

Senate Bill 93

By: Senators Jackson of the 2nd, Jones of the 10th, Tate of the 38th, Seay of the 34th, Butler of the 55th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to social services, so
2 as to provide for the identification and contacting of legal immigrants to facilitate
3 applications for naturalization; to provide for definitions; to provide a short title; to provide
4 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "New Americans Program Act."

8 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

9 Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to social services, is amended
10 by adding a new chapter to read as follows:

11 style="text-align:center">"CHAPTER 11

12 49-11-1.

13 As used in this chapter, the term 'legal immigrant' means a person who is lawfully admitted
14 for permanent residence within the United States as provided for in 8 U.S.C. Section
15 1101(a)(20) and is a resident of this state as defined by paragraph (9) of Code Section
16 40-2-1.

17 49-11-2.

18 To facilitate the naturalization of legal immigrants, the department shall:

- 19 (1) Make an affirmative effort to identify and contact legal immigrants for the purpose
20 of facilitating applications for naturalization of such legal immigrants;
21 (2) Develop programs to inform legal immigrants regarding the process of attaining
22 citizenship;

- 23 (3) Coordinate with existing resources in local governments, schools, colleges and
24 universities, and community organizations;
- 25 (4) Within available funds, ensure that legal immigrants who qualify to apply for
26 naturalization are referred to or otherwise offered naturalization classes;
- 27 (5) Assist legal immigrants in obtaining appropriate test and other exemptions in the
28 naturalization process to the extent permitted under federal law; and
- 29 (6) Report to the General Assembly regarding the progress and barriers of the
30 naturalization facilitation effort provided for by this chapter; it is the intent of the General
31 Assembly that legal immigrants receiving naturalization assistance under this chapter be
32 facilitated in obtaining citizenship within two years of their eligibility to apply."

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SECTION 3.

34 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.