



One Hundred First Legislature - First Session - 2009
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 403

Chairperson: Brad Ashford
Committee: Judiciary
Date of Hearing: February 18, 2009

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Legislative Bill 403 seeks to prevent individuals not lawfully present in the United States from obtaining public benefits.

First, LB 403 prohibits state agencies and political subdivisions from providing federal, state, or local public benefits to individuals not lawfully present in the United States. The prohibition does not apply to benefits exempted under federal law, emergency medical benefits, short-term emergency disaster relief, public health assistance for prevention and treatment of communicable diseases, and programs, services, or assistance necessary for the protection of life and safety.

Second, LB 403 establishes a verification of legal status process by requiring all state agencies and political subdivisions to verify lawful status of individuals who apply for benefits. All individuals who apply for a benefit must execute an affidavit stating that he or she is either a United States citizen or an alien. If the applicant is a citizen, no further verification is needed. However, if the applicant is an alien then the state agency or political subdivision must verify the alien's legal status through the United States Department of Homeland Security's Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements program.

Finally, all state agencies who administer federal, state, or local benefits are required to file a report with respect to compliance with the provisions of LB 403.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Russ Karpisek