

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 262

To waive certain prohibitions with respect to nationals of Cuba coming to the United States to play organized professional baseball.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 1999

Mr. SERRANO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To waive certain prohibitions with respect to nationals of Cuba coming to the United States to play organized professional baseball.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Baseball Diplomacy
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REMOVAL OF CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS.**

7 (a) RESTRICTION ON EMBARGO AUTHORITY.—The
8 authorities of section 620(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act

1 of 1961, those authorities under section 5(b) of the Trad-
2 ing with the enemy Act that were being exercised with re-
3 spect to Cuba on July 1, 1977, as a result of a national
4 emergency declared before that date, and are being exer-
5 cised on the date of the enactment of this Act, and section
6 203 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act
7 may not be exercised to regulate or prohibit—

8 (1) those transactions permitted under section
9 515.564 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as
10 in effect on July 1, 1994, by or on behalf of a
11 Cuban national who enters the United States from
12 Cuba on a visa issued by the State Department
13 under section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(b) of the Immigra-
14 tion and Nationality Act for the purpose of playing
15 organized professional baseball; and

16 (2) a Cuban national described in paragraph
17 (1) from returning to Cuba the earnings made in
18 playing organized professional baseball.

19 (b) RESTRICTION ON IMMIGRATION AUTHORITY.—
20 The authority contained in section 212(f) of the Immigra-
21 tion and Nationality Act may not be used to deny a visa
22 described in subsection (a)(1) to a Cuban national for the
23 purpose of playing organized professional baseball.

24 (c) INAPPLICABILITY OF OTHER RESTRICTIONS.—
25 This section applies notwithstanding section 102(h) of the

1 Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD)
2 Act of 1996.

3 **SEC. 3. DURATION OF VISA.**

4 A visa described in section 2(a)(1)—

5 (1) shall permit the alien to whom the visa is
6 issued to remain in the United States only for the
7 duration of the baseball season; and

8 (2) need not be renewed for subsequent entries
9 into the United States for the duration of a valid
10 contract entered into between the alien and the pro-
11 fessional baseball team with which the alien played
12 in the preceding baseball season.

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