

By Mr. Cohen of Newton, petition of David B. Cohen and Warren E. Tolman relative to assisting certain legal immigrants adversely impacted by the law mandating employment for persons receiving public assistance. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Seven.

AN ACT FOR THE PROTECTION OF LEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

1 *Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to
2 defeat its purpose, which is to protect from starvation, homeless-
3 ness, illness and death Massachusetts residents legally residing
4 here, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, nec-
5 essary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16A of chapter 6A of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 1994 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 adding the following sentence:— Notwithstanding the provisions
4 of any other law, the commissioner shall administer the program
5 of medical assistance under chapter one hundred and eighteen E in
6 such a manner as not to deprive any person of medical assistance
7 on account of the provisions of the Personal Responsibility and
8 Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 and any regulations
9 promulgated thereunder as such provisions pertain to legal immi-
10 grants.

1 SECTION 2. Section 2 of chapter 18 of the General Laws, as
2 amended by chapter 5 of the acts of 1995, is hereby further
3 amended by inserting after paragraph (B)(i) the following para-
4 graph:—

5 (j) notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, administer
6 all of its programs in such a manner as not to deprive any person
7 of financial assistance on account of the provisions of the

8 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act
9 of 1996 and any regulations promulgated thereunder as such pro-
10 visions pertain to legal immigrants.

1 SECTION 3. Section 1 of chapter 117A of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 1994 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 adding the following paragraph:—

4 Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, the depart-
5 ment shall administer the program of emergency aid to elderly and
6 disabled residents of the commonwealth in such a manner as not
7 to deprive any person of financial assistance on account of the
8 provisions of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity
9 Reconciliation Act of 1996 and any regulations promulgated
10 thereunder as such provisions pertain to legal immigrants.

1 SECTION 4. The first paragraph of section 2 of chapter 118 of
2 the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding
3 the following sentence:— Notwithstanding the provisions of any
4 other law, the department shall administer its program of money
5 payments with respect to families with a dependent child or chil-
6 dren in such a manner as not to deprive any person of financial
7 assistance on account of the provisions of the Personal
8 Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996
9 and any regulations promulgated thereunder as such provisions
10 pertain to legal immigrants.

1 SECTION 5. The first paragraph of section 1 of chapter 118A
2 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
3 adding the following sentence:—

4 Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, the depart-
5 ment shall administer its program of financial assistance to aged
6 and disabled persons who reside within the commonwealth in
7 such a manner as not to deprive any person of financial assistance
8 on account of the provisions of the Personal Responsibility and
9 Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 and any regulations
10 promulgated thereunder as such provisions pertain to legal immi-
11 grants.

1 SECTION 6. Section 9 of chapter 118E of the General Laws, as
2 so appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following para-
3 graph:—

4 Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, the division
5 shall administer its program of medical assistance in such a
6 manner as not to deprive any person of medical assistance on
7 account of the provisions of the Personal Responsibility and Work
8 Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 and any regulations pro-
9 mulgated thereunder as such provisions pertain to legal immi-
10 grants.

1 SECTION 7. The secretary of human services shall immedi-
2 ately establish a state program in the department of transitional
3 assistance providing food stamps to any legal immigrant who
4 would be eligible for federal food stamps but for the provisions of
5 the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation
6 Act of 1996 and any regulations promulgated thereunder as such
7 provisions pertain to legal immigrants.

