

TO SUPPLEMENT THE NATURALIZATION LAWS

MAY 28, 1926.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. VINCENT of Michigan, from the Committee on Immigration and Naturalization, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 12413]

The Committee on Immigration and Naturalization, having had under consideration the bill (H. R. 12413) to supplement the naturalization laws, and for other purposes, reports the same back without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

The present naturalization law results in unnecessary hardship upon aliens desiring to petition for naturalization if they have lived in different places in the same State. Under the third paragraph of the second subdivision of section 4 of the act of June 29, 1906, and under section 10 of that act, if the alien, for example, has lived for two years in New York City and three years in Buffalo, he can not be naturalized unless he can obtain two witnesses who can testify as to his residence both in New York and Buffalo. This is almost every case is impossible as a practical matter. On the other hand, if an alien has lived for two years in Buffalo and two years in New York City, and then moves to Jersey City, N. J., he can prove his residence in New Jersey by two witnesses, and prove his residence in Buffalo by the depositions of two other witnesses, and his residence in New York City by the depositions of two other witnesses. This situation is remedied by the bill as reported, which permits the alien to prove all residence outside the county in which he resides at the time of filing a petition either by deposition or by oral testimony of at least two witnesses for each place of residence. Residence within the county may be proved by the oral testimony of two witnesses for each place of residence within the county.

The bill also substitutes for the requirement under existing law of residence of one year within the State, residence of six months within the county where he resides at the time of filing petition. Under the present law the petitioner must have lived within the State for one year, but this requirement is satisfied by residence at different places during the year so long as they are within the State. Under the bill

he is required to have resided within a State only six months, but that six months must have been within the same county in which he resides at the time of filing his petition.

Under the fourth subdivision of section 4 of the act of June 29, 1906, the applicant must prove that he has lived within the United States five years immediately preceding the date of his petition, and under section 2170 of the Revised Statutes he must have resided within the United States five years preceding the time of his admission to citizenship. The bill consolidates these two provisions in one place and therefore repeals section 2170 of the Revised Statutes.