



## **RECAP: 2025 MISSOURI IMMIGRATION BILLS**

### **General Overview**

The Missouri General Assembly's 2025 legislative session ended on May 15. Despite immigration being a hot-button issue in the media and political discourse, interest in the topic gradually faded as the session went on.

SB 72 (better known as the Bounty Hunter Bill), SB 58, and other measures that posed a threat to the dignity of immigrants in our state did not pass and thus will not become laws.

The Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC) is grateful to lawmakers from both parties for taking into consideration the concerns of the Catholic Church and ultimately protecting the dignity of every person in the state of Missouri.

### **How Did The Session Unfold?**

- Over 20 bills related to immigration were introduced by lawmakers in both chambers.
- Only 3 of those bills were heard in committee in their chamber of origin. The MCC testified in opposition to SB 58\* and SB 72\*\*, and in support of HB 182.
- On January 30, Speaker Patterson declared that House Republicans were not supportive of bills that targeted immigrants. From February onward, no such bill was heard in either chamber.
- The single immigration-relevant bill that will make it into law allows for translation and interpretation services for criminal, civil, and juvenile proceedings to be paid from state-allocated funds. It was originally presented as HB 182 and ended up passing as part of a broader package (SB 218, SB 221).

### **What Happens Now?**

- In August 2025, the translators' law will go into effect in Missouri. The General Assembly will convene for the next legislative session in January 2026; in the meantime, there will be no new state laws related to immigration.
- The U.S. Congress may pass bills that pertain to this topic and both President Trump and Governor Kehoe may issue executive orders. The MCC will provide updates if any new measures are implemented. More resources are available on our website: <https://mocatholic.org/immigration/>

\*SB 58 would have made any undocumented migrant who committed a minor violation of state law, such as running a red light, guilty of a felony punishable by up to 4 years in prison and deportation.

\*\*SB 72 would have certified bounty hunters for the purpose of finding and detaining undocumented migrants in the state; those detained under the bill would have been guilty of a felony punishable by life imprisonment. The bill would have also implemented a hotline for people to report those who they assumed were undocumented migrants.