

**By** the Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; and Senator Bracy Davis

586-02454A-26

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to temporary cash assistance eligibility; amending s. 414.095, F.S.; providing that benefits may not be denied to certain persons solely on the basis of a drug trafficking conviction under certain circumstances; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 414.095, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

414.095 Determining eligibility for temporary cash assistance.—

(1) ELIGIBILITY.—An applicant must meet the eligibility requirements of this section before receiving services or temporary cash assistance under this chapter, except that an applicant is ~~shall~~ be required to register for work and engage in work activities in accordance with s. 445.024, as designated by the local workforce development board, and may receive support services or child care assistance in conjunction with such requirement. The department shall make a determination of eligibility based on the criteria listed in this chapter. The department shall monitor continued eligibility for temporary cash assistance through periodic reviews consistent with the food assistance eligibility process. Benefits may not be denied to an individual solely based on a felony drug conviction, unless the conviction is for trafficking pursuant to s. 893.135. An individual may not be denied benefits solely on the basis of a drug trafficking conviction pursuant to s. 893.135 if the

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30       conviction was obtained during a period of time in which the  
31       department has determined the individual was an active victim of  
32       human trafficking, as defined in s. 943.0583(1). To be eligible  
33       under this section, an individual convicted of a drug felony  
34       must be satisfactorily meeting the requirements of the temporary  
35       cash assistance program, including all substance abuse treatment  
36       requirements. Within the limits specified in this chapter, the  
37       state opts out of the provision of Pub. L. No. 104-193, s. 115,  
38       that eliminates eligibility for temporary cash assistance and  
39       food assistance for any individual convicted of a controlled  
40       substance felony.

41       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.