

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 335

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHANCE HENRY

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 46:233.4(A), (C)(introductory paragraph), and (D) and to enact
3 R.S. 46:233.4(C)(4), (G), (H), (I), and (J), relative to verification of citizenship of
4 applicants for public benefits; to provide relative to entities administering public
5 benefits; to provide for exceptions; to provide for good faith; and to provide for
6 related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 46:233.4(A), (C)(introductory paragraph), and (D) are hereby and
9 amended and reenacted and R.S. 46:233.4(C)(4), (G), (H), (I), and (J) are hereby enacted to
10 read as follows:

11 §233.4. Verification of citizenship of applicants for public benefits

12 A. Except as prohibited by federal law, a state agency, ~~or~~ political
13 subdivision, or any entity administering federal, state, or local public benefits shall
14 verify that each applicant who applies for federal, state, or local public ~~benefit~~
15 benefits is a person who has been recognized as a citizen of the United States by
16 birthright, naturalization, or any other method provided for under applicable federal
17 law or has satisfactory immigration status as a qualified alien as defined in 8 U.S.C.
18 1641(b).

19 * * *

20 C. Upon the termination of any reasonable opportunity period to verify
21 citizenship status, ~~or~~ upon receipt of a final verification that indicates that the
22 applicant is not a United States citizen or lacks satisfactory immigration status and
23 has entered the United States without inspection or admission, ~~or~~ has remained
24 beyond the expiration of his authorized period of stay, the state agency or political
25 subdivision shall:

26 * * *

1 (4) The records described in this Subsection shall constitute the only
2 information required to be produced to the legislative auditor for compliance with
3 this Section.

4 (5) Notwithstanding Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, if the United States
5 Immigration and Customs Enforcement submits a lawful request for information
6 regarding an individual who failed to provide proof of citizenship or qualified
7 immigration status, the entity shall provide the information in accordance with
8 applicable federal and state law.

9 (6) Nothing in this Subsection shall be construed to prohibit cooperation with
10 federal authorities when otherwise required by law.

11 I. This Section shall not apply, and no entity shall be subject to liability or
12 enforcement under this Section, for actions taken in good faith to protect life, health,
13 safety, or access to essential services during emergent circumstances, disaster
14 response, post-disaster recovery, and public health operations.

15 J. This Section shall not apply to healthcare providers who provide services
16 to Medicaid recipients.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____