

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 335

BY REPRESENTATIVE HENRY

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE: Provides relative to entities administering public benefits

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 46:233.4(A) and (D) and to enact R.S. 46:233.4(C)(4), relative
3 to verification of citizenship of applicants for public benefits; to provide relative to
4 entities administering public benefits; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 46:233.4(A) and (D) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
7 46:233.4(C)(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, or any entity administering federal, state, or local public benefits shall
11 verify that each applicant who applies for federal, state, or local public ~~benefit~~
12 benefits is a person who has been recognized as a citizen of the United States by
13 birthright, naturalization, or any other method provided for under applicable federal
14 law or has satisfactory immigration status as a qualified alien as defined in 8 U.S.C.
15 1641(b).

16 * * *

17 C. Upon the termination of any reasonable opportunity period to verify
18 citizenship status, ~~or upon~~ receipt of a final verification that indicates that the
19 applicant is not a United States citizen or lacks satisfactory immigration status and
20 has entered the United States without inspection or admission, or has remained

1 beyond the expiration of his authorized period of stay, the state agency or political
2 subdivision shall:

3 * * *

4 (4) Be subject to audit by the legislative auditor.

5 D. A state agency, ~~or political subdivision, or any entity administering that~~
6 ~~administers~~ federal or state public benefits shall report at the end of each fiscal year
7 to the president of the Senate, speaker of the House of Representatives, governor,
8 and David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library on the results of the citizenship
9 verification requirements of this Section. The report shall include but not be limited
10 to the number of individuals reported to United States Immigration and Customs
11 Enforcement and the number of individuals who had public assistance terminated in
12 accordance with this Section.

13 * * *

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 335 Original

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Henry

Abstract: Provides relative to the requirements of entities administering public benefits.

Present law requires a state agency or political subdivision to verify the citizenship status of an applicant who applies for federal, state, or local public benefits.

Present law requires a state agency or political subdivision to complete certain tasks upon termination of the reasonable opportunity period to verify an applicant's citizenship status or upon receipt of final verification that an applicant is not a U.S. citizen or lacks satisfactory immigration status.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that the agency or political subdivision is subject to audit by the legislative auditor after the reasonable opportunity period provided in present law.

Proposed law applies present law to any entity administering public benefits.

Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 46:233.4(A) and (D); Adds R.S. 46:233.4(C)(4))