

By Representative Rodriguez-Chomat

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to welfare reform; prohibiting  
3           certain discrimination in the provision of  
4           Medicaid and other public assistance; providing  
5           for certain assistance to legal residents of  
6           the United States; providing conditions;  
7           providing an effective date.

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9   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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11           Section 1. Nondiscrimination.--Notwithstanding any  
12 provision of the federal Personal Responsibility and Work  
13 Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Pub. L. No. \_\_\_\_\_), the  
14 State of Florida shall not discriminate between United States  
15 citizens and legal residents of the United States in the  
16 provision of public assistance to qualified persons residing  
17 in the state.

18           (1) A legal resident of the United States residing in  
19 the state who has lost Medicaid, supplemental security income,  
20 or food stamp benefits as a result of said federal act is  
21 eligible to receive equivalent benefits under state law while  
22 the resident's application for citizenship is pending,  
23 provided the resident applied for citizenship not later than  
24 120 days after the effective date of the federal act. The  
25 amount of benefits provided to a person under this subsection  
26 may not exceed the amount of the benefits lost by that person  
27 as a result of the federal act.

28           (2) Legal residents of the United States residing in  
29 the state who are 65 years of age or older on the effective  
30 date of this act, and who have lost benefits and applied for  
31 United States citizenship as provided for in this section but

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1 are unable to obtain citizenship through no fault of their  
 2 own, are eligible to receive benefits under state law which  
 3 are equivalent to the Medicaid and other public assistance  
 4 benefits provided to United States citizens residing in the  
 5 state who are 65 years of age or older.

6 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
 7 law.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

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Prohibits discrimination between United States citizens  
 and legal residents in the provision of Medicaid and  
 other public assistance benefits in Florida. Provides  
 certain assistance for legal residents who are applying  
 for citizenship and for certain elderly persons who are  
 unable to obtain citizenship.

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