

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1806

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to change the requirements for naturalization to citizenship through service in the Armed Forces of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 11, 2003

Mr. PUTNAM introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to change the requirements for naturalization to citizenship through service in the Armed Forces of the United States.

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. PRIORITY CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS**

4 **FOR NATURALIZATION THROUGH SERVICE IN**
5 **THE ARMED FORCES.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
7 sion of law, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall en-
8 sure that applications for naturalization through service
9 in the Armed Forces of the United States under sections

1 328, 329, and 329A shall be expedited to the greatest ex-
2 tent possible and shall be given priority consideration over
3 all other applications for naturalization by the Bureau of
4 Citizenship and Immigration Services.

5 (b) VERIFICATION OF MILITARY RECORDS.—The
6 Secretary of Defense shall ensure that verifications of mili-
7 tary records required for the consideration of application
8 for naturalization through service in the Armed Forces of
9 the United States under sections 328, 329, and 329A of
10 the Immigration and Nationality Act are provided as expe-
11 ditiously as possible.

12 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENTS FOR NATURALIZATION TO CITIZEN-**
13 **SHIP THROUGH SERVICE IN THE ARMED**
14 **FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES.**

15 (a) PERIOD OF REQUIRED SERVICE REDUCED TO 1
16 YEAR.—Section 328(a) of the Immigration and Nation-
17 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1439(a)) is amended by striking
18 “three” and inserting “one”.

19 (b) PROHIBITION ON IMPOSITION OF FEES RELAT-
20 ING TO NATURALIZATION.—Section 328(b) of the Immi-
21 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1439(b)) is amend-
22 ed—

23 (1) by striking the period at the end of para-
24 graph (3) and inserting “; and”; and

25 (2) by adding after paragraph (3) the following:

1 “(4) notwithstanding any other provision of
2 law, no fee shall be charged or collected from the ap-
3 plicant for filing an application under subsection (a)
4 or issuing a certificate of naturalization upon admis-
5 sion to citizenship, and no clerk of any State court
6 shall charge or collect any fee for such services un-
7 less the laws of the State require such charge to be
8 made, in which case nothing more than the portion
9 of the fee required to be paid to the State shall be
10 charged or collected.”.

11 (c) CONDUCT OF NATURALIZATION PROCEEDINGS
12 OVERSEAS FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF
13 THE UNITED STATES.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
14 sion of law, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Sec-
15 retary of State, and the Secretary of Defense, shall ensure
16 that any applications, interviews, filings, oaths, cere-
17 monies, or other proceedings under title III of the Immi-
18 gration and Nationality Act relating to naturalization of
19 members of the Armed Forces are available through
20 United States embassies and consulates and, as prac-
21 ticable, United States military installations overseas.

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