

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to an economic hardship grant program;
3 creating s. 409.14512, F.S.; creating the People's
4 Relief Program within the Department of Children and
5 Families; providing a purpose for the program;
6 providing legislative intent; requiring the program to
7 provide assistance in the form of grants to certain
8 residents under specified conditions; providing
9 program eligibility requirements for individuals;
10 requiring the department to adopt specified rules;
11 providing an effective date.

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

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

17 409.14512 People's Relief Program.—

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

23 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature that this program
24 ensure long-term financial stability for individuals and
25 families who reside in this state by offering grants to assist

26 residents experiencing economic hardship.

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

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