

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 318
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/15/25
Third Edition Engrossed 4/29/25

Short Title: The Criminal Illegal Alien Enforcement Act.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 10, 2025

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO MODIFY ELIGIBILITY FOR RELEASE AND REQUIRE NOTIFICATION OF
3 RELEASE TO IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT WHEN A
4 PRISONER IS SUBJECT TO AN IMMIGRATION DETAINER AND ADMINISTRATIVE
5 WARRANT.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 162-62 reads as rewritten:

8 "**§ 162-62. Legal status of prisoners.**

9 (a) When any person is confined for any period in a county jail, local confinement
10 facility, district confinement facility, satellite jail, or work release unit, the administrator or other
11 person in charge of the facility shall attempt to determine if the prisoner is a legal resident or
12 citizen of the United States by an inquiry of the prisoner, or by examination of any relevant
13 documents, or both, if the person is charged with any of the following offenses:

14 (1) ~~A felony under G.S. 90-95.~~ Any felony.

15 (2) ~~A felony under Article 6, Article 7B, Article 10, Article 10A, or Article 13A~~
16 ~~of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes.~~

17 ~~(3)~~(2) A Class A1 misdemeanor or felony under Article 6A, Article 7B, or Article 8
18 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes.

19 ~~(4)~~(3) Any violation of G.S. 50B-4.1.

20 (4) Any offense involving impaired driving as defined in G.S. 20-4.01.

21 (b) If the administrator or other person in charge of the facility is unable to determine if
22 that prisoner is a legal resident or citizen of the United States or its territories, the administrator
23 or other person in charge of the facility holding the prisoner shall make a query of Immigration
24 and Customs Enforcement of the United States Department of Homeland Security. If the prisoner
25 has not been lawfully admitted to the United States, the United States Department of Homeland
26 Security will have been notified of the prisoner's status and confinement at the facility by its
27 receipt of the query from the facility.

28 (b1) When any person charged with a criminal offense is confined for any period in a
29 county jail, local confinement facility, district confinement facility, satellite jail, or work release
30 unit, and the administrator or other person in charge of the facility has been notified that
31 Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the United States Department of Homeland Security
32 has issued a detainer and administrative warrant that reasonably appears to be for the person in
33 custody, the following shall apply:

34 (1) Prior to the prisoner's release, and after receipt of the detainer and
35 administrative warrant, or a copy thereof, by the administrator or other person



1 in charge of the facility, the prisoner shall be taken without unnecessary delay
2 before a State judicial official who shall be provided with the detainer and
3 administrative warrant, or a copy thereof.

4 (2) The judicial official shall issue an order directing the prisoner be held in
5 custody if the prisoner appearing before the judicial official is the same person
6 subject to the detainer and administrative warrant.

7 (3) Unless continued custody of the prisoner is required by other legal process, a
8 prisoner held pursuant to an order issued under this subsection shall be
9 released upon the first of the following conditions:

10 a. ~~The passage of 48 hours from receipt of the detainer and administrative~~
11 ~~warrant.~~the time the prisoner would otherwise be released from the
12 facility.

13 b. Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the United States
14 Department of Homeland Security takes custody of the prisoner.

15 c. The detainer is rescinded by Immigration and Customs Enforcement
16 of the United States Department of Homeland Security.

17 (4) For any prisoner held pursuant to an order issued under this subsection, no
18 later than two hours after the time when the prisoner would otherwise be
19 released from the facility, the administrator or other person in charge of the
20 facility shall notify Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the United
21 States Department of Homeland Security of the date and time that the prisoner
22 will be released pursuant to sub-subdivision a. of subdivision (3) of this
23 subsection. The notification shall be made in the manner indicated on the
24 Department of Homeland Security Immigration Detainer – Notice of Action
25 form.

26 (b2) No State or local law enforcement officer or agency shall have criminal or civil
27 liability for action taken pursuant to an order issued under subsection (b1) of this section.

28 (c) Except as provided in subsection (b1) of this section, nothing in this section shall be
29 construed to deny bond to a prisoner or to prevent a prisoner from being released from
30 confinement when that prisoner is otherwise eligible for release.

31"

32 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 15A-534 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

33 "(d4) When conditions of pretrial release are being determined for a defendant charged with
34 any felony, a Class A1 misdemeanor under Article 6A, Article 7B, or Article 8 of Chapter 14 of
35 the General Statutes, any violation of G.S. 50B-4.1, or any offense involving impaired driving as
36 defined in G.S. 20-4.01, the judicial official shall attempt to determine if the defendant is a legal
37 resident or citizen of the United States by an inquiry of the defendant, or by examination of any
38 relevant documents, or both. If the judicial official is unable to determine if the defendant is a
39 legal resident or citizen of the United States, the judicial official shall set conditions of pretrial
40 release pursuant to this Article and shall commit the defendant to an appropriate detention facility
41 pursuant to G.S. 15A-521 to be fingerprinted, for a query of Immigration and Customs
42 Enforcement of the United States Department of Homeland Security, and to be held for a period
43 of two hours from the query of Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the United States
44 Department of Homeland Security.

45 If by the end of this two-hour period no detainer and administrative warrant have been issued
46 by Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the United States Department of Homeland
47 Security, the defendant shall be released pursuant to the terms and conditions of the release order.
48 If before the end of this two-hour period a detainer and administrative warrant issued by
49 Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the United States Department of Homeland Security
50 have been received by the facility, the defendant shall be processed pursuant to G.S. 162-62(b1)."

1 **SECTION 3.** If any provision of this act or its application is held invalid, the
2 invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this act that can be given effect
3 without the invalid provisions or application and, to this end, the provisions of this act are
4 severable.

5 **SECTION 4.** Section 1 of this act becomes effective October 1, 2025, and applies to
6 any person confined in or released from a county jail, local confinement facility, district
7 confinement facility, satellite jail, or work release unit on or after that date. Section 2 of this act
8 becomes effective October 1, 2025, and applies to persons appearing before a judicial official for
9 a determination of pretrial release conditions on or after that date. The remainder of this act
10 becomes effective October 1, 2025.