A bill to be entitled
An act relating to temporary licensure and
certification; providing legislative intent regarding
certain professionals who evacuated from Puerto Rico
during 2017; authorizing specified professionals to
obtain a 2-year temporary license or certificate to
work in the state; providing requirements for
obtaining such license or certificate; providing for
expiration and prohibiting renewal of such license or
certificate; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. (1) The Legislature recognizes the vast
devastation and destruction that transformed and impacted homes,
families, businesses, and commerce in Puerto Rico as a result of
the hurricanes that swept through the Caribbean during 2017;
that the citizens and businesses of Puerto Rico may not be able
to fully rebuild the island for years to come; and that, given
the dire financial problems plaguing the citizens of Puerto
Rico, many families have become economically distressed and can
no longer work in a stable and predictable way. The Legislature
also recognizes that many of these citizens, by necessity, have
evacuated their homes and migrated to Florida to find gainful
employment. To that end, the Legislature determines that it is
in the best interest of the state to provide a legal path to
grant certain professionals from Puerto Rico an opportunity to
receive a temporary license or certificate in this state so they
may become employed.

(2) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, professionals
from each of the following licensed or certified professions who
evacuated from Puerto Rico during the 2017 calendar year may
receive a 2-year temporary license or certificate:

(a) Barbers licensed under chapter 476.
(b) Clinical social workers licensed under chapter 491.
(c) Cosmetologists licensed under chapter 477.
(d) Engineers licensed under chapter 471.
(e) Mental health counselors licensed under chapter 491.
(f) Teachers certified under rules of the State Board of
    Education.

(3) To be eligible to receive a temporary license or
certificate under subsection (2), the professional must provide
the applicable licensing entity or the State Board of Education
with documentation of his or her license or certificate in
Puerto Rico in the respective field. The temporary license or
certificate shall expire 2 years after issuance and is
nonrenewable.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.