

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2655

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2003

Mr. WALSH (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mrs. McCARTHY of New York, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. QUINN, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FROST, and Mr. DUNCAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on International Relations, 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 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT AND EXTENSION OF IRISH PEACE**
4 **PROCESS CULTURAL AND TRAINING PRO-**
5 **GRAM ACT OF 1998.**

6 (a) AMENDMENT OF PROGRAM.—

1 (1) Section 2(a)(2)(A) of such the Irish Peace
2 Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998
3 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended by adding at the
4 end “Not more than 20 percent of participants in
5 the program may have a degree from an institution
6 of higher education.”.

7 (2) Section 101(a)(15)(Q)(ii)(I) of the Immi-
8 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
9 1101(a)(15)(Q)(ii)(I)) is amended—

10 (A) by striking “35 years of age or young-
11 er having a residence” and inserting “21 to 35
12 years of age, unemployed for not less than 6
13 months, having resided for not less 6 months”;
14 and

15 (B) by striking “36 months” and inserting
16 “24 months”.

17 (3) Section 212(e) of the Immigration and Na-
18 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(e)) is amended by in-
19 serting after subsection (p) the following:

20 “(q)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), no per-
21 son admitted under section 101(a)(15)(Q)(ii)(I) or acquir-
22 ing such status after admission shall be eligible to apply
23 for an immigrant visa, or for permanent residence, or for
24 a nonimmigrant visa under this Act until it is established
25 that such person has resided and been physically present

1 in the country of nationality or last residence for an aggre-
2 gate of a least one year following departure from the
3 United States.

4 “(2) The Secretary of Homeland Security may waive
5 the requirement of such one-year foreign residence abroad
6 if the Secretary determines that—

7 “(A) departure from the United States would
8 impose exceptional hardship upon the alien’s spouse
9 or child (if such spouse or child is a citizen of the
10 United States or a lawfully resident alien);

11 “(B) that the alien cannot return to the coun-
12 try of the alien’s nationality or last residence be-
13 cause the alien would be subject to persecution on
14 account of race, religion, or political opinion; or

15 “(C) the admission of the alien is in the public
16 interest or the national interest of the United
17 States.”.

18 (b) EXTENSION OF PROGRAM.—Section 2 of the Irish
19 Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of
20 1998 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (d)(1) by striking “2006,”
22 and inserting “2008,”;

23 (2) in subsection (d)(2) by striking “2005,”
24 and inserting “2011,”;

1 (3) in subsection (a)(3) by striking “the third
2 program year and for the 3 subsequent years,” and
3 inserting “each program year”.

4 (c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING CHANGES.—The
5 Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act
6 of 1998 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 105–319) is
7 amended—

8 (1) by striking “Attorney General” each place
9 it appears and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Se-
10 curity”; and

11 (2) by striking “Immigration and Naturaliza-
12 tion Service” each place it appears and inserting
13 “Department of Homeland Security”.

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