Guidelines for Immigration Compliance and Reporting Requirements

(Revised: December 2024)



Overview

During the 2024 Session of the General Assembly, the Legislature enacted House Bill 1105. This bill enacted certain compliance requirements on law enforcement departments within the State, and now requires them to certify their compliance with the new provisions within the annual immigration compliance reporting process that is managed by the Department of Audits and Accounts.

The new reporting requirements have been incorporated into the immigration collection system. Additionally, the Department of Audits and Accounts has redesigned the system. This document provides you a step-by-step navigation through the redesigned collection system to assist you in completing the required annual report.

You may click within the Table of Content links to be directed to a specific section of the report.

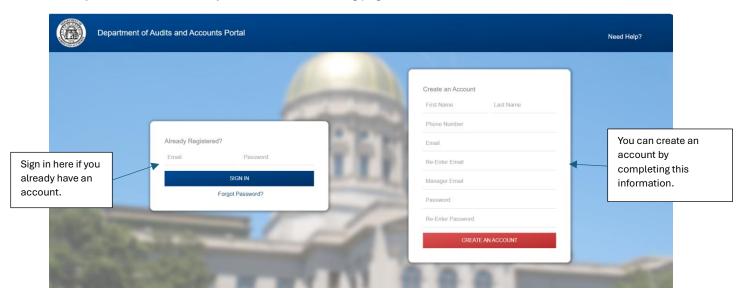
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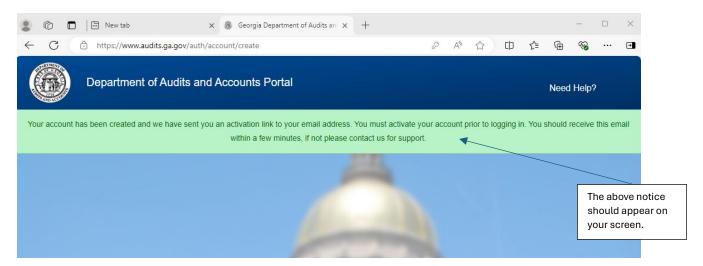
Creating an Account to Access the Immigration Collection System

You can access the Immigration Collection System here: <u>Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts</u>
The actual website is: https://www.audits.ga.gov/auth/login.aud

When you enter this website, you will see the following page.



Once you complete the required information to create an account, you will receive a notice that your account has been created and that you will receive an activation link via email.



Within 15 minutes, you should receive an email from the Department of Audits and Accounts. Please check your spam and junk mailboxes if you do not see it.

Here is an example of the email you will receive from the Department of Audits and Accounts.

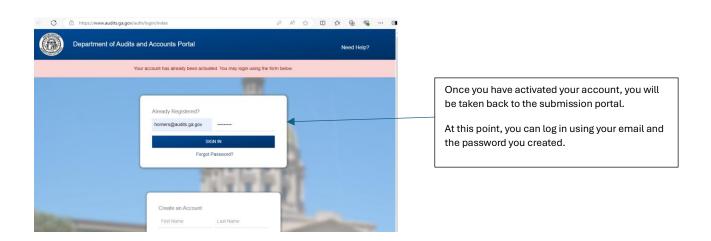
Department of Audits and Accounts - Account Verification.

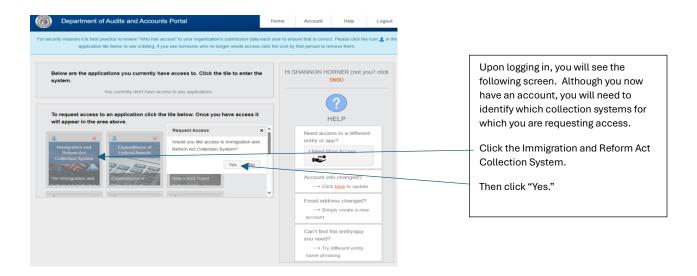


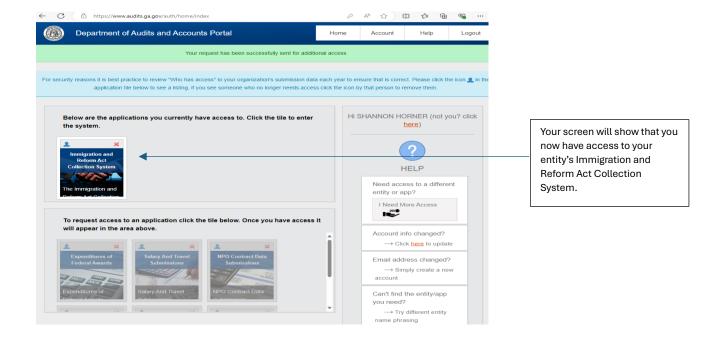
Dear SHANNON,

You have setup an account with the Department of Audits and Accounts. Please activate your account by either clicking on the link below:







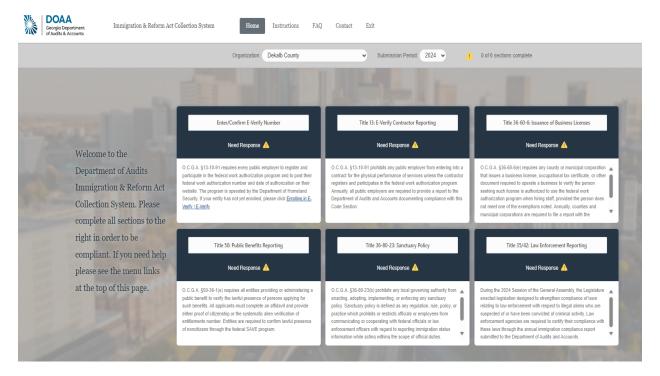


When you click on the tile, you will see the Immigration Collection System home page and you may begin entering/submitting your reports.

The Collection System Home Page

You can access the Immigration Reporting Collection System by clicking this link: Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts. Please remember, you must have an active account to access the system. If you do not, please see the preceding section to create an account.

The Department of Audits and Accounts has updated the design of the collection system for 2024. When you access your account, you will see the following home page.



For each section, the progress level will be stated:

- Need Response
- Started
- Confirmed
- Not Required (Used when an entity is exempt from a specific reporting requirement.)

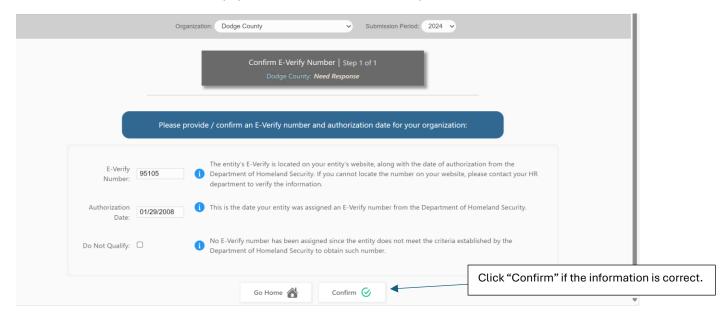
When you hover over the white rectangular box with the title, you will receive a message to "click to enter the section."

We have also added some language explaining the purpose of the section.

A new section has been added to address the compliance and reporting requirements outlined in HB 1105, which was passed during the 2024 session of the General Assembly.

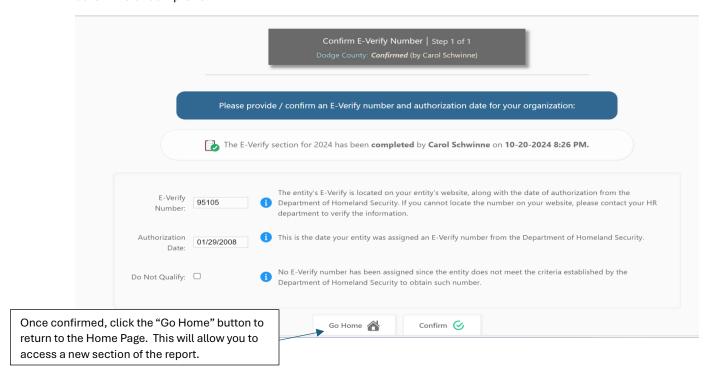
Section 1 - Enter/Confirm E-Verify Number

When you click in the rectangle, you will see a screen with your entity's E-Verify number and date of authorization. This information was populated from the most recent report submitted to DOAA.



If the information is not correct, or has not been entered, please enter correct information and click confirm. Your HR Department will know the entity's E-Verify number and date of authorization.

Once you click confirm, you will see the screen below, which notes who completed the section and the date/time of completion.



Section 2 - Title 13 - E-Verify Contractor Reporting

When you click on the Title 13 tile on the home page, you will see the following screen. Step 1 of 3 requires you to answer whether your entity entered into any contracts for the "physical performance of services" during the reporting period.



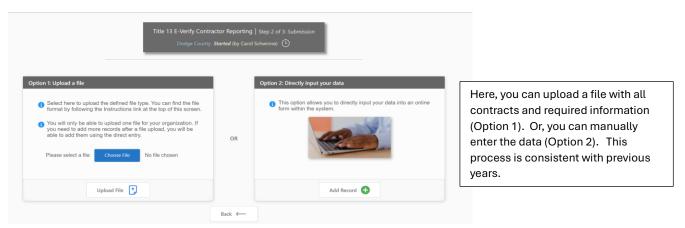


Note: When you see the lightbulb, we have offered some clarification and/or guidance regarding the compliance and reporting requirements.

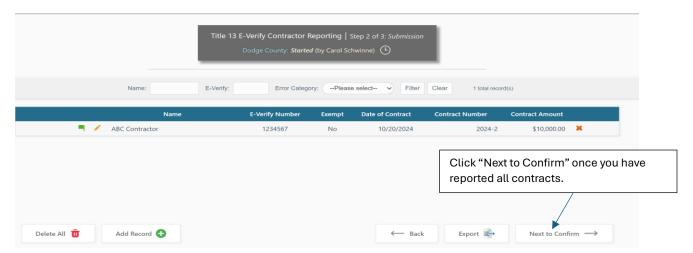
When answering this question, the entity needs to respond on behalf of all components of the entity's official budget (for counties, this would include their county sheriff's office).

If you answer "Yes" to the Step 1 of 3 question...

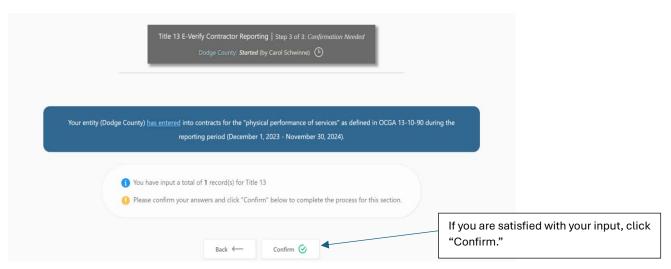
Step 2 of 3 requires you to enter the contractor information.



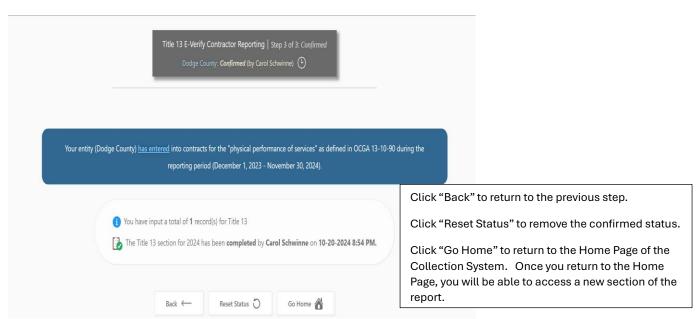
Here is an example of what you may see once you upload or manually enter contract information.



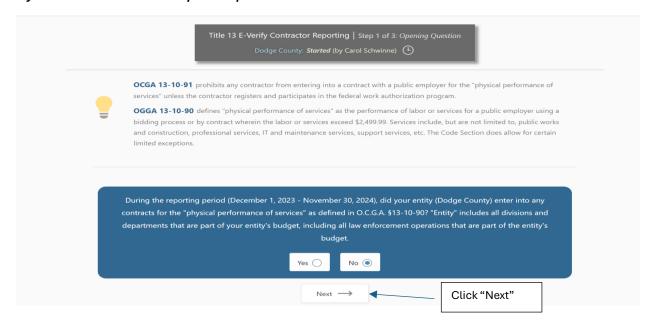
In Step 3, you will confirm your report. You will see information regarding the number of contracts reported.



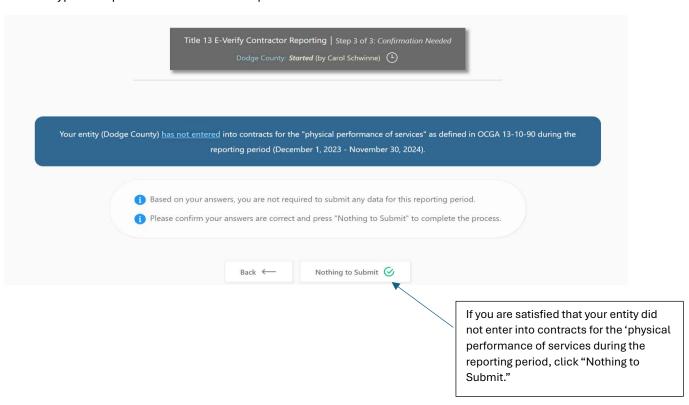
You will then see the final confirmation screen.



If you answer "No" to the Step 1 of 3 question...

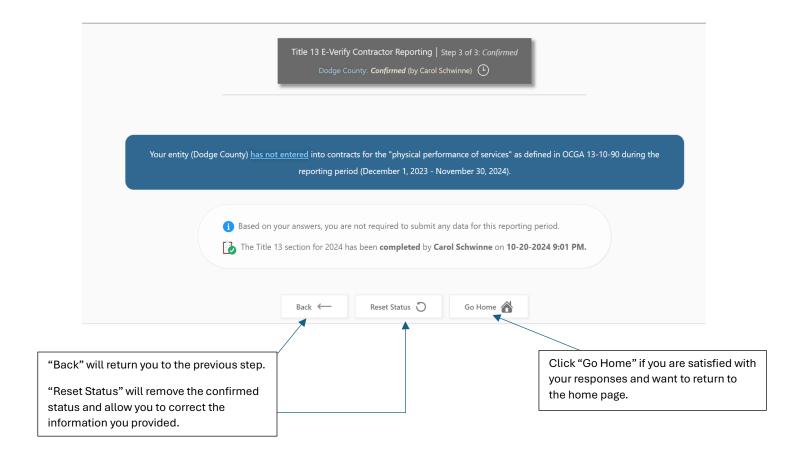


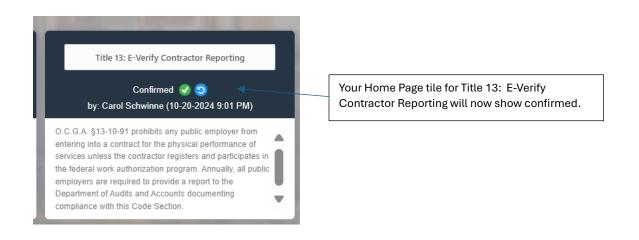
You will bypass Step 2 and be directed to Step 3 of 3.



This action will direct you to the final confirmation page for the Title 13 compliance reporting requirement.

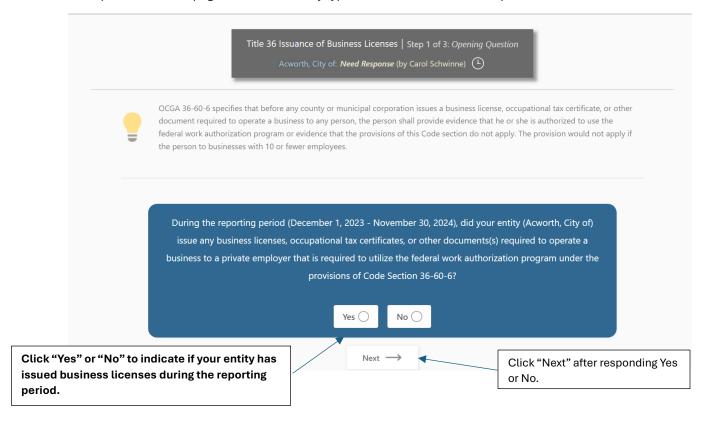
Final Confirmation Page





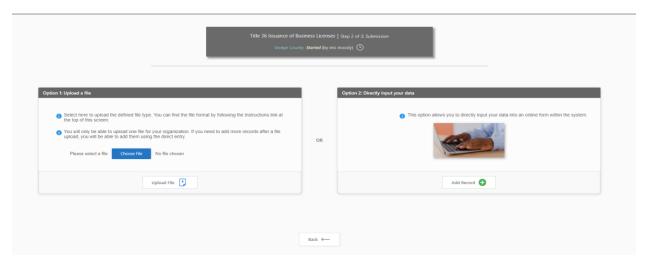
Section 3 - Issuance of Business Licenses

When you click on the Issuance of Business Licenses tile on the front page, you will be taken to the following screen. In Step 1 of 3, you will document whether your entity issued any business licenses during the reporting period. Please note, only counties and cities/municipalities are required to complete this section of the report. The home page for all other entity types will be noted as "Not Required."

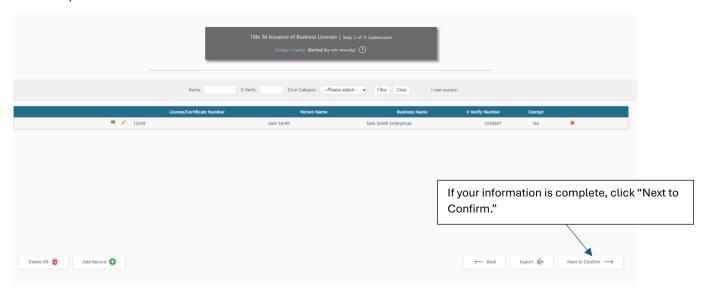


If you answered "Yes" to the Step 1 of 3 question...

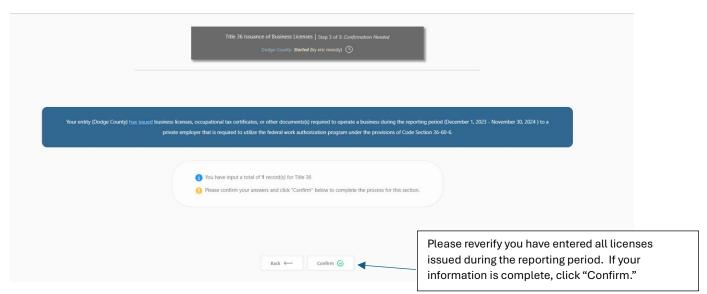
If you answered "Yes," you will be directed to Step 2 of 3. In this Step, you will enter all required information pertaining to the business licenses issued during the reporting period. This process can be completed through a file upload or you can manually enter information for each license issued.



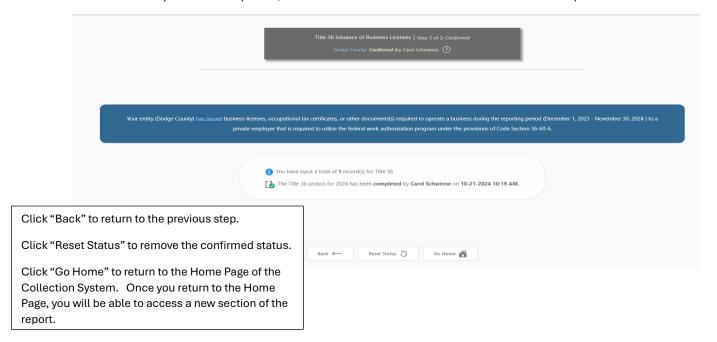
Once you have entered information for all licenses issued, you will be able to see the information entered/uploaded.



Step 3 of 3 is your confirmation page.

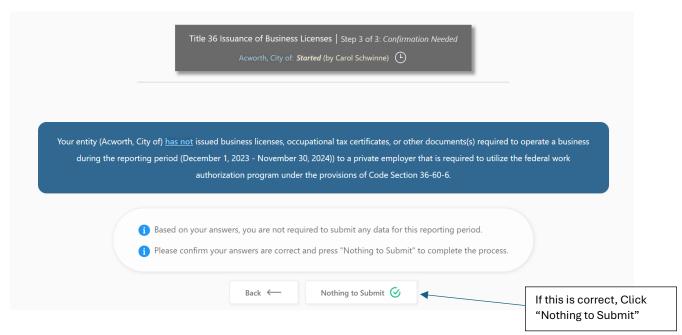


Once you click "Confirm," you will receive a confirmation screen noting who completed the report, the date/time the report was completed, and the number of business licenses issued and reported.

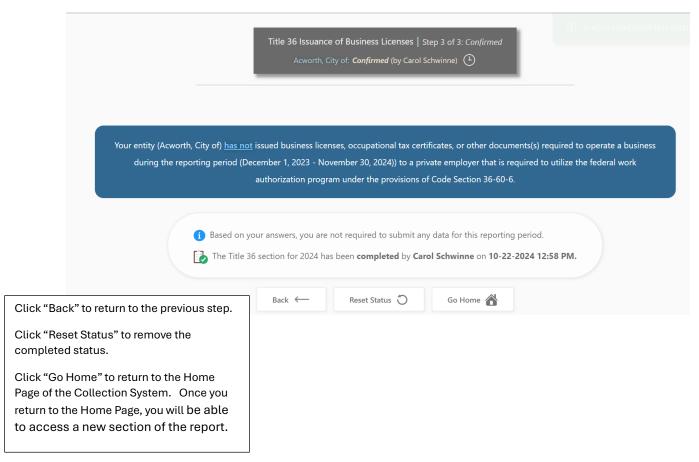


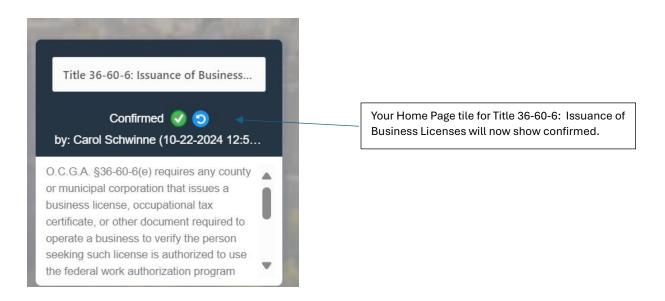
If you answered "No" to the Step 1 of 3 question...

You will automatically be directed to Step 3 of 3 to confirm your response.



The confirmation screen will appear noting who completed the section, the date/time, and a reconfirmation that you were not required to submit any data since your entity did not issue any business licenses during the reporting period.

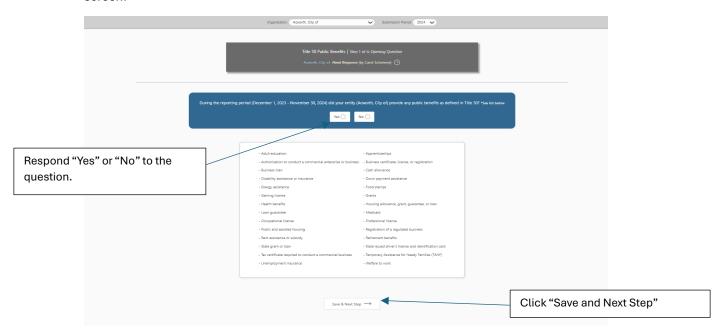




Section 4 - Title 50: Public Benefits

This section requires entities to identify the public benefits they provide and to note whether the entity has SAVE authorization for each of the public benefits noted. This list is based on the list included in O.C.G.A. \$50-36-1.

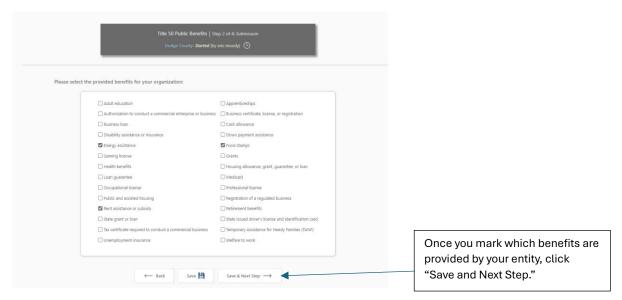
Step 1 of 4 requires your entity to mark "Yes" or "No" if you offer any of the public benefits noted on the screen.



Please note that the Legislature added Apprenticeships to this list during the 2024 Session of the General Assembly.

If you answer "Yes" to the Step 1 of 4 question....

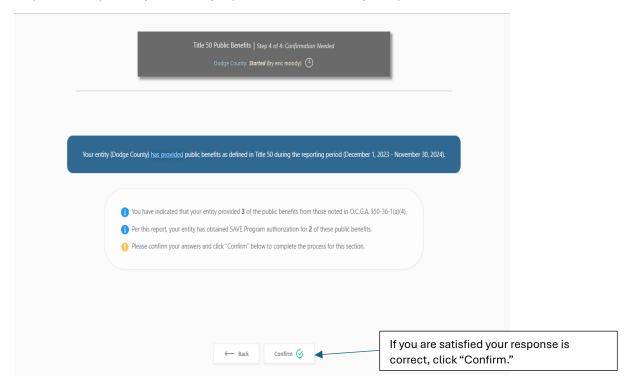
Step 2 of 4 will require you to note which of the public benefits are provided by your entity. Please mark all that are provided.



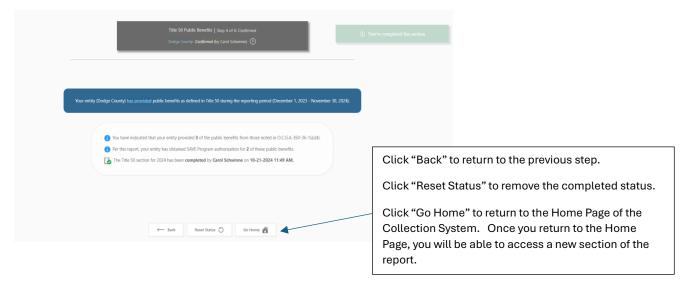
In Step 3 of 4, you will be asked to note whether your entity has SAVE authorization for each of the public benefits noted.



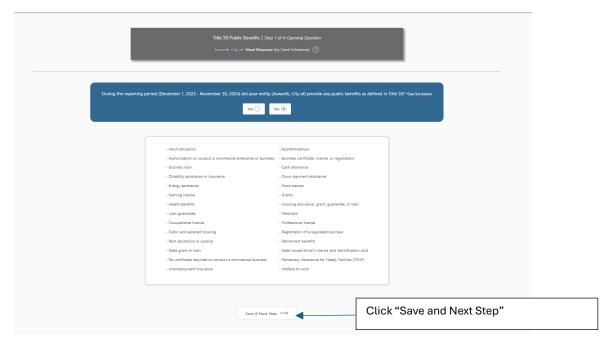
Step 4 of 4 will provide you with a synopsis of the information you reported.



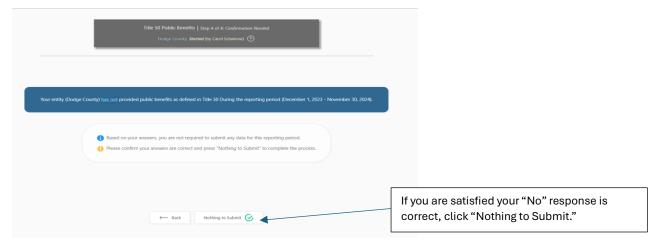
Upon hitting the "Confirm" button, you will receive the confirmation page to show who completed the section, the date/time completed, and a synopsis of the information provided.



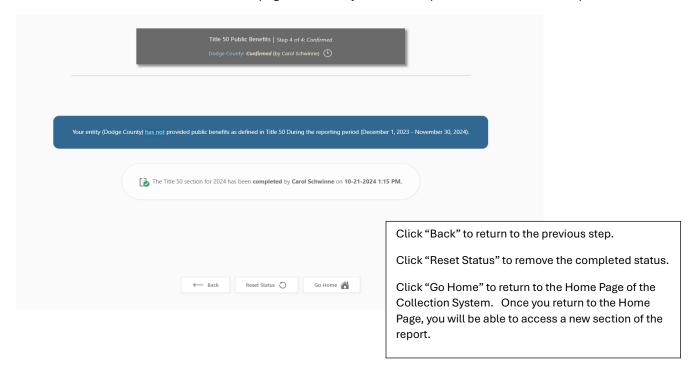
If you answer "No" to the Step 1 of 4 question...

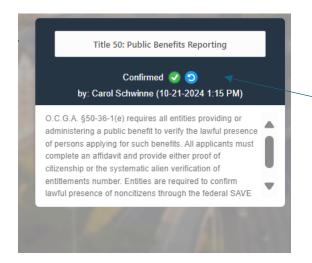


You will then be automatically directed to Step 4 of 4 to confirm you have nothing to submit.



You will then be directed to a confirmation page to confirm you have completed this submission requirement.





Your Home Page tile for Title 50: Public Benefits Reporting will now show confirmed.

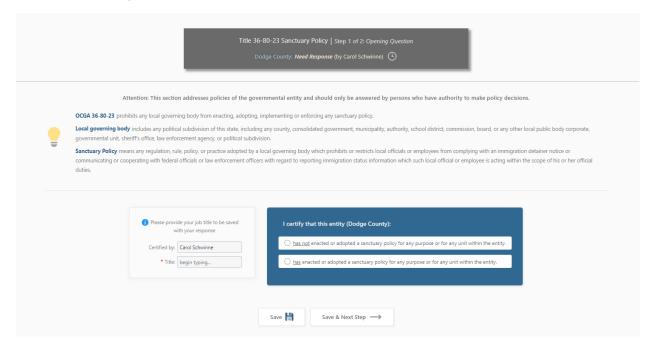
Section 5 - Sanctuary Policy

Under State law, all public entities are prohibited from enacting sanctuary policies. Sanctuary Policies are policies that would prohibit or restrict officials or employees from complying with an immigration detainer notice or communicating or cooperating with federal officials or law enforcement officers with regard to reporting immigration status information when such official or employee is acting within the scope of their official duties.

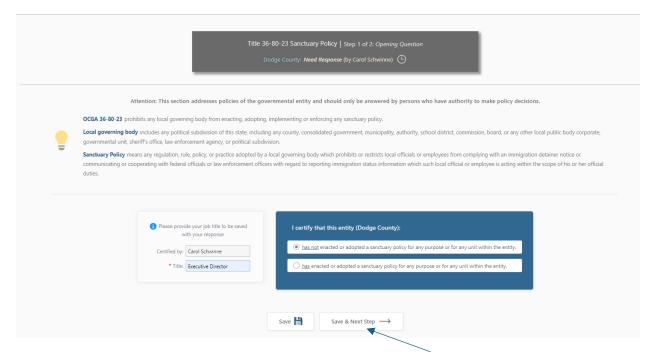
In Step 1 of 2, each entity must certify whether they have or have not enacted a Sanctuary Policy for any part of the operations under their jurisdiction.

Note to All Entities: This section should be completed by someone in your entity that has policy making authority. This may require the entity to obtain credentials to the collection system for additional personnel.

Note to Counties: Each county sheriff's office will be required to certify whether they are in/not in compliance. Therefore, the county government may exclude the practices of their government's sheriff's office from their response.

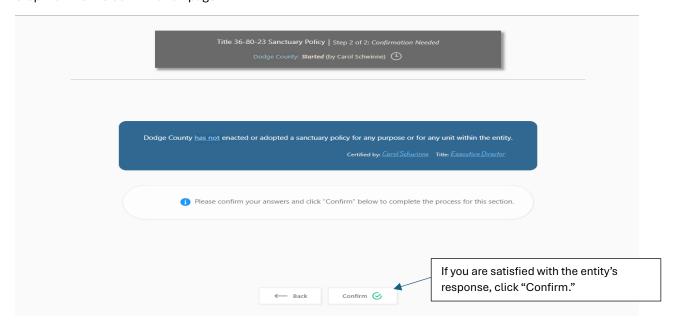


The name of the person who accessed the system will automatically appear in the "Certified By" section. This person will be required to record their job title.

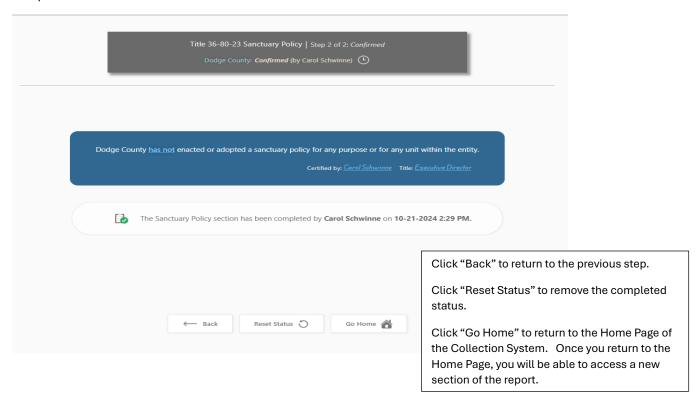


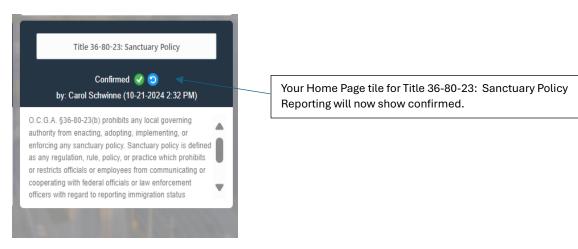
Enter your entity's response, the certifier's job title, then click "Save and Next Step."

Step 2 of 2 is the confirmation page.



Your confirmation page will appear noting who completed the section, along with their title and date/time of completion.





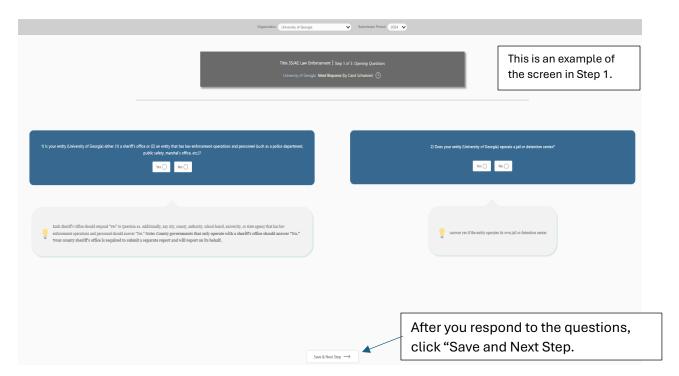
Title 35/42 - Law Enforcement Reporting

This section has been added in response to House Bill 1105, which was enacted during the 2024 Session of the General Assembly. House Bill 1105 addresses compliance with State immigration laws and requires entities with law enforcement personnel to certify compliance with various provisions in the law.

Unless noted on your Home Page that this section is not required for your entity, your entity will be required to respond to two initial questions to determine whether further responses are necessary.

When you access this section of the report, you will see two questions within Step 1 which will require a "Yes" or "No" response. These questions are as follows:

- 1. Is your entity a (1) sheriff's office or (2) an entity that has law enforcement operations and personnel (such as a police department, public safety, marshal's office, etc.)? (Note: Each sheriff's office should respond "Yes" and any city, county, school district, college, agency, or authority with law enforcement personnel should answer "Yes." However, counties that only have a sheriff's office should answer "No" because the sheriff's office is required to submit a separate report for this section and will provide the "Yes" response.)
- 2. Does your entity operate a jail or detention center?



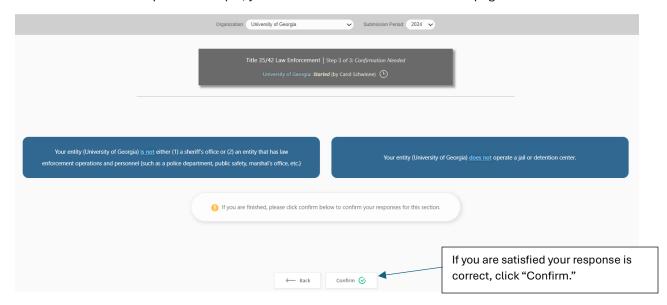
Once you complete your response you would click "Save and Next Step."

Please note that if you answer "No" to the first question, the second question is automatically populated with a "No" response.

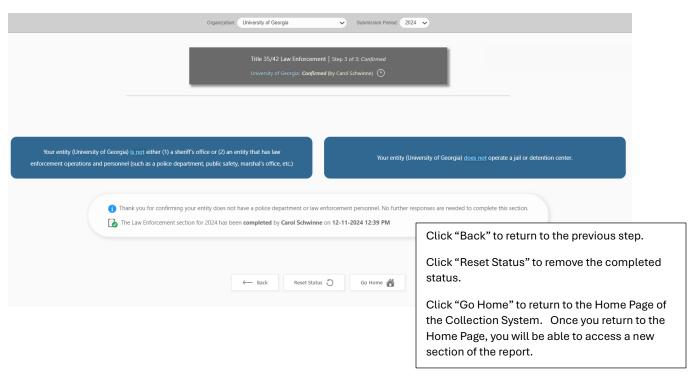
If you answer "Yes" to the first question, you will be directed to answer additional questions in Step 2 of 3. Initially the questions you are required to answer in Step 2 will be based upon your responses in Step 1.

Option 1 - You answer "No" to Question #1.

If you answer "No" to both questions in Step 1, there are no additional questions for you to answer. Once you click "Save and Next Step" within Step 1, you will be directed to the confirmation page.



You will then be directed to the following screen noting who confirmed the report, along with date/time the report was completed.



Option 2 - You answer "Yes" to Question 1 and "No" to Question 2 within Step 1.

If you answer in this manner, you are stating that (1) you are either a sheriff's office or have law enforcement and (2) you do not operate a jail or detention center.

Note: If your entity only has a holding cell that is used while prior to official transport and booking, please mark "No" to Question 2.

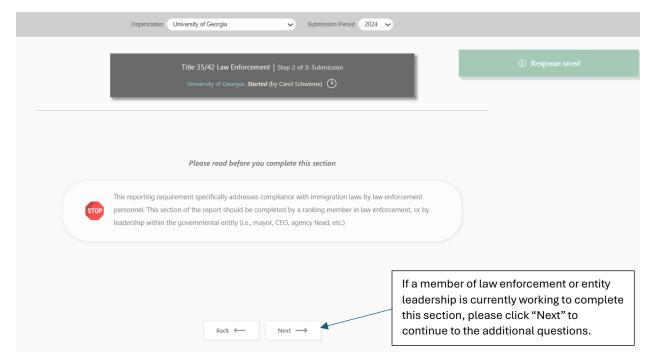
Per O.C.G.A. §35-1-17, it is the intent of the General Assembly that all Georgia law enforcement officials comply with state laws relating to the deterrence of the presence of criminal illegal aliens. If your entity has law enforcement, you will be asked to certify that your entity adheres to state laws regarding immigration and criminal illegal aliens, to the extent your entity can under its authorized powers.

Law enforcement may include, but is not limited to: city/county police departments, university police departments, a marshal's office, sheriff's office, state entity law enforcement, etc.

Public entities that have law enforcement personnel, but no jail or detention center, would be required to respond to one additional question in which they will certify their compliance with efforts to comply with state laws regarding the deterrence of criminal illegal aliens.

However before you are directed to any further questions, you will see the following screen. This is a message that the remaining question(s) should be completed by a ranking member of law enforcement or by someone in a leadership position within the government who can attest to the policies and practices of law enforcement.

When you enter Step 2 of 3, you will be directed to a message clarifying who should be answering the questions included in this section. We recommend that an employee in law enforcement or an employee within the government who has authority to set policy complete the remainder of this section.



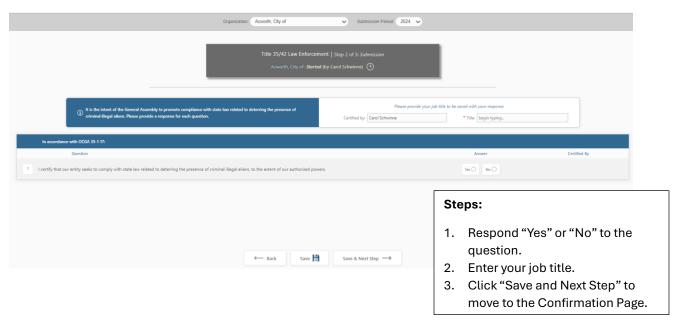
If necessary, your entity may need to obtain credentials for additional staff to ensure this section is completed by a ranking member in law enforcement or by someone in leadership within your organization. Instructions for obtaining credentials to this collection system are included in this document.

If you need to arrange for someone different in your organization to respond, please click the "Home" tab on the top of the screen. This will take you back to the home page. Once a ranking member of law enforcement or someone in leadership at your entity is ready to complete the section, they can use their own credentials to access this section from the home page to complete the remaining questions. Provided you have clicked the "Save" button, prior information will not be lost.

Once you click the "Next" button, you will see the following question:

	In accordance with OCGA 35-1-17		
	Question	Answer	Certified By
1	I certify that our entity seeks to comply with state law related to deterring the presence of criminal illegal aliens, to the extent of our authorized powers.	Yes O No O	

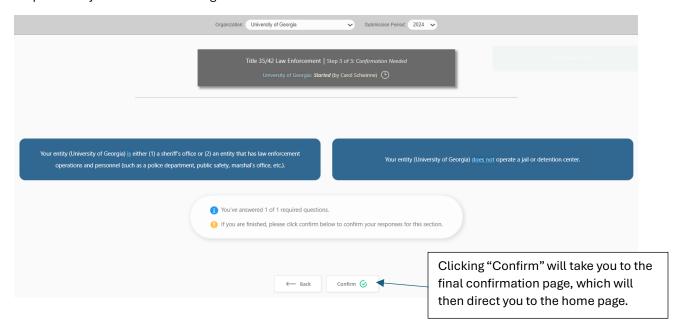
The screen appears as follows:



Note: The name of the certifier will automatically be populated based on the name of the person who accessed this section. The person completing this section will be required to manually enter his/her title.

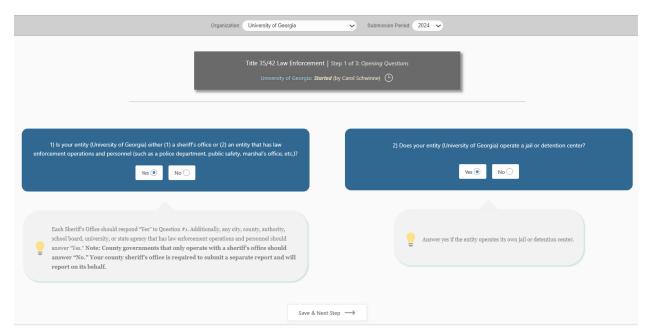
Once you click "Save" or "Save and Next Step" the "Certified By" column will be automatically populated.

Step 3 of 3 is your Confirmation Page.



Once you return to the homepage, the Title 35/42 Law Enforcement Section will show as confirmed. You will be able to see who confirmed the report and the date/time the report was completed and submitted.

Option 3 - You answer "Yes" to Question 1 and "Yes" to Question 2.



If you answer in this manner, you are stating that (1) you are either a sheriff's office or have law enforcement and (2) your entity operates a jail or detention center.

Once you click "Save and Next Step," you will be directed to a message clarifying who should be answering the questions included in this section. (See page 24 for an example of this message.) We recommend that an employee in law enforcement or an employee within the government who has authority to set policy complete the remainder of this section. This may require additional personnel within the governmental entity

to obtain credentials to access this reporting system. Instructions for obtaining credentials to this collection system are included in this document.

If you need to arrange for someone different in your organization to respond, please click the "Home" tab on the top of the screen. This will take you back to the home page. Once applicable credentials have been obtained, the respondent can access this section from the homepage and complete the remaining questions.

There are three primary questions that all entities with a jail or detention center will be required to answer. These questions are:

Question		Code Reference
1.	I certify that the entity has cooperated with federal authorities by	O.C.G.A. §35-1-17 (b)(1)
	sending, receiving, and maintaining information relating to the	
	immigration status of any individual, as reasonably needed for	
	public safety.	
2.	Has the entity entered into a memorandum of agreement with the	O.C.G.A. §35-1-17 (b)(2)
	US Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, or	
	any other federal agency for the purpose of enforcing federal	
	immigration laws?	
3.	I certify that a reasonable effort was made within 48 hours of such	O.C.G.A. §42-4-14 (b)
	person's arrival at the jail or detention facility to determine (a) the	
	nationality of the person confined and (b) that the confined person	
	is not an illegal alien.	

If your entity has an MOU with the federal government, your entity will be required to answer three additional questions.

Question	Code Reference
2.1 Date of Memorandum	
2.2 I certify that the entity authorizes their officers to transport illegal	O.C.G.A. §35-1-17 (c)
aliens to a federal facility if there is verification that a person is an	
illegal alien and when authorized by a federal immigration detainer	
or federal arrest warrant.	
2.3 I certify that the entity authorizes their officers to arrest persons	O.C.G.A. §35-1-17 (d)
based on such person's status as an illegal alien or for violation of	
any federal immigration laws when authorized by federal law.	

If your entity answers that it does not have an MOU with the federal government, your entity will be required to answer the following additional question.

Question	Code Reference
2.1 Has your entity sought an MOU or MOA during the reporting period?	O.C.G.A. §35-1-17 (b)(2)

Points to Remember:

• Similar to the guidance given in Option 2, you are required to answer all questions that appear on the screen.

- If your entity needs to have different people respondint to different questions the system can accommodate that need. Each person will need to have his/her own login credentials. Also, the name in the "Certified By" box will show the name of the person logged into this section of the report at that time. Each person will need to note their title before the system will allow you to proceed.
- If multiple people need to answer, the first person responding should complete his/her portion of the certification and then click "Save." This will save your information but not direct you to the certification page. An error message will appear telling you that some questions have not been answered. That is okay. You can click the "Home" button to exit. Your report will show that it has been "started."
- An entity will not be able to confirm until all questions have been answered and the job title of the person completing the certification has been recorded.
- Once you have completed the certification, click "Save and Next Step" to go to Step 3 or 3, which is your confirmation page.

Department of Corrections Only

House Bill 1105 includes one additional certification for the Department of Corrections. This question will only appear for this specific entity.

Questi	on	Code Reference
4.	I certify that the Department of Corrections has published on its	O.C.G.A. §42-1-11.4
	website the required information regarding inmates who are	
	confined under their authority and are not citizens of the United	
	States.	

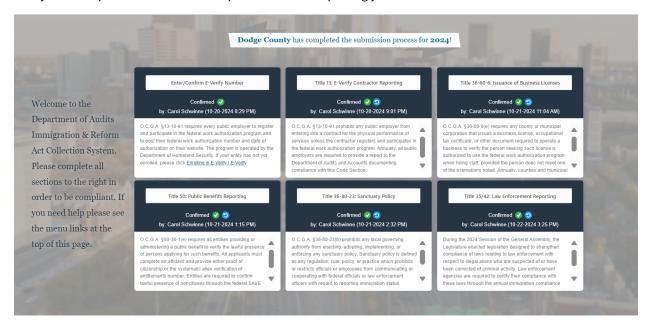
Once your entity has responded to all required questions, and you have entered your title, you can click "Save and Next Step" to be directed to the confirmation page. If you are satisfied that your responses are correct, please click "Confirm" to complete the submission process.

When you return to the main homepage, you will see that the report has been completed.



Report Completion

Once you have completed all required compliance reports, all tiles on the home page will indicate that your entity has completed the submission process for the reporting year.



Final Thoughts:

The website to access the Immigration Collection System is: Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts

All persons at your entity that need to complete one or more sections of the report should have their own credentials. If you do not have an account, click "Create an Account" once you access the link above.

Once your entity has completed all required sections of the report, your entity will receive an email confirming the report has been completed. All persons with an active account will receive an email confirming that all sections of the report have been completed.

All reports are due to the Department of Audits and Accounts no later than December 31st of each year.

The reporting period is December 1st – November 30th. Please ensure responses incorporate all data from this time period.

The system will be opened to entities on November 1st. Entities may begin entering data at this time. However, since the reporting period does not end until November 30th, no entity should confirm reports prior to December 1st.

If you have any questions about the compliance and/or reporting requirements, please email immhelp@audits.ga.gov for assistance.