

Introduced by Senator Lara

December 1, 2014

An act to add Chapter 1.7 (commencing with Section 12099.10) to Part 2 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, relating to immigration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 10, as introduced, Lara. Immigration: Governor's Office of New Americans.

Existing law establishes the Naturalization Services Program, administered within the Department of Community Services and Development, to fund community-based organizations in assisting legal permanent residents in obtaining citizenship.

This bill would establish the Office of New Americans in the Governor's office for the purpose of, among other things, coordinating an ongoing multiagency, multisector public and private effort to provide information and services to new Americans, overseeing the creation of a statewide plan for the coordination and implementation of any presidential executive action on immigration reform or federal comprehensive immigration reform, and providing outreach, education, and fraud prevention services to the new American population.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:

1 (a) An estimated 2.6 million Californians are undocumented
2 immigrants. One in six children lives with an undocumented parent.
3 Eighty percent of these children are native born United States
4 citizens who stand to benefit from increased family stability and
5 economic security.

6 (b) President Obama has recently decided to employ executive
7 action to expand deferred action on millions of Americans. This
8 population will need assistance with accessing resources and
9 completing the requisite applications for deferred action.

10 (c) California, which has the largest undocumented population
11 in the nation, has more to gain from immigration reform than any
12 other state. California's future depends on our ability to
13 successfully integrate immigrants, regardless of their immigration
14 status, into the economic, social, and political fabric.

15 (d) One in 11 workers is an undocumented immigrant.
16 Legalization will allow undocumented immigrants to join the
17 formal economy and increase their economic contributions. Studies
18 show that immigrants are better off, by almost any economic
19 measure, after gaining legal status and citizenship. And what is
20 good for California's undocumented residents is good for the state.

21 (e) Immigrant workers are important to our state's economy.
22 Studies show that immigrant workers contribute about 31 percent
23 of California's gross domestic product (GDP). Undocumented
24 immigrants in our state contribute about \$130 billion of California's
25 GDP, which is a figure greater than the entire GDP of the state of
26 Nevada.

27 (f) Immigrant households also make up 27 percent of the total
28 household income in California, representing a substantial share
29 of all spending power in this state.

30 (g) The success of a large-scale legalization program will depend
31 significantly upon the coordination of a multiagency, multisector,
32 statewide public and private effort to provide undocumented
33 immigrants accurate, accessible information and services. The
34 state must develop a coordinated effort that leverages public and
35 private resources to provide education, fraud prevention services,
36 application assistance, legal services, English instruction, and
37 civics classes to undocumented immigrants.

38 SEC. 2. Chapter 1.7 (commencing with Section 12099.10) is
39 added to Part 2 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code,
40 to read:

1 CHAPTER 1.7. THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS

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3 12099.10. There is within the Governor's office an Office of
4 New Americans.

5 12099.11. The duties of the office shall include, but are not
6 limited to, all of the following:

7 (a) Coordinating an ongoing multiagency, multisector public
8 and private effort to provide accurate, accessible information and
9 services to new Americans.

10 (b) Overseeing the creation of a statewide plan for the
11 coordination and implementation of any presidential executive
12 action on immigration reform or federal comprehensive
13 immigration reform (CIR).

14 (c) Providing outreach, education, and fraud prevention services
15 to ensure that the new American population has accurate
16 information relating to eligibility requirements with regard to
17 presidential executive action, CIR, federal deferred action for
18 childhood arrivals (DACA), and other policies, and where to obtain
19 reputable application assistance and legal services.

20 (d) Providing citizenship application assistance, legal services,
21 and English and civics instruction.

22 (e) Monitoring the implementation of the following:

23 (1) DACA and any other presidential executive action on
24 immigration reform or CIR.

25 (2) Chapter 524 of the Statutes of 2013 (Assembly Bill 60 of
26 the 2013–14 Regular Session).

27 (3) Chapter 17.1 (commencing with Section 7282) of Division
28 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code, commonly referred to as the
29 TRUST Act.

30 (4) Chapter 752 of the Statutes of 2014 (Senate Bill 1159 of the
31 2013–14 Regular Session).

32 (f) Creating neighborhood-based connections between new
33 Americans and their communities through civic engagement and
34 other opportunities.

35 (g) Marshaling resources to fund these efforts.

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