

## COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

State of Oklahoma

SPEAKER:

CHAIR:

I move to amend HB4422 \_\_\_\_\_  
Of the printed Bill  
Page \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_ Lines \_\_\_\_\_  
Of the Engrossed Bill

By deleting the content of the entire measure, and by inserting in lieu thereof the following language:

**AMEND TITLE TO CONFORM TO AMENDMENTS**

Amendment submitted by: Kyle Hilbert

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reading Clerk

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

PROPOSED POLICY  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 4422

By: Hilbert

PROPOSED POLICY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to poor persons; amending 56 O.S. 2021, Section 230.73, which relates to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; requiring the use of SAVE program to determine an applicant's legal status; requiring notice to the Oklahoma Attorney General; requiring the Attorney General to review cases; requiring notification of Immigration and Customs Enforcement in certain circumstances; amending 56 O.S. 2021, Section 241, which relates to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; requiring the use of SAVE program to determine an applicant's legal status; requiring notice to the Oklahoma Attorney General; requiring the Attorney General to review cases; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 56 O.S. 2021, Section 230.73, is amended to read as follows:

Section 230.73. A. As used in this section:

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. The Department of Human Services, in making a  
8 determination of a legal immigrant or qualified alien as defined in  
9 subsection A of this section, shall verify an applicant's status by  
10 utilizing the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services'  
11 Systematic Alien Verification of Entitlements (SAVE) system. An  
12 applicant's legal status in the United States shall be confirmed  
13 prior to an applicant receiving benefits under the Temporary  
14 Assistance for Needy Families program.

15        2. Upon final determination that an applicant's SAVE status  
16 does not indicate the person is lawfully in the United States, the  
17 Department of Human Services shall notify the Oklahoma Attorney  
18 General's office. The Office shall review the case and shall notify  
19 the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency if an  
20 applicant's legal presence in the United States is unverifiable.

21        3. The Department of Human Services shall post a notice on its  
22 website providing information about TANF and on its application  
23 portal notifying applicants that their immigration status will be  
24

1 reviewed and if unverified the United States Immigration and Customs  
2 Enforcement Agency will be notified.

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

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

10 B. 1. The Department of Human Services shall verify a SNAP  
11 applicant's immigration status by utilizing the United States  
12 Citizenship and Immigration Services' Systematic Alien Verification  
13 System for Entitlements (SAVE). An applicant's legal status in the  
14 United States shall be confirmed prior to an applicant receiving  
15 SNAP benefits.

16 2. Upon final determination that an applicant's SAVE status  
17 does not indicate the person is lawfully in the United States, the  
18 Department shall notify the Oklahoma Attorney General's office. The  
19 Office shall review the case and then notify the United States  
20 Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency if an applicant's legal  
21 presence in the United States is unverifiable.

22 3. The Department of Human Services shall post a notice on its  
23 website providing information about SNAP and on its application  
24 portal notifying applicants that their immigration status will be

1 reviewed and if unverified the United States Immigration and Customs  
2 Enforcement Agency will be notified.

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

- 4 a. operate the program of distributing ~~food stamp~~ SNAP  
5 benefits to families certified as eligible by the  
6 Department, or  
7 b. contract with private or public entities for the  
8 distribution of ~~food stamp~~ SNAP benefits.

9 2. Any program for distribution of ~~food stamp~~ SNAP benefits  
10 operated pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall  
11 provide:

- 12 a. adequate qualified personnel, suitable facilities, and  
13 adequate participant access to such benefits through a  
14 system of electronic benefits transfer,  
15 b. adequate qualified personnel and suitable facilities  
16 for storage and issuing of any required ~~food stamp~~  
17 SNAP coupons for benefits,  
18 c. any bonding of personnel, and insurance required by  
19 the ~~Commission for~~ Department of Human Services, and  
20 d. that such exchange, distribution and accounting of  
21 ~~food stamp~~ SNAP benefits shall be in compliance with  
22 all federal and state regulations and rules applicable  
23 thereto.  
24



1        ~~C. Food stamp~~ D. SNAP benefits may be obtained through one or  
2 more approved food stores, or through other means approved by the  
3 Department.

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