

SENATE, No. 3251

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 16, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

District 34 (Essex)

Senator ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Singleton, McKeon, Burgess, Johnson, Ruiz, Pou and Zwicker

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “New Jersey Migrant and Refugee Assistance Act.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the provision of assistance to migrants and
2 refugees in New Jersey and supplementing Title 44 of the
3 Revised Statutes.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

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8 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “New Jersey
9 Migrant and Refugee Assistance Act.”

10

11 2. The Legislature finds and declares that:

12 a. New Jersey is home to a diverse population, including
13 migrants and refugees who have come seeking safety and a better
14 life.

15 b. Given the significant influx of migrants from countries such
16 as Haiti and Venezuela, where political turmoil has de-stabilized
17 societies, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where human
18 rights crises persist, there is a heightened need for supportive
19 measures in this State.

20 c. Recognizing the challenges faced by individuals from these
21 regions, it is essential to provide tailored resources that facilitate a
22 smoother transition into New Jersey society.

23 d. Connecting migrants and refugees with State resources and
24 public assistance programs is crucial for their successful integration
25 and contribution to the State’s social and economic fabric.

26

27 3. a. As used in this section:

28 “Department” means the Department of Human Services.

29 “Migrant” means any individual who has relocated to the State of
30 New Jersey from another country.

31 “Program” means the Migrant and Refugee Resource
32 Coordination Program established pursuant to subsection b. of this
33 section.

34 “Refugee” means any individual granted refugee status under
35 federal law.

36 b. There is established in the Department of Human Services a
37 Migrant and Refugee Resource Coordination Program. The purpose
38 of this program shall be to connect migrants and refugees with
39 information and resources regarding public assistance programs for
40 which they are eligible.

41 c. The department shall ensure that the information provided
42 under the program shall include, but not be limited to, information
43 on: housing, healthcare, educational opportunities, job training, and
44 legal services.

45 d. The department shall collaborate with local governments,
46 nonprofit organizations, and community groups to facilitate access
47 to these resources.

1 e. The department shall develop and implement an outreach
2 campaign to inform migrants and refugees about the program. The
3 outreach campaign shall utilize multiple languages and media
4 platforms to ensure widespread dissemination of information about
5 the program.

6 f. The department shall submit an annual report to the Governor
7 and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), the
8 Legislature, which report shall:

9 (1) detail the effectiveness of the program, including the number
10 of migrants and refugees served and the types of assistance
11 provided; and

12 (2) include any recommendations for improvements to the
13 program.

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15 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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20 This bill establishes the “New Jersey Migrant and Refugee
21 Assistance Act.”

22 The bill establishes in the Department of Human Services
23 (department) a Migrant and Refugee Resource Coordination
24 Program. The purpose of this program will be to connect migrants
25 and refugees with information and resources regarding public
26 assistance programs for which they are eligible. The department
27 will ensure that the information provided under the program will
28 include, but not be limited to, information on: housing, healthcare,
29 educational opportunities, job training, and legal services. The
30 department will collaborate with local governments, nonprofit
31 organizations, and community groups to facilitate access to these
32 resources.

33 Under the bill, the department will develop and implement an
34 outreach campaign to inform migrants and refugees about the
35 program. The outreach campaign will utilize multiple languages
36 and media platforms to ensure widespread dissemination of
37 information about the program.

38 The department will submit an annual report to the Governor and
39 the Legislature, which report will: (1) detail the effectiveness of
40 the program, including the number of migrants and refugees served
41 and the types of assistance provided; and (2) include any
42 recommendations for improvements to the program.