

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2655

AN ACT

To amend and extend the Irish Peace Process
Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998.

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To amend and extend the Irish Peace Process Cultural and
Training Program Act of 1998.

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. AMENDMENT AND EXTENSION OF IRISH PEACE**
2 **PROCESS CULTURAL AND TRAINING PRO-**
3 **GRAM.**

4 (a) IRISH PEACE PROCESS CULTURAL AND TRAIN-
5 ING PROGRAM ACT.—

6 (1) PROGRAM PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS.—

7 Section 2(a) of the Irish Peace Process Cultural and
8 Training Program Act of 1998 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note)
9 is amended by adding at the end the following:

10 “(5) PROGRAM PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS.—

11 An alien entering the United States as a participant
12 in the program shall satisfy the following require-
13 ments:

14 “(A) The alien shall be a citizen of the
15 United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland.

16 “(B) The alien shall be between 21 and 35
17 years of age on the date of departure for the
18 United States.

19 “(C) The alien shall have resided continu-
20 ously in a designated county for not less than
21 6 months before such date.

22 “(D) The alien shall have been continu-
23 ously unemployed for not less than 6 months
24 before such date.

25 “(E) The alien may not have a degree
26 from an institution of higher education.”.

1 (2) EXTENSION OF PROGRAM.—Section 2 of the
2 Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program
3 Act of 1998 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended—

4 (A) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “the
5 third program year and for the 4 subsequent
6 years,” and inserting “each program year,”;

7 (B) by amending subsection (d)(1) to read
8 as follows:

9 “(1) Effective October 1, 2008, this Act is re-
10 pealed, except for subsection (a)(3), which is re-
11 pealed effective October 1, 2009.”; and

12 (C) in subsection (d)(2), by striking
13 “2006,” and inserting “2008.”.

14 (3) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—The Irish
15 Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act
16 of 1998 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended—

17 (A) by striking “Attorney General” each
18 place such term appears and inserting “Sec-
19 retary of Homeland Security”; and

20 (B) by striking “Immigration and Natu-
21 ralization Service” each place such term ap-
22 pears and inserting “Department of Homeland
23 Security”.

24 (b) IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.—

1 (1) REQUIREMENTS FOR NONIMMIGRANT STA-
2 TUS.—Section 101(a)(15)(Q) of the Immigration
3 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(Q)) is
4 amended—

5 (A) by striking “Attorney General” each
6 place such term appears and inserting “Sec-
7 retary of Homeland Security”; and

8 (B) in clause (ii)(I)—

9 (i) by striking “35 years of age or
10 younger having a residence” and inserting
11 “citizen of the United Kingdom or the Re-
12 public of Ireland, 21 to 35 years of age,
13 unemployed for not less than 6 months,
14 and having a residence for not less than 6
15 months”; and

16 (ii) by striking “36 months)” and in-
17 serting “24 months)”.

18 (2) FOREIGN RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT.—Sec-
19 tion 212 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
20 U.S.C. 1182) is amended—

21 (A) by redesignating the subsection (p) as
22 added by section 1505(f) of Public Law 106-
23 386 (114 Stat. 1526) as subsection (s); and

24 (B) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(t)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), no per-
2 son admitted under section 101(a)(15)(Q)(ii)(I), or ac-
3 quiring such status after admission, shall be eligible to
4 apply for nonimmigrant status, an immigrant visa, or per-
5 manent residence under this Act until it is established that
6 such person has resided and been physically present in the
7 person’s country of nationality or last residence for an ag-
8 gregate of at least 2 years following departure from the
9 United States.

10 “(2) The Secretary of Homeland Security may waive
11 the requirement of such 2-year foreign residence abroad
12 if the Secretary determines that—

13 “(A) departure from the United States would
14 impose exceptional hardship upon the alien’s spouse
15 or child (if such spouse or child is a citizen of the
16 United States or an alien lawfully admitted for per-
17 manent residence); or

18 “(B) the admission of the alien is in the public
19 interest or the national interest of the United
20 States.”.

Passed the House of Representatives October 7,
2003.

Attest:

Clerk.