

By Senator Jones

34-00410-26

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to emergency relief; creating s.
409.14512, F.S.; creating the People's Relief Program
within the Department of Children and Families;
providing a purpose for the program; providing
legislative intent; requiring the program to provide
assistance in the form of grants to certain residents
under specified conditions; providing program
eligibility requirements for individuals; requiring
the department to adopt specified rules; providing an
effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 409.14512, Florida Statutes, is created
to read:

409.14512 People's Relief Program.—

(1) The People's Relief Program is created within the
department. The purpose of the program is to provide residents
of this state who are experiencing economic hardship with
assistance for everyday expenses, such as housing, childcare,
and health care.

(2) It is the intent of the Legislature that this program
ensure long-term financial stability for individuals and
families who reside in this state by offering grants to assist
residents experiencing economic hardship.

(3) Subject to appropriation by the Legislature, the
program shall provide assistance in the form of grants to
residents experiencing economic hardship. Such grants must be

34-00410-26

2026170__

30 available to residents if any of the following occurs:

31 (a) Utility costs rise above a specified percentage of
32 average household income.

33 (b) Property insurance premiums rise above a specified
34 threshold.

35 (c) Statewide unemployment rises above a specified
36 percentage.

37 (d) An economic decline causes widespread hardship.

38 (e) A natural disaster leads to the declaration of a state
39 of emergency.

40 (4) To be eligible for assistance under the program, an
41 individual must:

42 (a) Have been a resident of this state for at least 1 year
43 before applying;

44 (b) Provide evidence of a change in circumstances which
45 hinders or prohibits the individual from being able to fulfill
46 pending financial obligations related to utility, property
47 insurance, childcare, or health care expenses; and

48 (c) Provide documentation of utility costs, property
49 insurance premiums, childcare expenses, or health care expenses.

50 (5) The department shall adopt rules to implement this
51 section. The rules must, at a minimum, include all of the
52 following:

53 (a) An application that must be available on the
54 department's website.

55 (b) The specified thresholds for the conditions in
56 paragraphs (3) (a) - (d).

57 (c) The procedures for awarding and disbursing the grants.

58 (d) Restrictions on the use of grant funds.

34-00410-26

2026170__

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