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1st Sub. H.B. 386: Immigration Amendments

1st Substitute H.B. 386 repeals two state-created immigration program frameworks in Utah statute, the Guest Worker Program and the Utah Pilot Sponsored Resident Immigrant Program Act, and makes related technical and conforming changes across the Utah Code.

The bill also removes a scheduled repeal of Utah's Private Employer Verification Act that was tied to the Guest Worker Program start date.

In addition, the bill repeals the Identity Theft Victims Restricted Account provisions that were also tied to the Guest Worker Program start date.

Key Points

- Repeals the Guest Worker Program and related provisions
- Repeals the Utah Pilot Sponsored Resident Immigrant Program Act
- Keeps the Private Employer Verification Act in place by removing its contingent repeal date
- Repeals the Identity Theft Victims Restricted Account (and related funding references)

Background

Utah's Guest Worker Program is a state-administered permit program intended to allow certain undocumented individuals to obtain a state-issued permit to live and work in Utah under defined conditions. Implementation of the program to date depended on federal approval through a waiver that has not been granted. As a result, the program has not gone into effect. However, the program is scheduled by statute to go into effect on July 1, 2027. HB386S01 will prevent the program from going into effect.

Because the Guest Worker Program start date is used as a trigger for other statutory changes, H.B. 386 also:

- Removes the contingent repeals of the Private Employer Verification Act that was scheduled to occur on that start date.
- Removes the Identity Theft Victims Restricted Account provisions that were likewise tied to that start date.

The same is true for the Utah Pilot Sponsored Resident Immigrant Program Act. This program requires the state to create and implement a program that would allow a resident immigrant to reside, work, and study in Utah. This program is likewise scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2027. HB386S01 will prevent the program from going into effect.