come into effect.

Stay informed here

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Attention

Tennessee HB 322/SB392 – Human Smuggling Law What You Need to Know

(Effective July 1, 2025)

WHAT DOES THIS LAW DO?

This law establishes penalties for specific activities related to undocumented individuals but **does not target compassionate acts or support provided without financial motivation.**

KEY PROVISIONS

1 Human Smuggling as a Class E Felony. You could face charges if you **knowingly**:

- Transport someone who is undocumented with the **intent** to shield them from law enforcement or immigration authorities, **AND**
- Do so in exchange for **financial or personal gain.**

OR if you intentionally:

- Help hide, shelter, or conceal someone who **you know** is undocumented, **AND**
- Receive **financial or personal benefit.**

Important Definition:

Harboring: Offering shelter or concealing someone's location

2 Aggravated Human Smuggling as a Class A Felony:

The charge becomes more severe if the person involved is **under 13 years old** during any part of the activity.

WHO IS PROTECTED?

This law does not apply to:

- **Compassionate Acts Without Payment:** Helping a family member or friend **without seeking any financial or personal benefit** is not criminalized.
- **Healthcare Providers or Facilities:** Providing medical care or assistance is explicitly exempt.
- **Licensed Attorneys:** Licensed Attorneys: Offering legal advice or services is protected.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO STAY SAFE?

- **Document Your Actions Carefully** (write dates, places, and details) to protect yourself if needed.
- **Understand Your Protections:** Compassionate actions and professional services (e.g., healthcare or legal aid) are not criminalized.
- **Avoid Risky Scenarios:** Ensure that any help you offer is **free of financial transactions or perceived personal benefits.**

If organizations **are suspected of trafficking or smuggling**, the Tennessee Attorney General can now:

Revoke business licenses or registrations, or
Shut down the organization entirely.

Ongoing Legal Challenges

This law is being challenged in court by immigration and civil rights attorneys.

This information is for educational purposes and does not constitute legal advice. For specific legal concerns, consult an attorney.

Attention TN Landlords

Protect Yourself Under New Law HB322/SB392 that added “harboring” to TN’s human trafficking statute.

(Effective July 1, 2025)

WHAT DOES “HARBORING” MEAN UNDER HB322/SB392?

The law defines “**harboring**” as:

- **Providing shelter**, such as renting a room, apartment, or house.
- **Concealing the whereabouts** of someone you **know** is undocumented.
- Doing so **for financial gain**, including collecting rent.

Intent and Knowledge are key

HOW TO STAY PROTECTED

Document Your Process

- Keep records of your applications, agreements, and processes to show you acted lawfully.

Know Your Responsibility

- You are **not required to enforce or verify** someone’s status.

DEFENDING YOURSELF

- The burden is on the prosecution to show that you **knowingly and intentionally** violated the law.
- **Consult a lawyer** if you are charged to defend your rights.
- **Good faith matters**

YOUR RIGHTS & PROTECTIONS

1 Knowledge Is Required

- You should not be charged **unless you knew** the tenant’s immigration status and that they were in the U.S. unlawfully.
- **Ignorance** of someone’s status should protect you from criminal liability

Stay Protected: Unless required by law, avoid questioning tenants about their status.

2 Intent Must Be Proven

- The prosecution must show you **intentionally** rented to someone because they were undocumented.
- **If you rented to them without knowing their immigration status, you should not be deemed guilty under this law.**

Stay Protected: Use consistent and fair screening criteria for every applicant.

3 This Law Faces Legal Challenges

- Legal experts argue that HB322/SB392 may violate constitutional protections.
- A Tennessee landlord is already part of a lawsuit challenging this statute.

LANDLORDS ARE NOT IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

Do not let fear or misunderstanding prevent you from renting to qualified tenants. This law does not turn landlords into immigration agents, and acting fairly and consistently is your best defense.

Attention Audience

What you Need to Know about HB55/SB30 – the update to TN’s PROTESTING statute –Tennessee’s PEACE Act

(Effective JULY 1, 2025)

KEY UPDATES

The PEACE Act introduces new misdemeanors related to protests and public behavior:

1. Littering or trespassing to intimidate someone for exercising their rights is now a **Class A misdemeanor**.

- This includes placing “unsolicited flyers” or any waste on property **with intent to intimidate** based on someone’s use of their constitutional rights.

2. New Police Interaction Rules

- Police may now **ask for your name** if they reasonably suspect you of violating a law.
- It is a **Class C misdemeanor** to give a **false name** to an officer during a lawful stop, there is no criminal penalty for remaining silent.
- **You are NOT required to show ID**, only to provide your name.

3. New 25-Foot Rule

- **It is a Class B misdemeanor** to approach within **25 feet of an officer** who is:
- Making a traffic stop,
- Investigating a crime scene, or
- Responding to an emergency, **--if the officer has told you to stop or back away.**

WHAT ELSE DOES IT DO?

4. Box Truck Transport Ban

- It’s now **illegal to transport people in the cargo area of a box truck** on any public road.
- Punishable as a **Class B misdemeanor**.

5. Signs on Overpasses

- It’s a **Class B misdemeanor** to place **unauthorized signs** on:
- Overpasses, bridges, tunnels, or highways.

6. Expanded Police Arrest Power

- Police can **arrest for misdemeanors even if they didn’t witness them, as long as they have probable cause**, including video footage of the act.
- Officers are no longer limited to citations; they can arrest if they believe it’s justified.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE COMMUNITY?

- Protest-related activity—like distributing flyers or walking near officers—may now carry legal risk.
- Witnessing or filming police could be criminalized if done within 25 feet after being told to stop.
- This may discourage free speech and public oversight of law enforcement.
- The law uses broad language, such as “intent to intimidate,” which may be subject to interpretation or abuse.

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Know Your Rights:

Tennessee's HB6001/SB 6002: "Centralized Immigration Enforcement Act" increases the state's role in immigration enforcement.

Passed during a January 2025 special session,



KEY PROVISIONS



- 1 Creates a Central Immigration Enforcement Division (CIED)**
 - Led by a governor-appointed officer, this new division will oversee **immigration enforcement statewide** and **coordinate with federal** programs like 287(g).
- 2 Launches State Grants for Local Police**
 - Local law enforcement agencies can apply for grants if they agree to **enforce federal immigration laws**.
 - These grants **can be revoked** if agreements are violated.
 - Current grant fund is **\$5 million**
- 3 Penalties for "Sanctuary Policies"**
 - Local officials who vote for policies **limiting immigration enforcement** can face Class E felony charges, punishable by **1–6 years in prison and removal from office**.
- 4 Driver License Changes**
 - Starting January 2026, **lawful permanent residents** (green card holders) will receive a temporary, **visually distinct** license.
 - Only U.S. citizens can obtain standard Tennessee driver licenses.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO STAY SAFE?

- **Check your driver license type:** If you are a green card holder, ensure your license is compliant **before January 2026**.
- Understand grant agreements in your area: **Be aware if your local police department participates** in federal immigration enforcement programs.
- Stay informed about local policies: **Monitor how your city or county enforces this law** and report any potential misuse.



ONGOING LEGAL CHALLENGES

This law is being challenged by the ACLU and local officials, who argue it:

- **Violates the First Amendment** by criminalizing elected officials for their votes,
- **Risks due process** violations due to vague language,
- **Silences democratic debate** and punishes local leaders for their decisions.

This law affects all of us. Know your rights. Share with your community.

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