A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING MEASURES TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO CERTAIN PUBLIC OPPORTUNITIES.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at http://leg.colorado.gov.)

The bill repeals existing provisions that require a person to demonstrate the person's lawful presence in the United States to be eligible for certain public benefits and requires that lawful presence is not a requirement of eligibility for state or local public benefits, as defined by 8 U.S.C. sec. 1621.

The bill amends statutory provisions that still require lawful
presence to clarify acceptable documents to demonstrate eligibility. The general assembly shall not allocate additional funding to any state or local public benefit program for this purpose for fiscal year 2021-22. However, starting for fiscal year 2022-23, any additional funding required for a state or local public benefit program for this purpose is subject to the standard budget process for the applicable program.

Current law prohibits a state agency or political subdivision from entering into or renewing a public contract with a contractor who knowingly employs or contracts persons who are undocumented. The bill repeals that requirement and associated statutory provisions.

Current law requires that state agencies and local governments use secure and verifiable identity documents when providing services or issuing official documents. The bill repeals that requirement and associated statutory provisions.

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Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-76.5-103, add (3)(a.5) as follows:

24-76.5-103. Verification of lawful presence - exceptions - reporting - rules. (3) Verification of lawful presence in the United States is not required:

(a.5) FOR ANY PURPOSE THAT LAWFUL PRESENCE IS NOT REQUIRED BY LAW, ORDINANCE, OR RULE TO RECEIVE BENEFITS PURSUANT TO A FEDERAL STIMULUS LAW OR RULE;

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, repeal and reenact, with amendments, article 76.5 of title 24 as follows:

ARTICLE 76.5
Access to Public Benefits

24-76.5-101. Legislative declaration. (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

(a) PEOPLE WHO IMMIGRATED TO THE UNITED STATES AND LIVE IN COLORADO ARE ESSENTIAL MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITIES;
(b) Every day, the state benefits from the contributions of undocumented immigrants to our society. Immigrants hold jobs that are critical to our economy and communities, and in some industries comprise more than one-third of the workforce. Immigrants make our tourism industry run; build our buildings; lay our roads; provide in-home care to our seniors, children, and people with disabilities; bring food to our tables; and bring food to our doorsteps.

(c) Immigrants comprise over nine percent of Colorado's population and contribute to the economy through the labor force and as consumers and taxpayers. In 2019, immigrants in Colorado paid almost six billion dollars in local, state, and federal taxes. In Colorado, undocumented immigrants pay nearly two hundred seventy-five million dollars in federal taxes and more than one hundred fifty million dollars in state and local taxes annually.

(d) These hardworking Coloradans are diverse and are often a part of a mixed-status family. In Colorado:

(I) The estimated population of undocumented immigrants is one hundred sixty-two thousand, and this number represents approximately eight percent of children under sixteen years of age;

(II) Additionally, an estimated two hundred seventy-six thousand five hundred eighty-nine Coloradans live with a family member who is an undocumented immigrant, including one hundred thirty thousand nine hundred fifty-eight children; and

(III) Children from immigrant families are
DISPROPORTIONATELY MORE LIKELY TO BE FROM A LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLD.

(e) The 2006 special legislative session facilitated the passage of anti-immigrant legislation that left behind immigrant families, citizen families experiencing homelessness, and persons fleeing from domestic violence without the necessary public benefits, including professional and occupational licenses. These policies required state and local agencies to verify the lawful presence of applicants for public benefits, including professional, occupational, and commercial licenses.

(f) Undocumented immigrants who do not have the required documents to establish lawful presence are prevented from applying for such licenses, which, in turn, prevents these persons from fully participating in Colorado’s economy and accessing state and local public benefits, including loans, grants, contracts, food and housing assistance, energy assistance, and other benefits;

(g) Undocumented immigrants are ineligible for most federal benefits and were excluded from receiving federal stimulus money provided in the federal "CARES Act" Pub.L. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (2020), as amended. Local communities were restricted from providing their residents with crucial relief during the COVID-19 pandemic because of these anti-immigrant laws.

(h) In 2018, various industries including child care, agriculture, health care, K-12 education, and transportation
AVERAGED BETWEEN ONE AND TWO AND ONE-HALF JOB OPENINGS PER EVERY UNEMPLOYED WORKER, DEMONSTRATING A HIGH NEED FOR A LARGER LABOR POOL; AND

(i) PROTECTING THE WELL-BEING OF THESE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITIES AND ENSURING THEIR ACCESS TO IMPORTANT PUBLIC BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES, PARTICULARLY DURING A GLOBAL HEALTH CRISIS, MAKES OUR COMMUNITIES HEALTHIER, STRONGER, AND MORE PROSPEROUS.

(2) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES IT IS THE PUBLIC POLICY OF THE STATE OF COLORADO THAT WE ENSURE THAT OUR STATE-FUNDED PROGRAMS ARE NOT DENIED TO PEOPLE BASED ON THEIR IMMIGRATION STATUS.

24-76.5-102. Definition. As used in this article 76.5, unless the context otherwise requires, "STATE OR LOCAL PUBLIC BENEFITS" shall have the same meaning as provided in 8 U.S.C. sec. 1621.

24-76.5-103. Lawful presence consideration prohibited. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, pursuant to 8 U.S.C. sec. 1621 (d), on or after July 1, 2022, lawful presence is not a requirement of eligibility for state or local public benefits, as those state or local public benefits are distributed by any state agency, political subdivision as defined by section 29-1-202 (2), or home rule municipality.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-119, amend (1) as follows:

22-60.5-119. Applications for licenses - authority to suspend licenses - rules. (1) Every application by an individual for a license
issued by the department of education or any authorized agent of such
department shall require the applicant's name AND address, and EITHER
THE APPLICANT'S social security number, THE APPLICANT'S INDIVIDUAL
TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER, OR ANOTHER DOCUMENT VERIFYING
THE APPLICANT'S IDENTITY AS DETERMINED BY THE STATE BOARD OF
EDUCATION.

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-34-107, amend
(1)(a); and repeal (1)(b) as follows:

24-34-107. Applications for licenses - authority to suspend
licenses - rules. (1) (a) Every application by an individual for a license
issued pursuant to the authority set forth in titles 10, 11, and 12 C.R.S.,
by any division, board, or agency of the department of regulatory agencies
shall require REQUIRES the applicant's name, address, and social security
number. Subject to the exemptions found in 8 U.S.C. sec. 1621 (c)(2), to
the extent that any such license constitutes a professional license or
commercial license regulated by 8 U.S.C. sec. 1621, such division, board,
or agency may issue or renew any such license to an individual only if the
individual is lawfully present in the United States, and shall immediately
deny any such license or renewal thereof upon determining that the
individual is unlawfully present in the United States. The individual shall
prove his or her identity with a secure and verifiable document, as that
term is defined in section 24-72.1-102. The division, board, or agency
shall not sell or utilize for any purpose other than those specified in law
the information contained in the secure and verifiable document, and shall
keep such information confidential unless disclosure is required by law;
except that nothing in this paragraph (a) shall be construed to limit public
access to records that are available for public inspection pursuant to
article 72 of this title. If the applicant does not have a social
security number, the division, board, or agency shall require the
applicant’s individual taxpayer identification number, or
another document verifying the applicant’s identity, as
determined by such division, board, or agency.

(b) For purposes of this subsection (1), an individual is unlawfully
present in the United States if the individual is an alien who is not:

(I) A qualified alien as defined in 8 U.S.C. sec. 1641;

(II) A nonimmigrant under the “Immigration and Nationality Act”,
federal Public Law 82-414, as amended; or

(III) An alien who is paroled into the United States under 8 U.S.C.
sec. 1182 (d)(5) for less than one year.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 30-15-401, repeal
(10) as follows:

30-15-401. General regulations - definitions. (10) (a) Subject
to the exemptions found in 8 U.S.C. sec. 1621 (e)(2), to the extent that a
license, permit, certificate, or other authorization to conduct business
issued by a county constitutes a professional license or commercial
license regulated by 8 U.S.C. sec. 1621, a county may issue such
authorization to an individual only if the individual is lawfully present in
the United States, and shall immediately deny any such authorization or
renewal thereof upon determining that the individual is unlawfully
present in the United States. The individual shall prove his or her identity
with a secure and verifiable document, as that term is defined in section
24-72.1-102, C.R.S. A county shall not sell or utilize for any purpose
other than those specified in law the information contained in the secure
and verifiable document, and shall keep such information confidential

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unless disclosure is required by law; except that nothing in this paragraph
(a) shall be construed to limit public access to records that are available
for public inspection pursuant to article 72 of title 24, C.R.S.
(b) For purposes of this subsection (10), an individual is
unlawfully present in the United States if the individual is an alien who
is not:
(I) A qualified alien as defined in 8 U.S.C. sec. 1641;
(II) A nonimmigrant under the "Immigration and Nationality Act",
federal Public Law 82-414, as amended; or
(III) An alien who is paroled into the United States under 8 U.S.C.
sec. 1182 (d)(5) for less than one year.
(c) This subsection (10) shall be enforced without regard to race,
religion, gender, ethnicity, or national origin.

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 31-15-501, **repeal**
(2) as follows:

31-15-501. Powers to regulate businesses. (2) (a) Subject to the
exemptions found in 8 U.S.C. sec. 1621 (c)(2), to the extent that any
license, permit, certificate, or other authorization to conduct business
issued by a municipality constitutes a professional license or commercial
license regulated by 8 U.S.C. sec. 1621, the governing body of a
municipality may issue such authorization to an individual only if the
individual is lawfully present in the United States, and shall immediately
deny any such authorization or renewal thereof upon determining that the
individual is unlawfully present in the United States. The individual shall
prove his or her identity with a secure and verifiable document, as that
term is defined in section 24-72.1-102, C.R.S. A municipality shall not
sell or utilize for any purpose other than those specified in law the
information contained in the secure and verifiable document, and shall keep such information confidential unless disclosure is required by law; except that nothing in this paragraph (a) shall be construed to limit public access to records that are available for public inspection pursuant to article 72 of title 24, C.R.S.

(b) For purposes of this subsection (2), an individual is unlawfully present in the United States if the individual is an alien who is not:

(I) A qualified alien as defined in 8 U.S.C. sec. 1641;

(II) A nonimmigrant under the "Immigration and Nationality Act", federal Public Law 82-414, as amended; or

(III) An alien who is paroled into the United States under 8 U.S.C. sec. 1182 (d)(5) for less than one year.

(c) This subsection (2) shall be enforced without regard to race, religion, gender, ethnicity, or national origin.

SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-2-505, amend (2)(a) as follows:

42-2-505. Identification documents - individuals not lawfully present - rules. (2) Document contents. (a) On an identification document issued under PURSUANT TO this section, the department shall place the phrase "Not valid for federal identification, voting, or FEDERAL public benefit purposes" clearly displayed on the face and incorporated into the machine readable zone. The department may use a substantially similar phrase if required by federal law.

SECTION 8. In Colorado Revised Statutes, repeal article 17.5 of title 8.

SECTION 9. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 8-72-110, amend (3) as follows:
8-72-110. Reciprocal interstate agreements - rules. (3) (a) The division is authorized to enter into arrangements with the appropriate agencies of other states or the federal government whereby individuals performing services in this and other states for employing units under circumstances not specifically provided for in sections 8-70-126 to 8-70-140.7 or under similar provisions in the unemployment compensation laws of such other states shall be deemed to be engaged in employment performed entirely within this state or within one of such other states and whereby potential rights and benefits accumulated under the unemployment compensation laws of several states or under such a law of the federal government, or both, may constitute the basis for the payment of benefits through a single appropriate agency under terms that the department finds will be fair and reasonable as to all affected interests and will not result in any substantial loss to the fund. An individual applying for unemployment insurance benefits through an interstate agreement authorized by this section who is not a Colorado resident and is unable to produce a Colorado driver's license or Colorado identification card shall produce one of the other documents required by section 24-76.5-103 (4)(a), C.R.S., or listed in subsection (3)(b) of this section, a valid driver's license or state identification card issued in another state, or, in the case of individuals residing in Canada, a valid Canadian identification card or valid Canadian driver's license, and execute an affidavit as described in section 24-76.5-103 (4)(b), C.R.S., stating that the individual is a United States citizen, a legal permanent resident, or otherwise lawfully present in the United States pursuant to federal law.

(b) The following documents shall satisfy the production
REQUIREMENT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION:

(I) A United States Military Card or a Military Dependent's Identification Card;

(II) A United States Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Card;

(III) A Native American Tribal Document; OR

(IV) Any Other Document Verifying the Individual's Identity, as Determined by the Division.

SECTION 10. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-21-521, repeal (3)(b) and (4) as follows:

24-21-521. Commission as notary public - qualifications - no immunity or benefit. (3) An applicant for a commission as a notary public must:

(b) Be a citizen or permanent legal resident of the United States or otherwise lawfully present in the United States;

(4) The secretary of state shall verify the lawful presence in the United States of each applicant through the verification process outlined in section 24-76.5-103 (4);

SECTION 11. Effective date. This act takes effect on July 1, 2022; except that section 1 takes effect upon passage.

SECTION 12. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.