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VALUES ACT

SENATE BILL 54
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022



BACKGROUND

The California Values Act (Act), as detailed in Government Code section 7284 et seq., and enacted by Senate Bill 54 (Chapter 495, Statutes of 2017), 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. In addition, the Act mandates that California LEAs report to the California Department of Justice (DOJ) specified 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. The data not mandated for publication in this report will be included in the Attorney General's annual crime publication which can be found at the State of California's OpenJustice website, <https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov>.

STATUTE

Government Code section 7284.6 subdivision (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 Web site.

REPORTING PROCESS

Outreach Efforts

The early years of reporting are typically the hardest as the data collection is new. The reporting cycle for 2022, which commenced on January 4, 2023, represents the fifth year for this 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) 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. For 2022, using the established contact list from 2018-2021, letters, emails, and phone calls to mandated reporting agencies began in December, and continued through the reporting cycle. All identified LEAs participated in reporting for 2022.

Reporting Challenges

In the Act, the timeframes provided introduce challenges. Specifically, the Act requires that data must be reported to the Department annually. Therefore, 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. Compounding these accelerated timeframes is the mandated report publication date of March 1, 2023. 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, 2023, which only affords the DOJ two weeks in January to make reminder calls, ensure all forms are received properly, ensure quality control data, and produce a publication-ready report.

Current reporting for this data set is a manual submission process, in anticipation of transitioning this data collection into an automated system. Consequently, all data is currently reported to the Department on paper, with no electronic means to facilitate reporting. Furthermore, because there is no list or registry of all joint task forces for comparison, the DOJ reports information based on the joint task force submissions and is unable to verify the completeness or accuracy of this data reported by LEAs.

TASK FORCE DATA

The total number of arrests made by joint law enforcement task forces in 2022 was 14,163.

The total number of arrests made for the purpose of immigration enforcement by task force participants in 2022 was 1.

