

By the Committee on Children, Families and Seniors and  
Senators Gutman and Turner

300-1923A-98

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

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

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

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

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1           (1) The program shall be designed to provide temporary  
2 ~~income~~ assistance to legal immigrants who have lost their  
3 eligibility for federal benefits and meet one or more of the  
4 following criteria:

5           (a) Were 65 years of age or older at the time their  
6 eligibility for federal benefits ceased;

7           (b) Were in receipt of Supplemental Security Income at  
8 the time their eligibility for federal benefits ceased; or

9           (c) Met and continue to meet the definition of a child  
10 under federal food stamp law at the time their eligibility for  
11 federal benefits ceased.

12           (2) In addition to the criteria in subsection (1),  
13 eligibility for assistance requires that each individual:

14           (a) Was a resident ~~who were residents~~ of the State of  
15 Florida prior to February 1, 1997; ~~who,~~

16           (b) After August 1, 1997, under the Federal Personal  
17 Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of  
18 1996, became ~~have become~~ ineligible for federal benefits,  
19 ~~specifically Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or food~~  
20 ~~stamp benefits; who~~

21           (c) Will be screened to verify that there exists no  
22 other sustainable means of support or assistance to make up  
23 for these lost benefits; and ~~who~~

24           (d) Can demonstrate that he or she is ~~they are~~ engaged  
25 in the process of becoming a United States citizen ~~citizens~~ or  
26 is ~~are~~ seeking an exemption thereto. The total amount of  
27 temporary ~~income~~ assistance provided to an adult individual  
28 shall not exceed the ~~Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or~~  
29 food stamp ~~stamps~~ benefits for which he or she has ~~they have~~  
30 become ineligible. The department shall use the maximum  
31 federal food stamp benefit allowable for a family of four to

1 determine the per-person benefit amount to be used for  
2 children. The department shall give priority to dually  
3 ~~eligible persons, disabled persons, and persons who as a~~  
4 ~~direct result of losing their federal benefits may lose their~~  
5 ~~housing, including long-term-care facilities.~~

6 (2) The Department of Children and Family Services'  
7 total administrative charges for this program shall not exceed  
8 the same percentage as the federal food stamp program ±  
9 ~~percent of the funds provided.~~ Total administrative charges  
10 for contracted service providers for this program shall not  
11 exceed 3 percent of the funds provided in each service  
12 contract.

13 (3) If the United States Congress acts to reinstate  
14 benefit eligibility to those noncitizens who lost eligibility  
15 under the Federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity  
16 Reconciliation Act of 1996, only those direct assistance and  
17 administrative dollars that were spent prior to reinstatement  
18 becoming effective are provided in this specific  
19 appropriation. ~~extend the implementation date of portions of~~  
20 ~~the Federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity~~  
21 ~~Reconciliation Act of 1996 which apply to noncitizens in order~~  
22 ~~to allow states to prepare for said Act, no funds provided in~~  
23 ~~this specific appropriation will be expended~~

24 Section 2. An amount equal to the amount of funds  
25 unexpended in fiscal year 1997-1998 from Specific  
26 Appropriations 1499A and 1499B is appropriated from the  
27 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Children and Family  
28 Services for fiscal year 1998-1999 for the purposes of  
29 implementing section 1 of this act.

30 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1998.

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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
Senate Bill 2060

- The demonstrated need test, to be used as a basis for determining the total assistance provided to individuals, is eliminated.
- The department is directed to use the maximum allowable federal food stamp benefit allowable for a family of four in determining the per person benefit for children.
- The persons who will receive temporary food stamp assistance are those who lost eligibility for federal benefits and were 65 years of age or older, in receipt of supplemental security income at that time, or meet the definition of "child" under the federal food stamp law.
- Administrative charges the Department of Children and Family Services may collect shall not exceed the percentage used for the federal food stamp program (currently at 16 percent).