

1 1. "Legal immigrant" means an individual not born in the United
2 States and not a citizen of the United States whose entrance into
3 the United States has been approved by the ~~Immigration and~~
4 ~~Naturalization Service~~ United States Citizenship and Immigration
5 Services; and

6 2. "Qualified alien" shall have the same meaning as such term
7 is defined by Section 431(b) of the federal Personal Responsibility
8 and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, P.L. 104-193, as
9 amended.

10 B. 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that passage
11 of the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity
12 Reconciliation Act of 1996, P.L. 104-193, requires the states to
13 make certain decisions concerning legal immigrants and their
14 eligibility for certain types of public assistance.

15 2. The goal of this section is to recognize that foreign-born
16 legal residents of the State of Oklahoma contribute to our society
17 by working in our communities, supporting local businesses, and
18 paying taxes and should be eligible to receive certain types of
19 public assistance under certain conditions. Moreover, the state
20 goal is to provide the types of assistance that will enhance the
21 state's ability to receive federal financial participation, thereby
22 reducing the ultimate burden on the state and local government for
23 emergency health and welfare needs.

1 3. This section is also intended to encourage and support
2 efforts to help foreign-born legal residents of the State of
3 Oklahoma to become citizens of the United States.

4 C. 1. A qualified alien who entered the United States before
5 August 22, 1996, shall be eligible to receive benefits under a state
6 program funded by Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block
7 Grant Funds pursuant to Part A of Title IV of the federal Social
8 Security Act.

9 2. A qualified alien who entered the United States on or after
10 August 22, 1996, shall be barred from receiving the benefits
11 described in paragraph 1 of this subsection for a period of five (5)
12 years after the date of entry into the United States, unless such
13 alien meets the exceptions set forth in the federal Personal
14 Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, P.L.
15 104-193, as amended. After five (5) years, the qualified alien
16 shall be eligible for benefits pursuant to the Statewide Temporary
17 Assistance Responsibility System (STARS), but shall have sponsor
18 income deemed to the individual or family pursuant to rules
19 promulgated by the ~~Commission for~~ Department of Human Services.

20 D. 1. A qualified alien who entered the United States before
21 August 22, 1996, shall be eligible to receive benefits under the Old
22 Age Pension, the Aid to the Needy Disabled, and the Aid to the Blind
23 programs if such qualified alien meets the eligibility criteria for
24 such programs, other than citizen status.

1 2. A qualified alien who entered the United States on or after
2 August 22, 1996, shall be barred from receiving benefits under the
3 programs described in paragraph 1 of this subsection for a period of
4 five (5) years after the date of entry into the United States,
5 unless the alien meets the exceptions set forth in the federal
6 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of
7 1996, P.L. 104-193, as amended. After five (5) years, the qualified
8 alien shall be eligible for benefits pursuant to such programs but
9 shall have sponsor income deemed to the person or family pursuant to
10 rules promulgated by the ~~Commission for~~ Department of Human
11 Services.

12 E. The ~~Commission for~~ Department of Human Services shall
13 encourage a qualified alien who is eligible to submit an application
14 for citizenship to submit such an application.

15 F. 1. The ~~Commission~~ Department shall promulgate rules for the
16 delivery of emergency assistance to a person who:

- 17 a. is a legal immigrant and a resident of the State of
18 Oklahoma,
- 19 b. is not a citizen of the United States, and
- 20 c. meets the eligibility requirements for assistance
21 pursuant to the Statewide Temporary Assistance
22 Responsibility System (STARS) program other than
23 citizen status and is not receiving any other public
24 assistance as specified by the ~~Commission~~ Department.

1 2. Such emergency assistance may include, but need not be
2 limited to, the following forms of assistance:

- 3 a. housing,
- 4 b. food,
- 5 c. short-term cash assistance, and
- 6 d. clothing and social services for children.

7 G. 1. ~~Sponsors shall be expected to meet their financial~~
8 ~~commitments to the immigrants whom they sponsor and for whom they~~
9 ~~sign affidavits of support.~~

10 2. ~~The Commission shall also promulgate rules consistent with~~
11 ~~this section and federal law to enforce sponsor commitments for~~
12 ~~noncitizen applicants for or recipients of public assistance or~~
13 ~~medical assistance.~~

14 H. ~~In the event that after passage of this act federal law~~
15 ~~authorizes extended benefits to aliens, the provision of this~~
16 ~~section shall be modified and made consistent with the provisions of~~
17 ~~federal law.~~

18 The Department of Human Services, in making a determination of a
19 legal immigrant or qualified alien as defined in subsection A of
20 this section, shall verify an applicant's status by utilizing the
21 United States Citizenship and Immigration Services' Systematic Alien
22 Verification of Entitlements (SAVE) system. An applicant's legal
23 status in the United States shall be confirmed prior to an applicant

1 receiving benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
2 program.

3 2. Upon final determination that an applicant's SAVE status
4 does not indicate the person is lawfully in the United States, the
5 Department of Human Services shall notify the Oklahoma Attorney
6 General's office. The Office shall review the case and shall notify
7 the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency if an
8 applicant's legal presence in the United States is unverifiable.

9 3. The Department of Human Services shall post a notice on its
10 website providing information about TANF and on its application
11 portal notifying applicants that their immigration status will be
12 reviewed and if unverified the United States Immigration and Customs
13 Enforcement Agency will be notified.

14 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 56 O.S. 2021, Section 241, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 Section 241. A. It shall be the mandatory duty of the
17 Department of Human Services to participate in the ~~food stamp~~
18 ~~program~~ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) under the
19 Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended. The cost of distributing ~~food~~
20 ~~stamp~~ SNAP benefits shall be paid by the Department.

21 B. 1. The Department of Human Services shall verify a SNAP
22 applicant's immigration status by utilizing the United States
23 Citizenship and Immigration Services' Systematic Alien Verification
24 System for Entitlements (SAVE). An applicant's legal status in the

1 United States shall be confirmed prior to an applicant receiving
2 SNAP benefits.

3 2. Upon final determination that an applicant's SAVE status
4 does not indicate the person is lawfully in the United States, the
5 Department shall notify the Oklahoma Attorney General's office. The
6 Office shall review the case and then notify the United States
7 Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency if an applicant's legal
8 presence in the United States is unverifiable.

9 3. The Department of Human Services shall post a notice on its
10 website providing information about SNAP and on its application
11 portal notifying applicants that their immigration status will be
12 reviewed and if unverified the United States Immigration and Customs
13 Enforcement Agency will be notified.

14 C. 1. The Department may, at its option:

- 15 a. operate the program of distributing ~~food stamp~~ SNAP
16 benefits to families certified as eligible by the
17 Department, or
18 b. contract with private or public entities for the
19 distribution of ~~food stamp~~ SNAP benefits.

20 2. Any program for distribution of ~~food stamp~~ SNAP benefits
21 operated pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall
22 provide:
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- 1 a. adequate qualified personnel, suitable facilities, and
2 adequate participant access to such benefits through a
3 system of electronic benefits transfer,
4 b. adequate qualified personnel and suitable facilities
5 for storage and issuing of any required ~~food stamp~~
6 SNAP coupons for benefits,
7 c. any bonding of personnel, and insurance required by
8 the ~~Commission for~~ Department of Human Services, and
9 d. that such exchange, distribution and accounting of
10 ~~food stamp~~ SNAP benefits shall be in compliance with
11 all federal and state regulations and rules applicable
12 thereto.

13 ~~C. Food stamp~~

14 D. SNAP benefits may be obtained through one or more approved
15 food stores, or through other means approved by the Department.

16 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective October 1, 2026.

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18 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
19 OVERSIGHT, dated 02/19/2026 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.
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