



2021 General Session of the Colorado Legislature Immigrant-inclusive Bills of Note

- **House Bill 21-1054** (Sen J. Gonzales and Rep. D. Jackson): This bill ensures that those without lawful presence in the United States can access state and local **housing assistance**. While some housing programs may have federal eligibility requirements that require certain types of immigration status, undocumented individuals and families will have increased access to housing stability resources.
- **Senate Bill 21-077** (Sen J Gonzales and Reps. A Benevidez, C. Kipp): Immigration status will no longer be an eligibility requirement for state and local **licenses, certificates or registration**. Examples of this include occupational licenses, like Certified Nursing Assistants, or municipal business licenses. This change affects all Coloradans without lawful presence, including those with work authorization such as DACA recipients.
- **Senate Bill 21-009** (Sen S. Jaquez Lewis and Rep. Y Caraveo): Through the creation of a new program, Coloradans, including those without documentation, will have access to **contraception and counseling services** so that they may plan what is best for themselves and their families.
- **Senate Bill SB 21-131** (Sen J. Gonzales and Rep S. Gonzales-Gutierrez). To ensure the **data privacy** of applicants to state programs and services, including drivers licenses, state agencies cannot disclose personal identifying information for the purpose of immigration enforcement, unless required by law or a court-issued subpoena, warrant, or order. State agencies must obtain certifications before providing access to shared databases, must limit collection of information on immigration status to that which is necessary, and must submit regular reports to ensure their compliance with the new law.
- **House Bill 21-1150** (Sen J. Gonzales and Rep I Jodeh). The creation of a Colorado **Office of New Americans** in the Department of Labor and Employment ensures immigrant-related issues can be elevated to and addressed by the state government. The bill creates a community advisory committee and envisions investment into community based organization infrastructure to ensure equitable access for immigrants to opportunities.
- **House Bill 21-1194** (Sen D. Moreno and Reps. K. Tipper, N. Ricks): An **immigration legal defense fund** will expand the availability of free legal services and representation to low-income individuals in immigration proceedings, with a priority on those in immigration detention and those experiencing deportation in rural areas of the state. The Office of New Americans will award grants through this fund to nonprofit organizations in Colorado to provide this free legal advice, counseling, and representation.

- **House Bill 21-199** (Sens S. Jaquez Lewis, F Winter and Reps. D. Esgar, S. Gonzales-Gutierrez). In order to create equity in opportunities, effective July 1, 2022, lawful presence will no longer be a requirement for some state and local public benefits, where permitted under federal law. This expands access beyond what becomes available under SB 21-077 and HB 21-1054.
- **House Bill 21-1057** (Sens R Rodriguez, J Cooke; Reps K Tipper, D. Roberts). Current law states that it is criminal to threaten to report another person's immigration status in order to steal money or valuables. This adds that it is criminal to threaten to report someone's immigration status in order to make someone do something (or not do something).
- **House Bill 21-1075** (Sen J Gonzales and Rep. S. Lontine). Words matter. This bill eliminates the use of the term illegal alien in contracts for services and replaces it with "worker without authorization."
- **Senate Bill 21-233** (Sens R Rodriguez and C Hansen; Reps A. Benavidez, S. Gonzales-Gutierrez). Many immigrants without lawful presence are ineligible for unemployment assistance due solely to their immigration status. This bill facilitates a study to help understand what inclusion in unemployment benefits for undocumented Coloradans could look like in our state.
- **House Bill 21-1060** (Sen J Gonzales and Reps S. Gonzales-Gutierrez and I. Jodeh). The "U visa" provides a pathway under federal immigration law towards lawful permanent residency for immigrant victims of certain crimes. Eligible applicants must have a certification form from law enforcement stating that the person has been a victim and is or has been helpful in the investigation or prosecution of the crime. This bill will ensure that all law enforcement agencies complete the certification within a specific timeline, and it also outlines factors that can be considered, protects personal information from immigration authorities, and ensures law enforcement tells victims about the U visa.
- **SB 21-087** (Sens J Danielson and D. Moreno and Reps K McCormick and Y Caraveo). This bill creates expanded Agricultural Workers' Rights, regardless of someone's immigration status, by bringing agricultural workers under the same protections many other workers enjoy - minimum wage guarantees and overtime pay, meal and rest breaks, the right to organize, have visitors at employee housing, and access overwork and health protections.