

VOTE NO TO SB545 - HIDDEN FEES TAX ARKANSANS TO HARASS IMMIGRANTS



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WHY IS SB545 UNNECESSARY?

- This bill establishes a grant system designed to force local law enforcement officers to enforce federal immigration laws by subsidizing the failed 287(g) program through tax increases.
- There is only ONE county in Arkansas involved in 287(g). SB545 would needlessly tax Arkansans for a program that steals local control and is not wanted by local law enforcement departments across the state.
- There are NO sanctuary cities in Arkansas, as insured with the passage of Act 1076, and all local enforcement actively coordinate with ICE.

SB545 Places A New, Onerous Tax On Electronic Money Transfers

- This bill places a new tax on Electronic Money Transfers of \$5.00 OR 1% of \$500 or more.
- The types of electronic transfers with this Hidden Fee are largely unknown, but appear to apply to anyone who is not a bank. This confusion leaves a broad cross section of AR small businesses and individuals in the dark.
- Unbanked and Underbanked Arkansans rely heavily on Alternative Financial Services. Adding Hidden Fees unfairly punishes rural, working class communities and people who rely on the cash economy.

Source: https://economicinclusion.gov/downloads/2019_FDIC_Unbanked_HH_Survey_ExecSumm.pdf

Lessons Learned from the 287(g) Program

- In its first years in effect, 287(g) increased deportations by more than 300% in participating Arkansas communities. Many were due to routine traffic tickets, needlessly separating Arkansas families and disrupting the local economy.
- 287(g) program has been costly for local law enforcement, fracturing the relationship between police and local immigrant communities. Crime reporting among the Hispanic community, including victims of domestic violence, was at an all-time low. Lower levels of community policing makes ALL Arkansans LESS safe.
- Citing community trust and other factors, BOTH Washington and Benton Counties suspended their 287(g) programs during the COVID-19 outbreak.



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