

By Senator Gutman

34-1186-98

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to Legal Immigrant's Temporary  
3           Income Bridge Program; amending s. 10, ch.  
4           97-259, Laws of Florida; providing that unused  
5           program funds for the current fiscal year may  
6           be used for food stamps for legal immigrants  
7           who are in the naturalization and citizenship  
8           process or in the process of seeking an  
9           exemption thereto and who are children, persons  
10          who have disabilities, or persons of a  
11          specified age; specifying that such assistance  
12          must be provided on the basis of demonstrated  
13          need; providing an appropriation; providing an  
14          effective date.

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

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18           Section 1. Section 10 of chapter 97-259, Laws of  
19 Florida, is amended to read:

20           Section 10. Notwithstanding the proviso language  
21 following Specific Appropriation 1499A of the 1997-1998  
22 General Appropriations Act, the funds provided in this  
23 specific appropriation are provided to establish and implement  
24 a Legal Immigrant's Temporary Income Bridge Program. Except as  
25 otherwise provided in subsection (3),the program shall be  
26 administered by the Department of Children and Family  
27 Services. The program will provide temporary income assistance  
28 to legal immigrants who will lose their benefits while they  
29 are awaiting completion of the citizenship process~~or~~ the  
30 granting of an exemption thereto. All relevant state agencies

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1 are instructed to cooperate with the Department of Children  
2 and Family Services to implement this program.

3 (1) The program shall be designed to provide temporary  
4 income assistance to legal immigrants, 65 years of age or  
5 older, who were residents of the State of Florida prior to  
6 February 1, 1997; who, after August 1, 1997, under the Federal  
7 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation  
8 Act of 1996, have become ineligible for federal benefits,  
9 specifically Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or food  
10 stamp benefits; who will be screened to verify that there  
11 exists no other sustainable means of support or assistance to  
12 make up for these lost benefits; and who can demonstrate that  
13 they are engaged in the process of becoming United States  
14 citizens or are seeking an exemption to doing so ~~thereto~~. The  
15 total amount of temporary income assistance provided to an  
16 individual shall not exceed the Supplemental Security Income  
17 (SSI) and/or food stamp ~~stamps~~ benefits for which they have  
18 become ineligible. The department shall give priority to  
19 dually eligible persons, disabled persons, and persons who as  
20 a direct result of losing their federal benefits may lose  
21 their housing, including long-term-care facilities.

22 (2) The Department of Children and Family Services'  
23 total administrative charges for this program shall not exceed  
24 1 percent of the funds provided. Total administrative charges  
25 for contracted service providers for this program shall not  
26 exceed 3 percent of the funds provided in each service  
27 contract.

28 (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this  
29 section to the contrary, if the United States Congress acts to  
30 extend the implementation date of portions of the Federal  
31 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation

1 Act of 1996 which apply to noncitizens in order to allow  
2 states to prepare for said Act, or appropriates funds to  
3 provide temporary assistance that would otherwise be provided  
4 by the state under this act, then ~~no~~ funds provided in this  
5 specific appropriation ~~may will~~ be expended to provide food  
6 stamps for legal immigrants who are in the naturalization and  
7 citizenship process, or in the process of seeking an exemption  
8 thereto, and who are children, persons who have disabilities,  
9 or persons who are 65 years of age or older. The total amount  
10 of assistance provided to an individual under this subsection  
11 shall be determined by the department on the basis of  
12 demonstrated need.

13 Section 2. An amount equal to the amount of funds  
14 unexpended in fiscal year 1997-1998 from Specific  
15 Appropriations 1499A and 1499B is appropriated from the  
16 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Children and Family  
17 Services for fiscal year 1998-1999 for the purposes of  
18 implementing section 1 of this act.

19 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
20 law.

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23 SENATE SUMMARY

24 Relates to the Legal Immigrant's Temporary Income Bridge  
25 Program. Provides that unused program funds for fiscal  
26 year 1997-1998 may be used for food stamps for legal  
27 immigrants who are in the naturalization and citizenship  
28 process, or in the process of seeking an exemption  
29 thereto, and who are children, persons who have  
30 disabilities, or persons who are 65 years of age or  
31 older. Specifies that such assistance must be provided on  
the basis of demonstrated need. Provides an  
appropriation.