

## ENROLLED

HB 7181, Engrossed 1

2007 Legislature

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.

21  
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

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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.