

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 307

BY REPRESENTATIVE HENRY

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 at the end of each fiscal year to the president of the  
14          Senate, 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          food assistance, unemployment benefit, or any other similar benefit for which  
23          payments or assistance are provided to an individual, household, or family eligibility  
24          unit by an agency of the United States, this state, or a political subdivision of this  
25          state or by appropriated funds of the United States, this state, or a political  
26          subdivision of this state.

27          F. For purposes of any benefits paid by any public pension or retirement  
28          system, fund, or plan, the verification of a public employee's United States  
29          citizenship or satisfactory immigration status at the time of their enrollment in a

1            public pension or retirement system, fund, or plan shall satisfy the verification  
2            requirements of Subsection A of this Section.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_