

ACT No. 351

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.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____