The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

DIGEST

SB 194 Original | 2026 Regular Session | Miguez

Present law requires a state agency or political subdivision to verify that each applicant for a federal, state, or local public benefit is recognized as a United States citizen or has satisfactory immigration status as a qualified alien defined in federal law.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that for purposes of Medicaid, Medicare, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and any health plan offered through the Affordable Care Act marketplace, the term qualified alien shall be limited to any one of the following:

(1) An alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence as an immigrant, as defined in 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15) and 1101(a)(20), excluding alien visitors, tourists, diplomats, students, and other individuals admitted temporarily without intent to abandon a foreign residence.

(2) An alien granted the status of Cuban or Haitian entrant, as defined in section 501(e) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-422).

(3) An individual lawfully residing in the United States pursuant to a Compact of Free Association, as referenced in 8 U.S.C. 1612(b)(2)(G).

Proposed law requires that the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) provide a reasonable opportunity for an applicant for enrollment in Medicaid consistent with federal law in which to verify citizenship or immigration status when status cannot be verified through available data sources.

Proposed law provides that Medicaid coverage may be provided provisionally during the reasonable opportunity period and that failure to submit acceptable documentation within the reasonable opportunity period shall result in denial or termination of Medicaid eligibility.

Proposed law provides that no additional reasonable opportunity period is to be granted an applicant who has previously been denied eligibility at any time due to a failure to verify citizenship or satisfactory immigration status.

Proposed law requires LDH to require each applicant to provide proof of identity in addition to verification of citizenship or immigration status. Requires that the proof clearly establish that the individual applying for benefits is the same individual represented by the identifying information and that a match through any electronic or data verification system will not, by itself, be accepted as proof of identity.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 46:233.4)