

April 21, 2005

H 1474. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BENEFITS/RESIDENTS ONLY. *TO PROVIDE THAT AN APPLICANT FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS MUST PROVIDE PROOF THAT THE APPLICANT IS A UNITED STATES CITIZEN OR, IF NOT A UNITED STATES CITIZEN, IS LAWFULLY PRESENT IN THE UNITED STATES UNDER FEDERAL LAW; TO PROVIDE FOR TEMPORARY PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BENEFITS TO BE PAID IN CASES WHERE THE APPLICANT CANNOT PROVIDE PROOF AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION; TO REQUIRE CERTAIN STATE AGENCIES TO COOPERATE WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO DEVELOP A SYSTEM FOR VERIFYING LAWFUL PRESENCE IN THE UNITED STATES.* Enacts new GS 108A-25.4(b) providing that persons who are not U.S. citizens or legally present in the U.S. are not eligible for state and local public assistance under GS Chapter 108A, Article 2, other than that mandated under 8 USC 1621 and medical services as provided below. Requires applicant for public assistance to provide affirmative proof of citizenship or lawful presence via documentation recognized by Department of Motor Vehicles under GS 20-7(b3) or social security number verified by Social Security Administration. Applicants who cannot provide this proof may receive temporary assistance based on affidavit stating that they are citizens or lawfully present. Requirements do not apply to persons applying for Medicaid if they resided in long-term care facilities or received in-home and community-based services on June 30, 1997, and were eligible for Medicaid benefits, and to persons under the age of 19 who would be eligible for Medicaid but for the alien limitations enacted under the 1996 welfare reform law. Requires state agencies administering public assistance programs to cooperate with local governments and Department of Homeland Security to develop system to facilitate verification of individual's lawful presence in the U.S. Effective January 1, 1996; applies to applications for public assistance submitted on or after that date.

Intro. by Howard, Brubaker, Sherrill, Crawford.

Ref. to Judiciary III

GS 108A