

# STATE OF NEW YORK

9491

## IN SENATE

March 18, 2026

Introduced by Sen. PERSAUD -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to amend the executive law, the general municipal law, and the public authorities law, in relation to providing eligibility for state or local public benefits regardless of immigration status

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

1 Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 170-k  
2 to read as follows:

3 § 170-k. Eligibility for state or local public benefits regardless of  
4 immigration status. A state agency may, at its discretion, provide state  
5 or local public benefits, as defined by the federal personal responsi-  
6 bility and work opportunity reconciliation act 8 U.S.C. 1621 or any  
7 successor provision, to persons who, but for such federal law restrict-  
8 ing eligibility for such benefits based on immigration status, would be  
9 otherwise eligible for such benefits from such agency. For the purposes  
10 of this section, a "state agency" shall mean any department, bureau,  
11 commission, board, division, office, or agency of the state.

12 § 2. The general municipal law is amended by adding a new section  
13 99-h-1 to read as follows:

14 § 99-h-1. Eligibility for state or local benefits regardless of immi-  
15 gration status. A municipal corporation may, at its discretion, provide  
16 state or local public benefits, as defined by the federal personal  
17 responsibility and work opportunity reconciliation act 8 U.S.C. 1621 or  
18 any successor provision, to persons who, but for such federal law  
19 restricting eligibility for such benefits based on immigration status,  
20 would be otherwise eligible for such benefits from such municipal corpo-  
21 ration. For purposes of this section, a "municipal corporation" shall  
22 mean a county, city, town, village, school district, or board of cooper-  
23 ative educational services of this state or a board of higher education  
24 in a city having a population of one million or more.

25 § 3. Article 9 of the public authorities law is amended by adding a  
26 new title 13 to read as follows:

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

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TITLE 13STATE OR LOCAL PUBLIC BENEFITS

Section 2988. Eligibility for state or local public benefits regardless of immigration status.

§ 2988. Eligibility for state or local public benefits regardless of immigration status. A state authority or local authority may, at its discretion, provide state or local public benefits, as defined by the federal personal responsibility and work opportunity reconciliation act 8 U.S.C. 1621 or any successor provision, to persons who, but for such federal law restricting eligibility for such benefits based on immigration status, would be otherwise eligible for such benefits from such state or local authority.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.