

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3123

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to exempt certain elderly persons from demonstrating an understanding of the English language and the history, principles, and form of government of the United States as a requirement for naturalization, and to permit certain other elderly persons to take the history and government examination in a language of their choice.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2003

Mr. NADLER (for himself, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. DOOLEY of California, Mr. CASE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. WEINER, and Mr. ENGEL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to exempt certain elderly persons from demonstrating an understanding of the English language and the history, principles, and form of government of the United States as a requirement for naturalization, and to permit certain other elderly persons to take the history and government examination in a language of their choice.

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 “Senior Citizenship Act
3 of 2003”.

4 **SEC. 2. FULFILLMENT BY ELDERLY PERSONS OF REQUIRE-**
5 **MENT FOR NATURALIZATION RELATING TO**
6 **KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE.**

7 Section 312(b)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality
8 Act (8 U.S.C. 1423(b)(2)) is amended—

9 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),
10 by striking “334, either—” and inserting “334—”;

11 (2) in subparagraph (A), by striking “, or” at
12 the end and inserting a semicolon;

13 (3) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period
14 at the end and inserting “; or”; and

15 (4) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(C) is over sixty-five years of age and has been
17 living in the United States for periods totaling at
18 least five years subsequent to a lawful admission for
19 permanent residence.”.

20 **SEC. 3. FULFILLMENT BY ELDERLY PERSONS OF REQUIRE-**
21 **MENT FOR NATURALIZATION RELATING TO**
22 **KNOWLEDGE OF GOVERNMENT OF THE**
23 **UNITED STATES.**

24 Section 312(b)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality
25 Act (8 U.S.C. 1423(b)(3)) is amended—

1 (1) by striking “(3)” and inserting “(3)(A)”;
2 and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(B) In the case of a person who, on the date of the
5 filing of the person’s application for naturalization, as pro-
6 vided in section 334, is over sixty-five years of age and
7 has been living in the United States for periods totaling
8 at least five years subsequent to a lawful admission for
9 permanent residence, the Attorney General shall permit
10 the person to fulfill the requirement of subsection (a)(2)
11 through an examination in a language other than English
12 selected by the person.

13 “(C) In the case of a person who, on the date of the
14 filing of the person’s application for naturalization, as pro-
15 vided in section 334, is over seventy-five years of age and
16 has been living in the United States for periods totaling
17 at least five years subsequent to a lawful admission for
18 permanent residence, the requirement of subsection (a)(2)
19 shall not apply.”.

20 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

21 The amendments made by this Act shall take effect
22 on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply
23 to applications for naturalization pending on or after such
24 date.

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