

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to immigrant survivors of human
3 trafficking and other serious crimes; requiring the
4 Department of Children and Family Services to provide
5 services to immigrant survivors of human trafficking,
6 domestic violence, and other serious crimes; providing for
7 the same state and local benefits that refugees receive;
8 ensuring that immigrant survivors of serious crimes have
9 access to state-funded services for refugees; providing
10 survivors of serious crimes with supportive services;
11 creating a state-funded component of the cash, medical,
12 and social services programs for refugees to serve victims
13 during a temporary waiting period; providing that a sworn
14 statement by a victim is sufficient evidence for the
15 purposes of determining eligibility for services if
16 supported by at least one piece of additional evidence;
17 providing for a public-awareness program for employers and
18 other organizations that may come into contact with
19 immigrant survivors of human trafficking; providing an
20 effective date.

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

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24 Section 1. The Department of Children and Family Services
25 shall establish a structure by which the department shall:

26 (1) Provide services to immigrant survivors of human
27 trafficking, domestic violence, and other serious crimes, during
28 the interim period between the time the survivor applies for a

29 visa and receives such visa from the United States Department of
30 Homeland Security or receives certification from the United
31 States Department of Health and Human Services;

32 (2) Ensure that immigrant survivors of serious crimes are
33 eligible to receive existing state and local benefits and
34 services to the same extent that refugees receive those benefits
35 and services;

36 (3) Ensure that immigrant survivors of serious crimes have
37 access to state-funded services that are equivalent to the
38 federal programs that provide cash, medical services, and social
39 service for refugees;

40 (4) Provide survivors of serious crimes with medical care,
41 mental health care, and basic assistance in order to help them
42 secure housing, food, and supportive services;

43 (5) Create a state-funded component of the cash, medical,
44 and social services programs for refugees for the purpose of
45 servicing immigrant survivors during the temporary period while
46 they wait for federal processing to be completed;

47 (6) Provide that a sworn statement by a survivor is
48 sufficient evidence for the purposes of determining eligibility
49 if that statement is supported by at least one item of
50 additional evidence, including, but not limited to:

51 (a) Police and court records;

52 (b) News articles;

53 (c) Documentation from a professional agency;

54 (d) Physical evidence; or

55 (e) A statement from an individual having knowledge of the
56 circumstances providing the basis for the claim;

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57 (7) Develop a public-awareness program for employers and
58 other organizations that may come into contact with immigrant
59 survivors of human trafficking in order to provide education and
60 raise awareness of the problem.

61 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.