

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 307

BY REPRESENTATIVE HENRY

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE: Requires that individuals requesting public assistance who are not United States citizens be reported to United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 46:233.4, relative to public assistance; to provide for eligibility for certain
3 public assistance programs; to prohibit certain individuals from receiving public
4 assistance; to establish reporting requirements to certain federal agencies; to require
5 reporting; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 46:233.4 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §233.4. Verification of citizenship of applicants for public benefits

9 A. Except as prohibited by federal law, a state agency or political
10 subdivision shall verify that each applicant who applies for federal, state, or local
11 public benefit is a person who has been recognized as a citizen of the United States
12 by birthright, naturalization, or any other method provided for under applicable
13 federal law or has satisfactory immigration status as a qualified alien as defined in
14 8 U.S.C. 1641(b).

15 B. For an applicant claiming United States citizenship or satisfactory
16 immigration status under 8 U.S.C. 1641(b), the state agency or political subdivision
17 shall make every reasonable effort to ascertain verification of the applicant's
18 citizenship or immigration status.

1 C. Upon the termination of any reasonable opportunity period to verify
2 citizenship status or receipt of a final verification that indicates that the applicant is
3 not a United States citizen or lacks satisfactory immigration status and has entered
4 the United States without inspection or admission or remained beyond the expiration
5 of his authorized period of stay, the state agency or political subdivision shall:

6 (1) Refer the applicant's information, including unsatisfactory immigration
7 status, to United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

8 (2) Provide a monthly report compiling the information pursuant to Paragraph
9 (1) of this Subsection to the secretary of state for voter list maintenance purposes.

10 (3) Terminate any recurring federal, state, or local public benefits as defined
11 in Subsection E of this Section.

12 D. A state agency or political subdivision that administers federal or state
13 public benefits shall report annually at the end of each fiscal year to the Senate
14 president, speaker of the House of Representatives, governor, and David R. Poynter
15 Legislative Research Library on the results of the citizenship verification
16 requirements of this Section. The report shall include but not be limited to the
17 number of individuals reported to United States Immigration and Customs
18 Enforcement and the number of individuals who had public assistance terminated in
19 accordance with this Section.

20 E. For the purposes of this Section, a federal, state, or local public benefit
21 shall include any retirement, welfare, health, disability, public or assisted housing,
22 postsecondary education, food assistance, unemployment benefit, or any other
23 similar benefit for which payments or assistance are provided to an individual,
24 household, or family eligibility unit by an agency of the United States, this state, or
25 a political subdivision of this state or by appropriated funds of the United States, this
26 state, or a political subdivision of this state.

27 F. For purposes of any benefits paid pursuant to the Louisiana Public
28 Retirement Law, R.S. 11:1 et seq., the verification of a public employee's United
29 States citizenship or satisfactory immigration status at the time of their enrollment

- 1 in a public retirement system shall satisfy the verification requirements of Subsection
2 A of this Section.
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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 307 Re-Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

Henry

Abstract: Requires a state agency or political subdivision to report individuals who seek public assistance and are not citizens of the U.S. to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Proposed law requires, unless otherwise prohibited by federal law, a state agency or political subdivision to verify whether an applicant, who applies for federal, state, or local public benefits, is a citizen of the U.S.

Proposed law requires a state agency or political subdivision to make reasonable efforts to verify the applicant's citizenship or immigration status if an applicant is claiming U.S. citizenship or a satisfactory immigration status under present law.

Proposed law provides that, upon the termination of any reasonable opportunity period to verify citizenship status or receipt of a final verification that indicates that the applicant is not a citizen or lacks satisfactory immigration status, the state agency or political subdivision shall:

- (1) Refer the applicant's information, including unsatisfactory immigration status, to ICE.
- (2) Provide a monthly report compiling the applicant information reported to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to the secretary of state for voter list maintenance purposes.
- (3) Terminate any recurring federal, state, or local public benefits.

Proposed law requires a state agency or political subdivision that administers federal or state public benefits to submit a report annually at the end of each fiscal year to the Senate president, speaker of the House of Representatives, the governor of La., and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library on the results of the verification requirements including the number of individuals reported to ICE and the number of individuals whose benefits were terminated.

Proposed law clarifies what is considered as federal, state, or local public benefits as provided for in proposed law.

Proposed law provides that verification of a public employee's U.S. citizenship or satisfactory immigration status at the time of enrollment in a public retirement system shall satisfy the verification requirements of proposed law.

(Adds R.S. 46:233.4)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Judiciary to the original bill:

1. Provide that the secretary of state shall also receive an annual report from the agencies on the results of the verification requirements including the number of individuals reported to ICE and the number of individuals whose benefits were terminated.

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the engrossed bill:

1. Require a monthly report compiling applicant information reported to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to be sent to the secretary of state for voter list maintenance purposes.
2. Remove the secretary of state from the list of entities to receive the annual report listing the individuals reported to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The House Floor Amendments to the reengrossed bill:

1. Add verification of U.S. citizenship or satisfactory immigration status when enrolling in a public retirement system as a method of satisfying the requirements of proposed law.