



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Raised Bill No. 991

LCO No. 5143



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO LEGAL COUNSEL FOR
INDIGENT INDIVIDUALS IN IMMIGRATION REMOVAL
PROCEEDINGS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Eligible respondent" means an individual who (A) (i) is under
3 eighteen years of age, or was under eighteen years of age at the time a
4 removal proceeding involving the individual commenced, (ii) is a
5 resident of the state, and (iii) is the subject of a removal proceeding
6 pending at the Connecticut Executive Office for Immigration Review;
7 or (B) (i) is eighteen years of age or older, (ii) is a resident of the state,
8 (iii) is being detained by federal officials and is the subject of a removal
9 proceeding pending at the Connecticut Executive Office for
10 Immigration Review, and (iv) has established that he or she is indigent.
- 11 (2) "Indigent" means having gross annual income that is at or below
12 one hundred twenty-five per cent of the federal poverty level.
- 13 (b) An eligible respondent shall have the right to legal

14 representation in all proceedings related to a removal taking place at
15 the Connecticut Executive Office for Immigration Review.

16 (c) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, and each succeeding
17 fiscal year thereafter, the Office of the Attorney General, utilizing
18 transfer invoices, shall remit each fiscal year, beginning on July 1, 2019,
19 and annually thereafter, two million four hundred fifty thousand
20 dollars to a charitable foundation that has experience administering
21 funds related to advocacy for immigrants from moneys received by the
22 Office of the Attorney General in connection with the settlement of any
23 lawsuit to which the state is a party. Moneys remitted to such
24 charitable foundation shall be used for the provision of legal counsel to
25 eligible respondents, as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a right to legal representation in immigration removal proceedings at the federal Executive Office for Immigration Review.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]