

HCS HB 1626 -- PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (Emery)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Special Committee on Immigration

This substitute prohibits persons who are not citizens or permanent residents of the United States or who do not possess lawful immigration status from receiving state or local public assistance unless it is mandated under federal law. Documentary evidence accepted by the Department of Revenue for obtaining a driver's license will suffice as proof of citizenship, permanent residency, or lawful immigration status when applying for benefits. Individuals can temporarily receive state or local public assistance for up to 90 days while obtaining the necessary documentation or indefinitely if the applicant provides a copy of a completed birth certificate application which is pending. Nonprofit organizations regulated by the Internal Revenue Service are not required to enforce these restrictions, nor are they prohibited from providing aid.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.