



VALUES ACT

SENATE BILL 54
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

2019

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BACKGROUND

The California Values Act (Act), as detailed in Government Code section 7284 et seq., and enacted by Chapter 495, Statutes of 2017 (Senate Bill 54), defines the circumstances under which California law enforcement agencies (LEAs) may assist in the enforcement of federal immigration laws and participate in joint law enforcement task forces, and also mandates that California LEAs report specified statistics to the California Department of Justice (DOJ).

Specifically, the Act requires California LEAs to report to the DOJ statistics about their participation in joint law enforcement task forces and their transfers of individuals to immigration authorities. Effective January 4, 2018, all LEAs were required to begin collecting data pursuant to the Act for submittal to the DOJ beginning on January 4, 2019. This report contains the data outlined in the statute for publication. In the interest of transparency, the data not mandated for publication in this report will be included with the release of the Attorney General's annual crime publications which can be found at <https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/resources/publications>.

STATUTE

Government Code section 7284.6 (d): The Attorney General, by March 1, 2019, and annually thereafter, shall report on the total number of arrests made by joint law enforcement task forces, and the total number of arrests made for the purpose of immigration enforcement by all task force participants, including federal law enforcement agencies. To the extent that disclosure of a particular item of information would endanger the safety of a person involved in an investigation, or would endanger the successful completion of the investigation or a related investigation, that information shall not be included in the Attorney General's report. The Attorney General shall post the reports required by this subdivision on the Attorney General's Internet Web site.

SECOND-YEAR REPORTING PROCESS

Outreach Efforts

The early years of reporting for a new effort are typically the hardest as the data collection is new. The reporting cycle for 2019, which commenced on January 4, 2020, represents the second year for this newly mandated data collection. The DOJ made multiple attempts to contact all reporting agencies in the state.

In early 2018, the DOJ issued an Information Bulletin to all LEAs advising them of their responsibility to report pursuant to the Act by January 15, 2019. To remind LEAs of their reporting requirements, the DOJ sent reminder messages through the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) from the last week in December through the beginning of the reporting period in January for a total of two weeks. These reminder messages reached LEAs three times per day, seven days a week, and were followed up with emails and phone calls. In 2019, using the established contact list from 2018, letters, emails, and phone calls to mandated reporting agencies began in December 2019 and continued through the reporting cycle. Despite such efforts, not all LEAs reported.

The timeframes for data collection and reporting in the Act also introduce challenges. Typically, data collection is an ongoing effort that occurs on a monthly basis throughout the year, which allows for the DOJ and the reporting agencies to engage in regular dialogue regarding questions or data quality checks. The data collection effort pursuant to the Act is an annual collection. This means that all 730+ reporting LEAs report at the same time and all submissions received, reminder contacts, and data quality control efforts occur in a very short timeframe.

Confounding these accelerated timeframes is the mandated publication date of March 1, 2020. Given the need to report a full year of data and the statutorily-mandated publication date, the DOJ needed the LEAs to report no later than January 14, 2020, which affords the DOJ only one week in January to make reminder calls, ensure all forms are received properly, quality control data, and produce a publication-ready report.

Reporting Challenges

Reporting for this data set will be done via manual submission for the first two years, in anticipation of incorporating this data collection into an automated system. This means that all data coming in is on paper, with no electronic means to facilitate reporting at this time. When working with the joint task force submissions, the DOJ is only able to report what has been provided as there is no list or registry of all joint task forces to compare against.

TASK FORCE DATA

The total number of arrests made by joint law enforcement task forces in 2019 was 15,672.

The total number of arrests made for the purpose of immigration enforcement by task force participants in 2019 was 35.

