



2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 506

November 13, 2015 - Introduced by Representatives RIEMER, T. LARSON, GENRICH, MILROY, MASON, BERCEAU, KESSLER, GOYKE, BROSTOFF, BARNES, SPREITZER, ZAMARRIPA, POPE, SUBECK, CONSIDINE and BOWEN, cosponsored by Senators HARRIS DODD and L. TAYLOR. Referred to Committee on Children and Families.

1 **AN ACT relating to:** grant funding for services for Syrian refugees.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to apply for federal grant funding to support the resettlement of Syrian refugees in this state and, if received, to contract with refugee service organizations to provide certain services to those refugees.

Under current law, all moneys that DCF receives from the federal government for refugee assistance and the administration of refugee assistance programs must be expended for those purposes. Currently, DCF uses grant funds obtained from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to contract with local refugee service provider agencies and consortia to support refugees resettling in the state by assisting those refugees in gaining employment and by providing other resettlement services (refugee services). This bill requires DCF to apply for grant funding from ORR and, if obtained, to use the funding to contract with local refugee service provider agencies and consortia to provide refugee services for no fewer than 937 Syrian refugees resettling in the state.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

2 **SECTION 1. Nonstatutory provisions.**

ASSEMBLY BILL 506**SECTION 1**

1 (1) SYRIAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT.

2 (a) The department of children and families shall apply for grant funding from
3 the U.S. department of health and human services, office of refugee resettlement and
4 any other appropriate federal agency to support the resettlement of no fewer than
5 937 Syrian refugees in this state by assisting those refugees in gaining employment
6 and by providing other resettlement services.

7 (b) If the department of children and families receives the grant funding
8 applied for under paragraph (a), the department shall credit the amount received to
9 the appropriation account under section 20.437 (2) (om) of the statutes. The
10 department shall use the funding to contract with local refugee service provider
11 agencies and consortia to support the resettlement of no fewer than 937 Syrian
12 refugees in this state who are not already receiving these services by assisting those
13 refugees in gaining employment and by providing other resettlement services.

14 (c) The department of children and families shall administer any grant funding
15 received under this subsection in compliance with all relevant federal laws and
16 regulations.

17 (END)