

HB 4122 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services

Action Date: 02/08/22

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 4-3-0-0

Yeas: 4 - Nelson, Ruiz, Schouten, Williams

Nays: 3 - Noble, Owens, Scharf

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/1, 2/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to distribute funds to community-based organizations to provide one-time maximum financial assistance of \$695 per individual, to recipients of federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals status (DACA), to cover the costs of DACA renewal. Appropriates \$7,000,000, to DHS from federal American Rescue Plan funds for allocation as specified. Sunsets January 1, 2025. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Closing the gap for eligible DACA recipients that have not yet been approved
- Community-based organizations experience in DACA process
- Funds allocations for renewal and legal support
- Data on unemployment rates for DACA recipients
- Eligibility requirements

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Refinement to require DHS to distribute funds to community-based organizations for further distribution to individuals, rather than directly to individuals. Requires DHS to consult with community-based organizations to determine eligibility requirements for qualifying individuals.

BACKGROUND:

Individuals who qualify for federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals status (DACA) must renew their status every two years and pay a fee of \$495.00. The fee may be waived if the applicant meets one of the following conditions: they are under 18 years of age, homeless, in foster care, or under 18 years of age and otherwise lacking any parental or other familial support with an income less than 150% of the U.S. poverty level; they cannot care for themselves because they suffer from a serious chronic disability and their income is less than 150% of the U.S. poverty level; or they have, at the time of the request, accumulated \$10,000 or more in debt in the preceding 12 months as a result of unreimbursed medical expenses for themselves or an immediate family member and their income is less than 150% of the U.S. poverty level.

House Bill 4122 A directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to distribute funds to community-based organizations to provide one-time financial assistance of \$695 per individual, to qualifying DACA recipients for DACA renewal costs and appropriates \$7 million from federal American Rescue Plan funds for this purpose.