

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:

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

31

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 5 ± percent of the funds provided. Total administrative
9 charges for contracted service providers for this program
10 shall not exceed 3 percent of the funds provided in each
11 service contract.

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

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

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