

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 690
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/29/25
Committee Substitute #2 Favorable 5/6/25

Short Title: The Citizens Support Act.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 3, 2025

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, THE
2 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, THE HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY, AND LOCAL
3 HOUSING AUTHORITIES TO DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT, AND REPORT ON A PLAN
4 TO ENSURE THAT STATE-FUNDED BENEFITS PROVIDED BY OR THROUGH
5 THESE STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES ARE AVAILABLE ONLY TO UNITED
6 STATES CITIZENS AND NONCITIZENS RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES WITH
7 LEGAL PERMISSION; DIRECTING THE GOVERNING BODIES OF THE
8 UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM AND THE NORTH CAROLINA
9 COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT A POLICY TO
10 VERIFY THAT ALL APPLICANTS FOR ENROLLMENT ARE LEGALLY
11 AUTHORIZED TO RESIDE IN THE UNITED STATES FOR DETERMINING
12 ELIGIBILITY FOR IN-STATE TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID; AND DIRECTING
13 THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, DIVISION OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY, TO
14 ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT A POLICY TO VERIFY THAT ALL APPLICANTS FOR
15 UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS ARE LEGALLY AUTHORIZED TO RESIDE IN THE
16 UNITED STATES.

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18 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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20 **PART I. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

21 **SECTION 1.** To the extent permitted by federal law, the Department of Health and
22 Human Services (DHHS) shall take all steps necessary to cease providing State-funded benefits
23 to noncitizens residing in the United States without legal permission.

24 **SECTION 2.** To the extent permitted by federal law, the DHHS shall develop and
25 implement a plan to review and update the eligibility criteria for all State-funded benefits to
26 ensure that noncitizens determined to be residing in the United States without legal permission
27 are ineligible to receive State-funded benefits. As a part of this plan, the DHHS shall develop a
28 method for verifying the immigration status of applicants for State-funded benefits who are
29 noncitizens prior to the initiation of benefits.

30 **SECTION 3.** By January 15, 2026, the DHHS shall report to the Joint Legislative
31 Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division all of the
32 following:

- 33 (1) The steps taken to implement Section 1 of this act and the resulting success of
34 those steps.



- 1 (2) A list of State-funded benefits for which the DHHS is prohibited from
2 changing.
- 3 (3) The plan developed and implemented pursuant to Section 2 of this act, which
4 shall include a citation to each federal law or regulation that prohibits the
5 DHHS from denying eligibility for State-funded benefits to noncitizens
6 determined to be residing in the United States without legal permission.

7 **SECTION 4.** As used in this Part, "State-funded benefits" includes any of the
8 following programs administered by or through a contract with the DHHS but excludes any
9 benefits or services available under these programs to help eligible beneficiaries access food or
10 meals:

- 11 (1) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Work First).
12 (2) Early Intervention Services.
13 (3) Rental or housing assistance programs.
14 (4) Medication assistance programs.
15 (5) Child care subsidy programs.
16 (6) Foster care and adoption assistance payments.
17 (7) Refugee assistance programs.
18 (8) Low Income Energy Assistance.
19 (9) Work First Cash Assistance and other employment and self-sufficiency
20 training and services.
21 (10) Medicaid.
22 (11) Single-stream funding.
23 (12) Inpatient psychiatric hospital services (3-Way Bed Contracts).
24 (13) The State-County Special Assistance program.
25 (14) Programs funded by the Home and Community Care Block Grant.
26 (15) Caregiver Support programs.
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28 **PART II. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY, AND** 29 **LOCAL HOUSING AUTHORITIES**

30 **SECTION 5.** To the extent permitted by federal law, the Department of Commerce,
31 the Housing Finance Agency, and all local housing authorities established under Chapter 157 of
32 the General Statutes shall take all steps necessary to cease providing publicly funded housing
33 benefits to noncitizens residing in the United States without legal permission.

34 **SECTION 6.** To the extent permitted by federal law, the Department of Commerce,
35 the Housing Finance Agency, and all local housing authorities established under Chapter 157 of
36 the General Statutes shall each develop and implement a plan to review and update the eligibility
37 criteria for all publicly funded housing benefits to ensure that noncitizens determined to be
38 residing in the United States without legal permission are ineligible to receive publicly funded
39 housing benefits. As a part of this plan, the Department of Commerce, the Housing Finance
40 Agency, and all local housing authorities established under Chapter 157 of the General Statutes
41 shall develop a method for verifying the immigration status of applicants for publicly funded
42 housing benefits who are noncitizens prior to the initiation of benefits.

43 **SECTION 7.** By January 15, 2026, the Department of Commerce, the Housing
44 Finance Agency, and all local housing authorities established under Chapter 157 of the General
45 Statutes shall report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and the
46 Fiscal Research Division on both of the following:

- 47 (1) The steps taken to implement Section 5 of this act and the resulting success of
48 those steps.
49 (2) The plan developed and implemented pursuant to Section 6 of this act, which
50 shall include a citation to each federal law or regulation that prohibits the
51 Department, Office, Agency, or local government unit from denying

1 eligibility for publicly funded benefits to noncitizens determined to be
2 residing in the United States without legal permission.

3 **SECTION 8.** As used in this Part, "publicly funded housing benefits" means any of
4 the following programs or assistance administered by or through a contract with the Department
5 of Commerce, the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, and any local housing authority
6 established under Chapter 157 of the General Statutes:

- 7 (1) Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).
- 8 (2) Rental assistance programs.
- 9 (3) Transitional housing programs.
- 10 (4) Key Rental Assistance programs (KEY).
- 11 (5) Subsidized housing assistance programs.
- 12 (6) Housing Choice Voucher program (HCV).
- 13 (7) NC Home Advantage Mortgage program.
- 14 (8) NC 1st Home Advantage Down Payment program.
- 15 (9) HOME Investment Partnerships program (HOME).
- 16 (10) Community Living programs.
- 17 (11) Essential Single-Family Rehabilitation program (ESFR).
- 18 (12) Affordable Housing Development Fund program (AHDF).
- 19 (13) Emergency Solutions Grants program (ESG), including the Rapid
20 Unsheltered Survivor Housing program (RUSH).

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22 **PART III. THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM AND THE NORTH**
23 **CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM**

24 **SECTION 9.** By January 15, 2026, the governing bodies of The University of North
25 Carolina System and the North Carolina Community College System shall adopt and implement
26 a policy, to the extent allowed by federal law, to verify that all applicants for enrollment are
27 legally authorized to reside in the United States for determining eligibility for in-State tuition and
28 financial aid.

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30 **PART IV. UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION**

31 **SECTION 10.** Notwithstanding any provision of State law and to the extent
32 permitted by federal law, by January 15, 2026, the Department of Commerce, Division of
33 Employment Security, shall adopt and implement a policy to verify, for unemployment benefits
34 purposes, that all applicants are legally authorized to reside in the United States prior to the first
35 payment of benefits.

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37 **PART V. EFFECTIVE DATE**

38 **SECTION 11.** This act is effective when it becomes law.