

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 371

AN ACT

To facilitate the naturalization of aliens who served with special guerrilla units or irregular forces in Laos.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Hmong Veterans’ Nat-
3 uralization Act of 2000”.

4 **SEC. 2. EXEMPTION FROM ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIRE-**
5 **MENT FOR CERTAIN ALIENS WHO SERVED**
6 **WITH SPECIAL GUERRILLA UNITS OR IRREG-**
7 **ULAR FORCES IN LAOS.**

8 The requirement of paragraph (1) of section 312(a)
9 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
10 1423(a)(1)) shall not apply to the naturalization of any
11 person—

12 (1) who—

13 (A) was admitted into the United States as
14 a refugee from Laos pursuant to section 207 of
15 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
16 1157); and

17 (B) served with a special guerrilla unit, or
18 irregular forces, operating from a base in Laos
19 in support of the United States military at any
20 time during the period beginning February 28,
21 1961, and ending September 18, 1978; or

22 (2) who—

23 (A) satisfies the requirement of paragraph
24 (1)(A); and

25 (B) was the spouse of a person described
26 in paragraph (1) on the day on which such de-

1 scribed person applied for admission into the
2 United States as a refugee.

3 **SEC. 3. SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CONCERNING CIVICS RE-**
4 **QUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN ALIENS WHO**
5 **SERVED WITH SPECIAL GUERRILLA UNITS OR**
6 **IRREGULAR FORCES IN LAOS.**

7 The Attorney General shall provide for special consid-
8 eration, as determined by the Attorney General, con-
9 cerning the requirement of paragraph (2) of section
10 312(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
11 1423(a)(2)) with respect to the naturalization of any per-
12 son described in paragraph (1) or (2) of section 2 of this
13 Act.

14 **SEC. 4. DOCUMENTATION OF QUALIFYING SERVICE.**

15 A person seeking an exemption under section 2 or
16 special consideration under section 3 shall submit to the
17 Attorney General documentation of their, or their
18 spouse's, service with a special guerrilla unit, or irregular
19 forces, described in section 2(1)(B), in the form of—

20 (1) original documents;

21 (2) an affidavit of the serving person's superior
22 officer;

23 (3) two affidavits from other individuals who
24 also were serving with such a special guerrilla unit,

1 or irregular forces, and who personally knew of the
2 person's service; or

3 (4) other appropriate proof.

4 **SEC. 5. DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR EXEMPTION**
5 **AND SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.**

6 In determining a person's eligibility for an exemption
7 under section 2 or special consideration under section 3,
8 the Attorney General—

9 (1) shall review the refugee processing docu-
10 mentation for the person, or, in an appropriate case,
11 for the person and the person's spouse, to verify that
12 the requirements of section 2 relating to refugee ap-
13 plications and admissions have been satisfied;

14 (2) shall consider the documentation submitted
15 by the person under section 4;

16 (3) shall request an advisory opinion from the
17 Secretary of Defense regarding the person's, or their
18 spouse's, service in a special guerrilla unit, or irreg-
19 ular forces, described in section 2(1)(B) and shall
20 take into account that opinion; and

21 (4) may consider any certification prepared by
22 the organization known as "Lao Veterans of Amer-
23 ica, Inc.", or any similar organization maintaining
24 records with respect to Hmong veterans or their
25 families.

1 **SEC. 6. DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF**
2 **FEES.**

3 This Act shall apply to a person only if the person's
4 application for naturalization is filed, as provided in sec-
5 tion 334 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
6 1445), with appropriate fees not later than 18 months
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

8 **SEC. 7. LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES.**

9 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the
10 total number of aliens who may be granted an exemption
11 under section 2 or special consideration under section 3,
12 or both, may not exceed 45,000.

Passed the House of Representatives May 2, 2000.

Attest:

Clerk.