

STATE OF NEW YORK

7319--A

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

May 17, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. SLATER, ANGELINO, BARCLAY, BEEPHAN, BENDETT, BLANKENBUSH, BLUMENCRANZ, BRABENEC, K. BROWN, BYRNES, DeSTEFANO, DiPIETRO, DURSO, FLOOD, GANDOLFO, J. A. GIGLIO, J. M. GIGLIO, GRAY, HAWLEY, LEMONDES, MAHER, MANKTELOW, MCGOWAN, MIKULIN, MILLER, MORINELLO, PALMESANO, PIROZZOLO, RA, REILLY, SIMPSON, SMULLEN, SMITH, TAGUE, TANNOUSIS, WALSH -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to directing the division of homeland security and emergency services to develop a plan to ensure that refugee resettlement agencies monitor certain refugees; and directing the office for new Americans to conduct a background check on refugees; to amend the social services law, in relation to requiring aliens admitted to the United States as refugees to register with the office of temporary and disability assistance; and to amend the not-for-profit corporation law, in relation to requiring refugee resettlement agencies to submit quarterly reports to the bureau of refugee and immigrant assistance and requiring such agencies to monitor refugees for a certain period of time

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 2 of section 709 of the executive law is
2 amended by adding a new paragraph (w) is added to read as follows:

3 (w) develop and implement a plan to ensure that all refugee resettlement agencies comply with the requirements of section one thousand four
4 hundred thirteen of the not-for-profit corporation law.

6 § 2. Paragraphs (m) and (n) of subdivision 5 of section 94-b of the
7 executive law, as added by chapter 206 of the laws of 2014, are amended
8 and a new paragraph (o) is added to read as follows:

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 (m) Encourage and assist local governments in the development of
2 activities to enhance civic engagement among immigrants and in immigrant
3 communities; [~~and~~]

4 (n) Beginning in two thousand fifteen, by June fifteenth of each year,
5 produce a report to the governor, the speaker of the assembly, and the
6 temporary president of the senate describing the activities of the
7 office, including but not limited to, summarizing calls received through
8 the hotline and website, information on ESOL training services provided
9 by the office, the number of immigrants assisted through the opportunity
10 centers, or an estimation thereof, the status of any workforce develop-
11 ment programs, and any other relevant information[~~+~~]; and

12 (o) Screen and perform a background screening of every immigrant who
13 registers pursuant to subdivision nine of section twenty of the social
14 services law, to ensure that the immigrant does not present a security
15 risk to the state or the United States. The office shall provide the
16 results of each such screening to the department of law, the division of
17 state police, the New York city police department, the office of the
18 county sheriff for each county in the state, all municipal police
19 departments and the division of homeland security and emergency
20 services.

21 § 3. Paragraphs (i) and (j) of subdivision 3 of section 20 of the
22 social services law, paragraph (i) as added by chapter 304 of the laws
23 of 1990 and paragraph (j) as amended by section 20 of part PP of chapter
24 56 of the laws of 2022, are amended and a new paragraph (k) is added to
25 read as follows:

26 (i) to assure conformance with federal law, by entering into agree-
27 ments with the federal social security administration and public agen-
28 cies in other states responsible for administering the food stamp
29 program or programs under title I, II, IV-A, IV-D, X, XIV, XVI, or XIX
30 of the social security act under which the department will provide such
31 agencies, when required by federal law and only to the extent so
32 required, with data which may be of use in establishing or verifying
33 eligibility for or benefit amounts in such programs or ability to pay
34 support for a person receiving support collection services including
35 data obtained from the wage reporting system operated by the state
36 department of taxation and finance pursuant to section one hundred
37 seventy-one-a of the tax law[~~+~~], as added by chapter five hundred
38 forty-five of the laws of nineteen hundred seventy-eight;

39 (j) to ensure the provision, on any form required to be completed at
40 application or recertification for the purpose of obtaining financial
41 assistance pursuant to this chapter, the form shall contain a check-off
42 question asking whether the applicant or recipient or a member of his or
43 her family served in the United States military, and an option to answer
44 in the affirmative. Where the applicant or recipient answers in the
45 affirmative to such question, the office of temporary and disability
46 assistance shall ensure that contact information for the state depart-
47 ment of veterans' services is provided to such applicant or recipient
48 addition to any other materials provided[~~+~~]; and

49 (k) to collect and maintain reports submitted by refugee resettlement
50 agencies pursuant to section fourteen hundred thirteen of the not-for-
51 profit corporation law.

52 § 4. Section 20 of the social services law is amended by adding a new
53 subdivision 9 to read as follows:

54 9. (a) The bureau of refugee and immigrant assistance of the office of
55 temporary and disability assistance shall provide to each alien who
56 resides in the state, and who was admitted to the United States of Amer-

1 ica as a refugee pursuant to section two hundred seven of the United
2 States Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. § 1157) or who was
3 seeking asylum pursuant to section two hundred eight of such act (8
4 U.S.C. § 1158), that he or she is required, within thirty days of enter-
5 ing the state, to:

6 (i) register as a refugee with the office of temporary and disability
7 assistance; and

8 (ii) be interviewed by and provide his or her fingerprints to an offi-
9 cer or employee of such office designated by the commissioner of tempo-
10 rary and disability assistance.

11 (b) The commissioner of temporary and disability assistance shall
12 maintain all refugee registration data and information in an electronic
13 database. Not less than on a monthly basis, the office of temporary and
14 disability assistance shall forward a copy of the registration record of
15 each refugee who registered during the preceding month, to the office of
16 children and family services, the department of health, the office for
17 new Americans, the department of law, the division of state police, and
18 the division of homeland security and emergency services.

19 (c) Annually, on or before February first, the commissioner of tempo-
20 rary and disability assistance shall submit a report on the registration
21 program established by this subdivision to the governor, the temporary
22 president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly. Such report
23 shall include the number of refugees who registered during the previous
24 calendar year and their countries of origin.

25 (d) For the purposes of this subdivision, the terms "alien" and "refu-
26 gee" shall have the same meaning as is ascribed to such terms by section
27 one hundred one of the United States Immigration and Nationality Act (8
28 U.S.C. 1101).

29 § 5. The not-for-profit corporation law is amended by adding a new
30 section 1413 to read as follows:

31 § 1413. Refugee resettlement agencies.

32 (a) Definition. "Refugee resettlement agency" means a voluntary agen-
33 cy, as defined pursuant to section 1411 of the United States Immigration
34 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. § 1521), organization, or affiliate of
35 such agency or organization that receives federal funding for refugee
36 reception and placement resettlement services or other federal grants
37 intended for the support of refugee resettlement activities.

38 (b) Reporting requirement. Each refugee resettlement agency shall
39 report, on a quarterly basis, to the bureau of refugee and immigrant
40 assistance of the office of temporary and disability assistance:

41 (1) the total number of refugees resettled by the agency and the total
42 of such refugees in each of the following age groups:

43 (A) under eighteen years of age,

44 (B) between eighteen and sixty-four years of age, and

45 (C) sixty-five years of age or older;

46 (2) the public assistance benefits the refugees have applied for or
47 have been granted; and

48 (3) the countries of origin of the refugees.

49 (c) Monitoring requirement. Each refugee resettlement agency shall
50 monitor refugees who have registered with the office of temporary and
51 disability assistance pursuant to subdivision nine of section twenty of
52 the social services law until such time as a refugee is granted perma-
53 nent resident status by the United States Citizenship and Immigration
54 Services.

55 § 6. This act shall take effect immediately.