

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 7572

To protect the civil rights of individuals against unlawful vigilante checkpoints and identity demands, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2026

Mr. CRENSHAW introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To protect the civil rights of individuals against unlawful vigilante checkpoints and identity demands, and for other purposes.

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

3        **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4        This Act may be cited as the “No Vigilante Check-  
5        points and Civil Rights Protection Act of 2026”.

6        **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7        Congress finds the following:

8                (1) The Fourth Amendment protects the right  
9        of individuals to be free from unreasonable searches

1 and seizures, including unlawful vehicle stops and  
2 demands for identification.

3 (2) In recent years, private individuals and or-  
4 ganizations have engaged in conduct resembling law  
5 enforcement activities, including vehicle stops, iden-  
6 tity checks, and license plate surveillance, without  
7 lawful authority.

8 (3) Such conduct undermines public safety,  
9 interferes with Federal operations, and deprives indi-  
10 viduals of rights secured by the Constitution and  
11 laws of the United States.

12 (4) Congress has authority under article I, sec-  
13 tion 8, and section 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment  
14 to protect civil rights and ensure the unobstructed  
15 execution of Federal law.

16 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON FALSE ASSUMPTION OF GOVERN-**  
17 **MENT AUTHORITY IN IMMIGRATION EN-**  
18 **FORCEMENT.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 33 of title 18, United  
20 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 709 the  
21 following:

22 **“§ 709A. False assumption of government authority in**  
23 **law enforcement**

24 **“(a) OFFENSE.—Whoever, without lawful authority,**  
25 **knowingly—**

1           “(1) stops, detains, or attempts to stop or de-  
2           tain any individual or vehicle on a public roadway;

3           “(2) demands or requests identification;

4           “(3) demands or requests to search property or  
5           persons; or

6           “(4) uses or operates any device or system to  
7           collect, access, or analyze license plate or vehicle  
8           identification data.

9 For the purpose of enforcing, monitoring, obstructing, or  
10 influencing Federal law enforcement operations, shall be  
11 guilty of an offense under this section.

12           “(b) PENALTIES.—A violation of this section shall be  
13 punishable by—

14           “(1) imprisonment for not more than 5 years;

15           “(2) a fine under this title; or

16           “(3) both.

17           “(c) AGGRAVATED OFFENSE.—If the offense—

18           “(1) involves the use or display of a firearm or  
19           other dangerous weapon;

20           “(2) results in bodily injury; or

21           “(3) interferes with or targets a Federal officer  
22           or Federal operation;

23 the offender shall be imprisoned for not more than 10  
24 years.

1       “(d) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this sec-  
2 tion shall be construed to prohibit lawful protest, speech,  
3 or assembly that does not involve conduct described in  
4 subsection (a).”.

5 **SEC. 4. CIVIL ACTION FOR UNLAWFUL CHECKPOINTS AND**  
6 **IDENTITY DEMANDS.**

7       (a) **PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.**—Any person ag-  
8 grieved by conduct prohibited under section 709A of title  
9 18, United States Code, may bring a civil action in an  
10 appropriate United States district court against—

11           (1) any individual who engaged in such con-  
12 duct;

13           (2) any organization that directed, financed, co-  
14 ordinated, or materially supported such conduct; or

15           (3) any governmental entity that knowingly per-  
16 mitted, authorized, or failed to take reasonable steps  
17 to prevent such conduct on public property under its  
18 control.

19       (b) **RELIEF.**—In a civil action under this section, a  
20 court may award—

21           (1) statutory damages of not less than \$10,000  
22 per violation, without regard to proof of actual dam-  
23 ages;

24           (2) compensatory damages;

25           (3) punitive damages, where appropriate;

1 (4) injunctive or declaratory relief; and

2 (5) reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

3 (c) NO QUALIFIED IMMUNITY.—Qualified immunity  
4 or any similar defense shall not be available to any defend-  
5 ant in an action brought under this section.

6 (d) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—An action under  
7 this section may be brought not later than 5 years after  
8 the date on which the violation occurred.

9 **SEC. 5. SEVERABILITY.**

10 If any provision of this Act, or the application thereof  
11 to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remain-  
12 der of the Act and the application of such provision to  
13 other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.

14 **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

15 This Act shall take effect on the date of its enact-  
16 ment.

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