

By Senator Margolis

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:

1       (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 eligible 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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