

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9667

To amend the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to restrict eligibility for Federal welfare programs to citizens of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 14, 2026

Mr. FULLER (for himself, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Mr. McCORMICK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Financial Services, Education and Workforce, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to restrict eligibility for Federal welfare programs to citizens of the United States, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Securing Healthcare
5 and Income Entitlements for Lawfully Domiciled Citizens
6 (SHIELD Citizens) Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Section 400 of the Personal Responsibility
4 and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996,
5 signed into law by Bill Clinton, declares it a policy
6 of the United States that noncitizens should not de-
7 pend on public resources to meet their needs, and
8 that the availability of public benefits should not
9 constitute an incentive for immigration to the
10 United States.

11 (2) Notwithstanding that policy, there are sev-
12 eral areas where welfare benefits are made available
13 to noncitizens.

14 (3) Congress intends by this Act to close that
15 eligibility to all noncitizens, so that Federal welfare
16 programs are available only to citizens of the United
17 States.

18 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

19 In this Act:

20 (1) **FEDERAL WELFARE PROGRAM.**—The term
21 “Federal welfare program” means any of the fol-
22 lowing, and any successor program:

23 (A) The temporary assistance for needy
24 families program under part A of title IV of the
25 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

1 (B) The supplemental nutrition assistance
2 program under the Food and Nutrition Act of
3 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.).

4 (C) The supplemental security income pro-
5 gram under title XVI of the Social Security Act
6 (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.).

7 (D) The Medicaid program under title XIX
8 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et
9 seq.).

10 (E) Federal housing assistance, including
11 under section 8 of the United States Housing
12 Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) and other feder-
13 ally funded public or assisted housing pro-
14 grams.

15 (F) The special supplemental nutrition
16 program for women, infants, and children
17 (WIC) under section 17 of the Child Nutrition
18 Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786).

19 (G) The low-income home energy assist-
20 ance program under the Low-Income Home En-
21 ergy Assistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8621 et
22 seq.).

23 (H) Any other federally funded cash, food,
24 housing, medical, or energy assistance program
25 for individuals or households that the head of

1 the administering agency designates by regula-
 2 tion as a “Federal welfare program” for pur-
 3 poses of this Act.

4 (2) CITIZEN.—The term “citizen” means a cit-
 5 izen or national of the United States, as defined in
 6 section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality
 7 Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)).

8 **SEC. 4. CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT FOR FEDERAL WEL-**
 9 **FARE PROGRAMS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 401 of the Personal Re-
 11 sponsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of
 12 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1611) is amended—

13 (1) in the section heading, by striking “aliens
 14 who are not qualified aliens” and inserting “individ-
 15 uals who are not citizens”; and

16 (2) Section 401(b) of such Act (8 U.S.C.
 17 1611(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (1) and
 18 redesignating paragraphs (2) through (5) as para-
 19 graphs (1) through (4), respectively.

20 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 402 of
 21 such Act (8 U.S.C. 1612) is amended by striking “quali-
 22 fied alien” each place it appears in a provision relating
 23 to a Federal welfare program (as defined in section 3(1)
 24 of this Act) and inserting “citizen (as defined in section

1 3(2) of the Federal Welfare Citizenship Requirement Act
2 of 2026)”.
3

4 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
tion shall be construed to affect—

5 (1) the exceptions preserved in section 401(b)
6 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Oppor-
7 tunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, as redesignated
8 by subsection (a), for emergency medical treatment,
9 short-term in-kind disaster relief, immunizations and
10 treatment of communicable disease symptoms, and
11 in-kind community services such as soup kitchens,
12 crisis counseling, and short-term shelter; or

13 (2) eligibility for a program not defined as a
14 Federal welfare program under section 3(1), includ-
15 ing the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance
16 programs under title II of the Social Security Act,
17 Medicare under title XVIII of the Social Security
18 Act, and unemployment compensation, which remain
19 governed by existing law.

20 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE; TRANSITION.**

21 (a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act and the amend-
22 ments made by this Act take effect on the first day of
23 the first fiscal year that begins at least 180 days after
24 the date of enactment of this Act.

1 (b) TRANSITION FOR CURRENT RECIPIENTS.—An in-
2 dividual who, as of the day before the effective date under
3 subsection (a), is a qualified alien (as defined in section
4 431 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity
5 Reconciliation Act of 1996, as in effect on the day before
6 that date) lawfully receiving benefits under a Federal wel-
7 fare program shall remain eligible for such benefits for
8 not more than 180 days after the effective date, to allow
9 for redetermination or orderly transition off the program.

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