

HB 1413

2018

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to temporary licensure and
3 certification; providing legislative intent regarding
4 certain professionals who evacuated from Puerto Rico
5 during 2017; authorizing specified professionals to
6 obtain a 2-year temporary license or certificate to
7 work in the state; providing requirements for
8 obtaining such license or certificate; providing for
9 expiration and prohibiting renewal of such license or
10 certificate; providing an effective date.

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

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14 Section 1. (1) The Legislature recognizes the vast
15 devastation and destruction that transformed and impacted homes,
16 families, businesses, and commerce in Puerto Rico as a result of
17 the hurricanes that swept through the Caribbean during 2017;
18 that the citizens and businesses of Puerto Rico may not be able
19 to fully rebuild the island for years to come; and that, given
20 the dire financial problems plaguing the citizens of Puerto
21 Rico, many families have become economically distressed and can
22 no longer work in a stable and predictable way. The Legislature
23 also recognizes that many of these citizens, by necessity, have
24 evacuated their homes and migrated to Florida to find gainful
25 employment. To that end, the Legislature determines that it is

26 | in the best interest of the state to provide a legal path to
27 | grant certain professionals from Puerto Rico an opportunity to
28 | receive a temporary license or certificate in this state so they
29 | may become employed.

30 | (2) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, professionals
31 | from each of the following licensed or certified professions who
32 | evacuated from Puerto Rico during the 2017 calendar year may
33 | receive a 2-year temporary license or certificate:

34 | (a) Barbers licensed under chapter 476.

35 | (b) Clinical social workers licensed under chapter 491.

36 | (c) Cosmetologists licensed under chapter 477.

37 | (d) Engineers licensed under chapter 471.

38 | (e) Mental health counselors licensed under chapter 491.

39 | (f) Teachers certified under rules of the State Board of
40 | Education.

41 | (3) To be eligible to receive a temporary license or
42 | certificate under subsection (2), the professional must provide
43 | the applicable licensing entity or the State Board of Education
44 | with documentation of his or her license or certificate in
45 | Puerto Rico in the respective field. The temporary license or
46 | certificate shall expire 2 years after issuance and is
47 | nonrenewable.

48 | Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.