

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5191

To provide for the acquisition of United States citizenship for certain individuals who were internationally adopted, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 30, 2026

Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide for the acquisition of United States citizenship
for certain individuals who were internationally adopted,
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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Citizenship for Inter-
5 national Adoptees Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP FOR CERTAIN**
2 **ADOPTED INDIVIDUALS BORN OUTSIDE THE**
3 **UNITED STATES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 2 of title III of the Immi-
5 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1421 et seq.) is
6 amended by inserting after section 322 the following:

7 **“SEC. 323. ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP FOR CERTAIN**
8 **ADOPTED INDIVIDUALS BORN OUTSIDE THE**
9 **UNITED STATES.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—An individual born outside the
11 United States shall automatically acquire United States
12 citizenship, on the date that is 120 days after the date
13 of the enactment of this section, if all conditions under
14 subsection (b) have been fulfilled. The Secretary of Home-
15 land Security shall issue a certificate of citizenship to such
16 individual if the individual submits to the Secretary an
17 application that demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the
18 Secretary, that such conditions have been fulfilled.

19 “(b) CONDITIONS.—The conditions for acquiring citi-
20 zenship under this section are as follows:

21 “(1) Before the individual attained 18 years of
22 age, the individual was adopted by a citizen of the
23 United States and was admitted to the United
24 States pursuant to a lawful entry for the purpose of
25 adoption.

1 “(2) The individual satisfies a requirement ap-
 2 plicable to adopted children under subparagraph
 3 (E), (F), or (G) of section 101(b)(1).

4 “(3) The individual was physically present in
 5 the United States, in the legal and physical custody
 6 of the citizen parent, pursuant to a final legal adop-
 7 tion in the United States before the individual at-
 8 tained 18 years of age.

9 “(4) The individual has not previously acquired
 10 United States citizenship.

11 “(5) The individual demonstrates a commit-
 12 ment to the United States by establishing that, on
 13 the date of the enactment of this section, the indi-
 14 vidual was physically present in the United States.

15 “(6) An exception under subsection (c) does not
 16 apply to the individual.

17 “(c) EXCEPTIONS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) shall not
 19 apply to a person who—

20 “(A) is not regarded as or found to be of
 21 good moral character because the person is de-
 22 scribed in paragraph (3), (6), (8) or (9) of sec-
 23 tion 101(f);

24 “(B) is considered inadmissible under
 25 paragraph (2)(D), (2)(E), (2)(H), (3)(A),

1 (3)(B), (3)(C), (3)(D), (3)(F), (6), (8), (9),
 2 (10)(C), (10)(D), or 10(E) of section 212(a);

3 “(C) is deportable under section 237(a),
 4 except any person deportable under paragraph
 5 (1)(C), (1)(D), (2)(A)(i), (2)(B)(ii), or (5) of
 6 such section; or

7 “(D) has been convicted of—

8 “(i) promoting, furthering, aiding, or
 9 supporting the illegal activity of a criminal
 10 gang; or

11 “(ii) a criminal offense involving—

12 “(I) domestic violence;

13 “(II) sexual abuse or exploi-
 14 tation, including sexually explicit con-
 15 duct involving minors (as such terms
 16 are defined in section 2256 of title 18,
 17 United States Code); or

18 “(III) burglary.

19 “(2) BURDEN OF PROOF.—For purposes of es-
 20 tablishing that an exception to inadmissibility set
 21 forth in paragraph (6)(C)(ii) or (10)(D) of section
 22 212(a) does not apply to an individual who is other-
 23 wise eligible for citizenship under this section, the
 24 Government shall be required to demonstrate, by
 25 clear and convincing evidence, that the individual did

1 not reasonably believe that the individual was a cit-
2 izen of the United States.

3 “(d) CAP ON APPLICATION FEE.—With respect to
4 applications submitted to the Secretary of Homeland Se-
5 curity pursuant to this section, notwithstanding section
6 344, the Secretary shall charge a fee that is not more than
7 half the fee charged for an Application for Certificate of
8 Citizenship (Form N–600).

9 “(e) CRIMINAL GANG DEFINED.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘criminal gang’
11 means any ongoing group, club, organization, or as-
12 sociation, inside or outside the United States, of 2
13 or more persons that has, as one of its primary pur-
14 poses, the commission of 1 or more of the criminal
15 offenses described in paragraph (2) and the mem-
16 bers of which engage, or have engaged within the
17 last 5 years, in a continuing series of such offenses.

18 “(2) OFFENSES DESCRIBED.—The offenses de-
19 scribed in this paragraph, whether in violation of
20 Federal or State law or the law of a foreign country
21 and regardless of whether the offenses occurred be-
22 fore, on, or after the date of the enactment of this
23 section, are the following:

24 “(A) Any aggravated felony (as defined in
25 section 101(a)(43)).

1 “(B) A felony drug offense (as defined in
2 section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act
3 (21 U.S.C. 802)).

4 “(C) An offense involving illicit trafficking
5 in a controlled substance (as defined in section
6 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21
7 U.S.C. 802)), including a drug trafficking crime
8 (as defined in section 924(c) of title 18, United
9 States Code).

10 “(D) An offense under section 274 (relat-
11 ing to bringing in and harboring certain aliens),
12 section 277 (relating to aiding or assisting cer-
13 tain aliens to enter the United States), or sec-
14 tion 278 (relating to importation of aliens for
15 immoral purposes).

16 “(E) Any offense under Federal, State, or
17 Tribal law, that has, as an element of the of-
18 fense, the use or attempted use of physical
19 force or the threatened use of physical force or
20 a deadly weapon.

21 “(F) Any offense that has, as an element
22 of the offense, the use, attempted use, or
23 threatened use of any physical object to inflict
24 or cause (either directly or indirectly) serious

1 bodily injury, including an injury that may ulti-
2 mately result in the death of a person.

3 “(G) An offense involving obstruction of
4 justice or tampering with or retaliating against
5 a witness, victim, or informant.

6 “(H) Any conviction under section 1028 or
7 1029 of title 18, United States Code (relating
8 to fraud and related activity in connection with
9 identification documents or access devices), sec-
10 tions 1581 through 1594 of such title (relating
11 to peonage, slavery, and trafficking in persons),
12 section 1952 of such title (relating to interstate
13 and foreign travel or transportation in aid of
14 racketeering enterprises), section 1956 of such
15 title (relating to the laundering of monetary in-
16 struments), section 1957 of such title (relating
17 to engaging in monetary transactions in prop-
18 erty derived from specified unlawful activity), or
19 sections 2312 through 2315 of such title (relat-
20 ing to interstate transportation of stolen motor
21 vehicles or stolen property).

22 “(I) A conspiracy or attempt to commit an
23 offense described in any of subparagraphs (A)
24 through (H).”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
2 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101
3 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item related to
4 section 322 the following:

“323. Acquisition of citizenship for certain adopted persons born outside the
United States.”.

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