

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R573 KLA-D

S.B. 65
By: Zaffirini
International Trade and Relations
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DIGEST AND PURPOSE

In 1996, the federal government passed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), which changed legal immigrants' access to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and TANF-funded programs. Most immigrants arriving after the enactment PRWORA were barred for five years from TANF funds, which applies not only to cash assistance but also to other services such as employment assistance, child care, transportation, and other "non-cash" benefits. However, before the enactment of PRWORA, Texas decided to maintain TANF and Medicaid eligibility for immigrants already present in the United States. As proposed, S.B. 65 provides TANF and Medicaid to legal immigrants after the five-year bar.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Subchapter B, Chapter 32, Human Resources Code, by adding Section 32.0248, as follows:

Section 32.0248. ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN LEGAL IMMIGRANTS. Requires the Health and Human Services Commission or an agency to provide medical assistance in accordance with 8 U.S.C. Section 1612 (b), as amended, to qualified legal immigrants who meet certain requirements.

SECTION 2. Authorizes a state agency to delay implementing a provision of this Act until a requested federal waiver or authorization necessary to implement that provision is granted.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2003.