Calendar No. 663

S. 3992

To authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain alien students who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 30, 2010

Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. LEAHY) introduced the following bill; which was read the first time

DECEMBER 1, 2010

Read the second time and placed on the calendar

A BILL

To authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain alien students who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children and for other purposes.

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

This Act may be cited as the “Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act of 2010” or the “DREAM Act of 2010”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

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SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise specifically provided, a term used in this Act that is used in the immigration laws shall have the meaning given such term in the immigration laws.

(2) ARMED FORCES.—The term “Armed Forces” has the meaning given the term “armed forces” in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.

(3) CONDITIONAL NONIMMIGRANT.—
(A) **DEFINITION.**—The term “conditional nonimmigrant” means an alien who is granted conditional nonimmigrant status under this Act.

(B) **DESCRIPTION.**—A conditional non-immigrant—

(i) shall be considered to be an alien within a nonimmigrant class for purposes of the immigration laws;

(ii) may have the intention permanently to reside in the United States; and

(iii) is not required to have a foreign residence which the alien has no intention of abandoning.

(4) **IMMIGRATION LAWS.**—The term “immigration laws” has the meaning given such term in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17)).

(5) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given such term in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002), except that the term does not include an institution of higher education outside the United States.
SEC. 4. CANCELLATION OF REMOVAL OF CERTAIN LONG-TERM RESIDENTS WHO ENTERED THE UNITED STATES AS CHILDREN.

(a) Special Rule for Certain Long-term Residents Who Entered the United States as Children.—

(1) In General.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and except as otherwise provided in this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security may cancel removal of an alien who is inadmissible or deportable from the United States, and grant the alien conditional nonimmigrant status, if the alien demonstrates by a preponderance of the evidence that—

(A) the alien has been physically present in the United States for a continuous period of not less than 5 years immediately preceding the date of the enactment of this Act and was younger than 16 years of age on the date the alien initially entered the United States;

(B) the alien has been a person of good moral character since the date the alien initially entered the United States;

(C) the alien—

(i) is not inadmissible under paragraph (1), (2), (3), (4), (6)(E), (6)(G), (8), (10)(A), (10)(C), or (10)(D) of section
212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a));

(ii) is not deportable under paragraph (1)(E), (1)(G), (2), (4), (5), or (6) of section 237(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1227(a));

(iii) has not ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in the persecution of any person on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion; and

(iv) has not been convicted of—

(I) any offense under Federal or State law punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of more than 1 year; or

(II) 3 or more offenses under Federal or State law, for which the alien was convicted on different dates for each of the 3 offenses and sentenced to imprisonment for an aggregate of 90 days or more;

(D) the alien—
(i) has been admitted to an institution of higher education in the United States; or

(ii) has earned a high school diploma or obtained a general education development certificate in the United States;

(E) the alien has never been under a final administrative or judicial order of exclusion, deportation, or removal, unless the alien—

(i) has remained in the United States under color of law after such order was issued; or

(ii) received the order before attaining the age of 16 years; and

(F) the alien was younger than 30 years of age on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) WAIVER.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security may waive the ground of ineligibility under paragraph (1), (4), or (6) of section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act and the ground of deportability under paragraph (1) of section 237(a) of that Act for humanitarian purposes or family unity or when it is otherwise in the public interest.
(3) PROCEDURES.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide a procedure by regulation allowing eligible individuals to apply affirmatively for the relief available under this subsection without being placed in removal proceedings.

(4) DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION.—An alien shall submit an application for cancellation of removal and conditional nonimmigrant status under this subsection no later than the date that is 1 year after the later of—

(A) the date the alien was admitted to an institution of higher education in the United States;

(B) the date the alien earned a high school diploma or obtained a general education development certificate in the United States; or

(C) the date of the enactment of this Act.

(5) SUBMISSION OF BIOMETRIC AND BIOGRAPHIC DATA.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may not cancel the removal of an alien or grant conditional nonimmigrant status to the alien under this subsection unless the alien submits biometric and biographic data, in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary. The Secretary shall provide an alternative procedure for applicants who
are unable to provide such biometric or biographic
data because of a physical impairment.

(6) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—

(A) REQUIREMENT FOR BACKGROUND
CHECKS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security
shall utilize biometric, biographic, and other
data that the Secretary determines is appro-
priate—

(i) to conduct security and law en-
forcement background checks of an alien
seeking relief available under this sub-
section; and

(ii) to determine whether there is any
criminal, national security, or other factor
that would render the alien ineligible for
such relief.

(B) COMPLETION OF BACKGROUND
CHECKS.—The security and law enforcement
background checks required by subparagraph
(A)(i) shall be completed, to the satisfaction of
the Secretary, prior to the date the Secretary
cancels the removal of the alien under this sub-
section.

(7) MEDICAL EXAMINATION.—An alien applying
for relief available under this subsection shall under-
go a medical observation and examination. The Secretary of Homeland Security, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall prescribe policies and procedures for the nature, frequency, and timing of such observation and examination.

(8) MILITARY SELECTIVE SERVICE.—An alien applying for relief available under this subsection shall establish that the alien has registered under the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. App. 451 et seq.), if the alien is subject to such registration under that Act.

(b) TERMINATION OF CONTINUOUS PERIOD.—For purposes of this section, any period of continuous residence or continuous physical presence in the United States of an alien who applies for cancellation of removal under subsection (a) shall not terminate when the alien is served a notice to appear under section 239(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229(a)).

(c) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN BREAKS IN PRESENCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An alien shall be considered to have failed to maintain continuous physical presence in the United States under subsection (a) if the alien has departed from the United States for any
period in excess of 90 days or for any periods in the aggregate exceeding 180 days.

(2) Extensions for exceptional circumstances.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may extend the time periods described in paragraph (1) if the alien demonstrates that the failure to timely return to the United States was due to exceptional circumstances. The exceptional circumstances determined sufficient to justify an extension should be no less compelling than serious illness of the alien, or death or serious illness of a parent, grandparent, sibling, or child.

(d) Exemption from numerical limitations.—Nothing in this section may be construed to apply a numerical limitation to the number of aliens who may be eligible for cancellation of removal under subsection (a).

(e) Regulations.—

(1) Initial publication.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall publish regulations implementing this section.

(2) Interim regulations.—Notwithstanding section 553 of title 5, United States Code, the regulations required by paragraph (1) shall be effective, on an interim basis, immediately upon publication.
but may be subject to change and revision after pub-
lic notice and opportunity for a period of public com-
ment.

(3) Final regulations.—Within a reasonable
time after publication of the interim regulations in
accordance with paragraph (1), the Secretary of
Homeland Security shall publish final regulations
implementing this section.

(f) Removal of Alien.—The Secretary of Home-
land Security may not remove any alien who—

(1) has a pending application for conditional
nonimmigrant status under this Act; and

(2) establishes prima facie eligibility for can-
cellation of removal and conditional nonimmigrant
status under subsection (a).

SEC. 5. CONDITIONAL NONIMMIGRANT STATUS.

(a) Length of Status.—Conditional nonimmigrant
status granted under section 4 shall be valid for a period
of 10 years, subject to termination under subsection (c)
of this section.

(b) Terms of Conditional Nonimmigrant St-
tus.—

(1) Employment.—A conditional non-
immigrant shall be authorized to be employed in the
United States incident to conditional nonimmigrant status.

(2) TRAVEL. — A conditional nonimmigrant may travel outside the United States and may be admitted (if otherwise admissible) upon return to the United States without having to obtain a visa if—

(A) the alien is the bearer of valid, unexpired documentary evidence of conditional nonimmigrant status; and

(B) the alien’s absence from the United States was not for a period exceeding 180 days.

(c) TERMINATION OF STATUS.—

(1) IN GENERAL. — The Secretary of Homeland Security shall terminate the conditional nonimmigrant status of any alien if the Secretary determines that the alien—

(A) ceases to meet the requirements of subparagraph (B) or (C) of section 4(a)(1);

(B) has become a public charge; or

(C) has received a dishonorable or other than honorable discharge from the Armed Forces.

(2) RETURN TO PREVIOUS IMMIGRATION STATUS. — Any alien whose conditional nonimmigrant status is terminated under paragraph (1) shall re-
turn to the immigration status the alien had imme-
diately prior to receiving conditional nonimmigrant
status.

SEC. 6. ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—A conditional nonimmigrant may
file with the Secretary of Homeland Security, in accord-
ance with subsection (c), an application to have the alien’s
status adjusted to that of an alien lawfully admitted for
permanent residence. The application shall provide, under
penalty of perjury, the facts and information so that the
Secretary may make the determination described in para-
graph (b)(1).

(b) ADJUDICATION OF APPLICATION FOR ADJUST-
MENT OF STATUS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If an application is filed in
accordance with subsection (a) for an alien, the Sec-
retary of Homeland Security shall make a deter-
mination as to whether the alien meets the require-
ments set out in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of
subsection (d)(1).

(2) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS IF FAVORABLE
dETERMINATION.—If the Secretary determines that
the alien meets such requirements, the Secretary
shall notify the alien of such determination and ad-
just the alien’s status to that of an alien lawfully ad-
mitted for permanent residence, effective as of the
date of approval of the application.

(3) TERMINATION IF ADVERSE DETERMINATION.—If the Secretary determines that the alien
does not meet such requirements, the Secretary shall
notify the alien of such determination and terminate
the conditional nonimmigrant status of the alien as
of the date of the determination.

(e) TIME TO FILE APPLICATION.—An alien shall file
an application for adjustment of status during the period
beginning 1 year before and ending on either the date that
is 10 years after the date of the granting of conditional
nonimmigrant status or any other expiration date of the
conditional nonimmigrant status as extended by the Sec-
retary of Homeland Security in accordance with this Act.
The alien shall be deemed to be in conditional non-
immigrant status in the United States during the period
in which such application is pending.

(d) DETAILS OF APPLICATION.—

(1) CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—Each appli-
cation for an alien under subsection (a) shall contain
information to permit the Secretary of Homeland
Security to determine whether each of the following
requirements is met:
(A) The alien has demonstrated good moral character during the entire period the alien has been a conditional nonimmigrant.

(B) The alien is in compliance with section 4(a)(1)(C).

(C) The alien has not abandoned the alien’s residence in the United States. The Secretary shall presume that the alien has abandoned such residence if the alien is absent from the United States for more than 365 days, in the aggregate, during the period of conditional nonimmigrant status, unless the alien demonstrates that the alien has not abandoned the alien’s residence. An alien who is absent from the United States due to active service in the Armed Forces has not abandoned the alien’s residence in the United States during the period of such service.

(D) The alien has completed at least 1 of the following:

(i) The alien has acquired a degree from an institution of higher education in the United States or has completed at least 2 years, in good standing, in a pro-
gram for a bachelor’s degree or higher degree in the United States.

(ii) The alien has served in the Armed Forces for at least 2 years and, if discharged, has received an honorable discharge.

(E) The alien has provided a list of each secondary school (as that term is defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)) that the alien attended in the United States.

(2) HARDSHIP EXCEPTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may, in the Secretary’s discretion, adjust the status of an alien if the alien—

(i) satisfies the requirements of subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (1);

(ii) demonstrates compelling circumstances for the inability to complete the requirements described in paragraph (1)(D); and

(iii) demonstrates that the alien’s removal from the United States would result
in exceptional and extremely unusual hard-
ship to the alien or the alien’s spouse, par-
ent, or child who is a citizen or a lawful
permanent resident of the United States.

(B) EXTENSION.—Upon a showing of good
cause, the Secretary of Homeland Security may
extend the period of conditional nonimmigrant
status for the purpose of completing the re-
quirements described in paragraph (1)(D).

(e) CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
graph (2), the status of a conditional nonimmigrant
shall not be adjusted to permanent resident status
unless the alien demonstrates that the alien satisfies
the requirements of section 312(a) of the Immigra-
tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 312(a)).

(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not
apply to an alien who is unable because of a physical
or developmental disability or mental impairment to
meet the requirements of such paragraph.

(f) PAYMENT OF FEDERAL TAXES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the date on
which an application is filed under subsection (a) for
adjustment of status, the alien shall satisfy any ap-
(2) APPLICABLE FEDERAL TAX LIABILITY.—
For purposes of paragraph (1), the term “applicable Federal tax liability” means liability for Federal taxes imposed under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, including any penalties and interest thereon.

(g) SUBMISSION OF BIOMETRIC AND BIOGRAPHIC DATA.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may not adjust the status of an alien under this section unless the alien submits biometric and biographic data, in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary. The Secretary shall provide an alternative procedure for applicants who are unable to provide such biometric or biographic data because of a physical impairment.

(h) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—
(1) REQUIREMENT FOR BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall utilize biometric, biographic, and other data that the Secretary determines appropriate—

(A) to conduct security and law enforcement background checks of an alien applying for adjustment of status under this section; and

(B) to determine whether there is any criminal, national security, or other factor that
would render the alien ineligible for such adjustment of status.

(2) Completion of background checks.—The security and law enforcement background checks required by paragraph (1)(A) shall be completed, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, prior to the date the Secretary grants adjustment of status.

(i) Exemption from numerical limitations.—Nothing in this section or in any other law may be construed to apply a numerical limitation on the number of aliens who may be eligible for adjustment of status under this section.

(j) Conditional nonimmigrants otherwise eligible for adjustment.—Nothing in this section may be construed to limit the eligibility of a conditional nonimmigrant for adjustment of status, issuance of an immigrant visa, or admission as a lawful permanent resident alien at any time, if the conditional nonimmigrant is otherwise eligible for such benefit under the immigration laws.

(k) Eligibility for naturalization.—An alien whose status is adjusted under this section to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence may be naturalized upon compliance with all the requirements of the immigration laws except the provisions of paragraph (1) of section 316(a) of the Immigration and Nationality
Act (8 U.S.C. 1427(a)), if such person immediately preceding the date of filing the application for naturalization has resided continuously, after being lawfully admitted for permanent residence, within the United States for at least 3 years, and has been physically present in the United States for periods totaling at least half of that time and has resided within the State or the district of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in the United States in which the applicant filed the application for at least 3 months. An alien described in this subsection may file the application for naturalization as provided in the second sentence of subsection (a) of section 344 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1445).

SEC. 7. RETROACTIVE BENEFITS.

If, on the date of the enactment of this Act, an alien has satisfied all the requirements of section 4(a)(1) and section 6(d)(1)(D), the Secretary of Homeland Security may cancel removal and grant conditional nonimmigrant status in accordance with section 4. The alien may apply for adjustment of status in accordance with section 6(a) if the alien has met the requirements of subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of section 6(d)(1) during the entire period of conditional nonimmigrant status.
SEC. 8. EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall have exclusive jurisdiction to determine eligibility for relief under this Act, except where the alien has been placed into deportation, exclusion, or removal proceedings either prior to or after filing an application for cancellation of removal and conditional nonimmigrant status or adjustment of status under this Act, in which case the Attorney General shall have exclusive jurisdiction and shall assume all the powers and duties of the Secretary until proceedings are terminated, or if a final order of deportation, exclusion, or removal is entered the Secretary shall resume all powers and duties delegated to the Secretary under this Act.

(b) STAY OF REMOVAL OF CERTAIN ALIENS ENROLLED IN PRIMARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The Attorney General shall stay the removal proceedings of any alien who—

(1) meets all the requirements of subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (E) of section 4(a)(1);

(2) is at least 12 years of age; and

(3) is enrolled full time in a primary or secondary school.

(c) EMPLOYMENT.—An alien whose removal is stayed pursuant to subsection (b) may be engaged in employment in the United States consistent with the Fair Labor
Standards Act (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) and State and local laws governing minimum age for employment.

(d) LIFT OF STAY.—The Attorney General shall lift the stay granted pursuant to subsection (b) if the alien—

(1) is no longer enrolled in a primary or secondary school; or

(2) ceases to meet the requirements of subsection (b)(1).

SEC. 9. PENALTIES FOR FALSE STATEMENTS.

Whoever files an application for any benefit under this Act and willfully and knowingly falsifies, misrepresents, or conceals a material fact or makes any false or fraudulent statement or representation, or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any false or fraudulent statement or entry, shall be fined in accordance with title 18, United States Code, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

SEC. 10. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in subsection (b), no officer or employee of the United States may—

(1) use the information furnished by an individual pursuant to an application filed under this Act to initiate removal proceedings against any person identified in the application;
(2) make any publication whereby the information furnished by any particular individual pursuant to an application under this Act can be identified; or

(3) permit anyone other than an officer or employee of the United States Government or, in the case of an application filed under this Act with a designated entity, that designated entity, to examine such application filed under this Act.

(b) REQUIRED DISCLOSURE.—The Attorney General or the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide the information furnished under this Act, and any other information derived from such furnished information, to—

(1) a Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency, intelligence agency, national security agency, component of the Department of Homeland Security, court, or grand jury in connection with a criminal investigation or prosecution, a background check conducted pursuant to the Brady Handgun Violence Protection Act (Public Law 103–159; 107 Stat. 1536) or an amendment made by that Act, or for homeland security or national security purposes, if such information is requested by such entity or consistent with an information sharing agreement or mechanism; or
(2) an official coroner for purposes of affirmatively identifying a deceased individual (whether or not such individual is deceased as a result of a crime).

(c) Fraud in Application Process or Criminal Conduct.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, information concerning whether an alien seeking relief under this Act has engaged in fraud in an application for such relief or at any time committed a crime may be used or released for immigration enforcement, law enforcement, or national security purposes.

(d) Penalty.—Whoever knowingly uses, publishes, or permits information to be examined in violation of this section shall be fined not more than $10,000.

SEC. 11. HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE.

Notwithstanding any provision of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), with respect to assistance provided under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), an alien who is granted conditional nonimmigrant status or lawful permanent resident status under this Act shall be eligible only for the following assistance under such title:

(1) Student loans under parts B, D, and E of such title IV (20 U.S.C. 1071 et seq., 1087a et seq.,
1087aa et seq.), subject to the requirements of such parts.

(2) Federal work-study programs under part C of such title IV (42 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), subject to the requirements of such part.

(3) Services under such title IV (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), subject to the requirements for such services.

SEC. 12. TREATMENT OF ALIENS WITH ADJUSTED STATUS FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.

(a) In General.—An individual granted conditional nonimmigrant status under this Act shall, while such individual remains in such status, be considered lawfully present for all purposes except—

(1) section 36B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (concerning premium tax credits), as added by section 1401 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111–148); and

(2) section 1402 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (concerning reduced cost sharing; 42 U.S.C. 18071).

(b) For Purposes of the 5-Year Eligibility Waiting Period Under PRWORA.—An individual who has met the requirements under this Act for adjustment from conditional nonimmigrant status to lawful perma-
ent resident status shall be considered, as of the date
of such adjustment, to have completed the 5-year period
specified in section 403 of the Personal Responsibility and
1613).

SEC. 13. MILITARY ENLISTMENT.

Section 504(b)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is
amended by adding at the end the following new subpara-
graph:

“(D) An alien who is a conditional non-
immigrant (as that term is defined in section 3 of
the DREAM Act of 2010).”.

SEC. 14. GAO REPORT.

Not later than 7 years after the date of the enact-
ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United
States shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of
the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the
House of Representatives a report setting forth—

(1) the number of aliens who were eligible for
cancellation of removal and grant of conditional non-
immigrant status under section 4(a);

(2) the number of aliens who applied for can-
cellation of removal and grant of conditional non-
immigrant status under section 4(a);
(3) the number of aliens who were granted conditional nonimmigrant status under section 4(a); and

(4) the number of aliens whose status was adjusted to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence under section 6.
A BILL

To authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain alien students who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children and for other purposes.

DECEMBER 1, 2010

Read the second time and placed on the calendar.