

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8984

To prohibit the Department of Homeland Security from constructing, acquiring, renovating, or operating any new processing site or detention center without providing a mechanism for public comments regarding such activity, entering into a signed, written agreement with appropriate State and local officials, and providing Congress with advance notice of such activity.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2026

Mr. MORELLE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To prohibit the Department of Homeland Security from constructing, acquiring, renovating, or operating any new processing site or detention center without providing a mechanism for public comments regarding such activity, entering into a signed, written agreement with appropriate State and local officials, and providing Congress with advance notice of such activity.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Respect Our Commu-  
3 nities Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **APPROPRIATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFI-**  
7 **CIALS.**—The term “appropriate local government of-  
8 ficials” means—

9 (A) the mayor, county executive, or equiva-  
10 lent elected official of the town, city, county or  
11 other local jurisdiction in which a new proc-  
12 essing facility or detention center will be lo-  
13 cated; and

14 (B) a majority of the town council, city  
15 council, county council, county commission, or  
16 equivalent legislative authority in which a new  
17 processing facility or detention center will be lo-  
18 cated.

19 (2) **NEW PROCESSING SITE OR DETENTION**  
20 **CENTER.**—The term “new processing site or deten-  
21 tion center” means any facility operated by, or pur-  
22 suant to a contract with, U.S. Customs and Border  
23 Protection or U.S. Immigration and Customs En-  
24 forcement, including any facility designed under the  
25 Detention Reengineering Initiative, that, beginning  
26 on or after the date of the enactment of this Act,

1 will be used to temporarily hold persons pending the  
2 resolution or completion of immigration removal op-  
3 erations or processes.

4 **SEC. 3. REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW CBP AND ICE PROC-**  
5 **ESSING SITES AND DETENTION CENTERS.**

6 The Department of Homeland Security or any other  
7 Federal agency may not initiate the construction, acquisi-  
8 tion, renovation, or operation of, or otherwise acquire an  
9 interest in real property to be used as, a new processing  
10 site or detention center for U.S. Customs and Border Pro-  
11 tection or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
12 until—

13 (1) the relevant Federal agency issues a public  
14 notice in the Federal Register that—

15 (A) is open for public comments for a pe-  
16 riod lasting at least 30 days;

17 (B) describes the scope of the construction,  
18 acquisition, renovation, or operation;

19 (C) includes information regarding such  
20 agency's due diligence process, which shall ex-  
21 plain how such agency will comply with—

22 (i) Federal guidance and standards  
23 related to immigration detention; and

24 (ii) applicable environmental regula-  
25 tions;

1 (D) includes any other information or doc-  
2 umentation relevant to such new processing site  
3 or detention center; and

4 (E) includes an economic impact analysis  
5 and an engineering review that addresses the  
6 site or center's waste exportation, water usage,  
7 and electrical demand;

8 (2) after the conclusion of the public comment  
9 period, the head of the relevant Federal agency—

10 (A) considers and responds to significant  
11 comments received in accordance with sub-  
12 chapter II of chapter 5 of title 5, United States  
13 Code; and

14 (B) enters into a signed, written agree-  
15 ment with appropriate local government offi-  
16 cials and the Governor of the State in which  
17 such processing site or detention center will be  
18 located that authorizes such construction, ac-  
19 quisition, renovation, or operation, as applica-  
20 ble; and

21 (3) at least 30 days has elapsed since the head  
22 of the relevant Federal agency submitted a report to  
23 the Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-  
24 mental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Ap-  
25 propriations of the Senate, the Committee on the

1       Judiciary of the Senate, the Committee on Home-  
2       land Security of the House of Representatives, the  
3       Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-  
4       resentatives, and the Committee on the Judiciary of  
5       the House of Representatives regarding such  
6       planned construction, acquisition, renovation, or op-  
7       eration that includes a fully executed copy of the  
8       agreement described in paragraph (2).

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