35-1445-07

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to immigrant survivors of human
3	trafficking and other serious crimes; requiring
4	the Department of Children and Family Services
5	to provide services to immigrant survivors of
6	human trafficking, domestic violence, and other
7	serious crimes to the extent funds are
8	available; providing for the same state and
9	local benefits that refugees receive; ensuring
10	that immigrant survivors of serious crimes have
11	access to state-funded services for refugees;
12	providing survivors of serious crimes with
13	supportive services; creating a state-funded
14	component of the cash, medical, and social
15	services programs for refugees to serve victims
16	during a temporary waiting period; providing
17	that a sworn statement by a victim is
18	sufficient evidence for the purposes of
19	determining eligibility for services if
20	supported by at least one piece of additional
21	evidence; providing for a public-awareness
22	program for employers and other organizations
23	that may come into contact with immigrant
24	survivors of human trafficking; providing an
25	effective date.
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27	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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29	Section 1. Subject to the availability of funds, the
30	Department of Children and Family Services shall establish a
31	structure by which the department shall:

Τ	(1) Provide services to immigrant survivors of human
2	trafficking, domestic violence, and other serious crimes,
3	during the interim period between the time the survivor
4	applies for a visa and receives such visa from the United
5	States Department of Homeland Security or receives
6	certification from the United States Department of Health and
7	Human Services;
8	(2) Ensure that immigrant survivors of serious crimes
9	are eliqible to receive existing state and local benefits and
10	services to the same extent that refugees receive those
11	benefits and services;
12	(3) Ensure that immigrant survivors of serious crimes
13	have access to state-funded services that are equivalent to
14	the federal programs that provide cash, medical services, and
15	social service for refugees;
16	(4) Provide survivors of serious crimes with medical
17	care, mental health care, and basic assistance in order to
18	help them secure housing, food, and supportive services;
19	(5) Create a state-funded component of the cash,
20	medical, and social services programs for refugees for the
21	purpose of serving immigrant survivors during the temporary
22	period while they wait for federal processing to be completed;
23	(6) Provide that a sworn statement by a survivor is
24	sufficient evidence for the purposes of determining
25	eligibility if that statement is supported by at least one
26	item of additional evidence, including, but not limited to:
27	(a) Police and court records;
28	(b) News articles;
29	(c) Documentation from a professional agency;
30	(d) Physical evidence; or
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1	(e) A statement from an individual having knowledge of
2	the circumstances providing the basis for the claim;
3	(7) Develop a public-awareness program for employers
4	and other organizations that may come into contact with
5	immigrant survivors of human trafficking in order to provide
6	education and raise awareness of the problem.
7	Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.
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10	SENATE SUMMARY
11	Requires that the Department of Children and Family Services provide services to immigrant survivors of human
trafficking, domestic violence, and other serior Provides for the same state and local benefits refugees receive. Provides for immigrant survivo	trafficking, domestic violence, and other serious crimes.
	refugees receive. Provides for immigrant survivors of serious crimes to have access to state-funded services
14	for refugees. Provides survivors of serious crimes with supportive services. Creates a state-funded component of
15	the refugee cash, medical, and social services programs to serve victims during a temporary waiting period.
16 Provides that a sworn statement by a victim is	Provides that a sworn statement by a victim is sufficient evidence for the purposes of determining eligibility for
17	services if supported by at least one piece of additional evidence. Provides for a public-awareness program for
18	employers and other organizations that may come into contact with immigrant survivors of human trafficking.
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