

By Senator Torres

15-01658-18

20181708\_\_

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

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

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

29       (2) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, professionals

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30 who evacuated from Puerto Rico during the 2017 calendar year may  
31 receive a 2-year temporary license in the following licensed  
32 professions from the applicable licensing entities:

33 (a) Barbers licensed under chapter 476, Florida Statutes.

34 (b) Clinical social workers licensed under chapter 491,  
35 Florida Statutes.

36 (c) Cosmetologists licensed under chapter 477, Florida  
37 Statutes.

38 (d) Engineers licensed under chapter 471, Florida Statutes.

39 (e) Mental health counselors licensed under chapter 491,  
40 Florida Statutes.

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

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