

Public Law 102-110
102d Congress

An Act

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for special immigrant status for certain aliens who have served honorably (or are enlisted to serve) in the Armed Forces of the United States for at least 12 years.

Oct. 1, 1991

[S. 296]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Armed Forces
Immigration
Adjustment Act
of 1991.
8 USC 1101
note.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Armed Forces Immigration Adjustment Act of 1991”.

SEC. 2. SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS FOR ALIENS WHO HAVE SERVED HONORABLY (OR ARE ENLISTED TO SERVE) IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES FOR AT LEAST 12 YEARS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)) is amended—

(1) by striking “or” at the end of subparagraph (I),

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (J) and inserting “; or”, and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(K) an immigrant who has served honorably on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States after October 15, 1978, and after original lawful enlistment outside the United States (under a treaty or agreement in effect on the date of the enactment of this subparagraph) for a period or periods aggregating—

“(i) 12 years and who, if separated from such service, was never separated except under honorable conditions, or

“(ii) 6 years, in the case of an immigrant who is on active duty at the time of seeking special immigrant status under this subparagraph and who has reenlisted to incur a total active duty service obligation of at least 12 years,

and the spouse or child of any such immigrant if accompanying or following to join the immigrant, but only if the executive department under which the immigrant serves or served recommends the granting of special immigrant status to the immigrant.”.

(b) NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—Section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)), as inserted by section 121(a) of the Immigration Act of 1990, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) SPECIAL RULES FOR ‘K’ SPECIAL IMMIGRANTS.—

“(A) NOT COUNTED AGAINST NUMERICAL LIMITATION IN YEAR INVOLVED.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the number of immigrant visas made available to special immigrants under section 101(a)(27)(K) in a fiscal year shall not be subject to the numerical limitations of this subsection or of section 202(a).

“(B) COUNTED AGAINST NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS IN FOLLOWING YEAR.—

“(i) REDUCTION IN EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANT CLASSIFICATIONS.—The number of visas made available in any fiscal year under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) shall each be reduced by $\frac{1}{3}$ of the number of visas made available in the previous fiscal year to special immigrants described in section 101(a)(27)(K).

“(ii) REDUCTION IN PER COUNTRY LEVEL.—The number of visas made available in each fiscal year to natives of a foreign state under section 202(a) shall be reduced by the number of visas made available in the previous fiscal year to special immigrants described in section 101(a)(27)(K) who are natives of the foreign state.

“(iii) REDUCTION IN EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANT CLASSIFICATIONS WITHIN PER COUNTRY CEILING.—In the case of a foreign state subject to section 202(e) in a fiscal year (and in the previous fiscal year), the number of visas made available and allocated to each of paragraphs (1) through (3) of this subsection in the fiscal year shall be reduced by $\frac{1}{3}$ of the number of visas made available in the previous fiscal year to special immigrants described in section 101(a)(27)(K) who are natives of the foreign state.

“(C) APPLICATION OF SEPARATE NUMERICAL LIMITATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), the number of immigrant visas made available to special immigrants under section 101(a)(27)(K) in any fiscal year (other than as a spouse or child described in such section) may not exceed—

“(I) in the case of aliens who are nationals of a foreign state for which there is a numerical limitation treaty or agreement (as defined in clause (iii)), 2,000, or

“(II) in the case of aliens who are nationals of any other state, 100.

“(ii) EXCEPTION FOR ALIENS CURRENTLY MEETING REQUIREMENTS.—The numerical limitations of clause (i) shall not apply to individuals who meet the requirements of section 101(a)(27)(K) as of the date of the enactment of this subparagraph.

“(iii) NUMERICAL LIMITATION TREATY OR AGREEMENT.—In clause (i), the term ‘numerical limitation treaty or agreement’ means a treaty or agreement in effect on the date of the enactment of this subparagraph which authorizes and limits the number of aliens who are nationals of such state who may be enlisted annually in the Armed Forces of the United States.”.

(c) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—Section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “or (I)” and inserting “, (I), or (K)”, and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) In applying this section to a special immigrant described in section 101(a)(27)(K), such an immigrant shall be deemed, for purposes of subsection (a), to have been paroled into the United States.”.

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section shall take effect 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

8 USC 1101
note.

SEC. 3. DELAY UNTIL APRIL 1, 1992, IN IMPLEMENTATION OF PROVISIONS RELATING TO O AND P NONIMMIGRANTS.

8 USC 1101
note.

Section 214(g)(1)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act shall not apply to the issuance of visas or provision of status before April 1, 1992. Aliens seeking nonimmigrant admission as artists, athletes, entertainers, or fashion models (or for the purpose of accompanying or assisting in an artistic or athletic performance) before April 1, 1992, shall not be admitted under subparagraph (O)(i), (O)(ii), (P)(i), or (P)(iii) of section 101(a)(15) of such Act, but may be admitted under the terms of subparagraph (H)(i)(b) of such section (as in effect on September 30, 1991).

SEC. 4. CONTINUATION OF DERIVATIVE STATUS FOR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF THIRD AND SIXTH PREFERENCE IMMIGRANTS; DEEMED CONTINUED EFFECTIVENESS OF CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT-BASED PETITIONS.

Effective as if included in the Immigration Act of 1990, section 161(c) of such Act is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

Effective date.
8 USC 1101
note.

“(3) In the case of an alien who is described in section 203(a)(8) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (as in effect before October 1, 1991) as the spouse or child of an alien described in section 203(a)(3) or 203(a)(6) of such Act and who would be entitled to enter the United States under such section 203(a)(8) but for the amendments made by this section, such an alien shall be deemed to be described in section 203(d) of such Act as the spouse or child of an alien described in section 203(b)(2) or 203(b)(3)(A)(i), respectively, of such Act with the same priority date as that of the principal alien.

“(4)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), any petition filed before October 1, 1991, and approved on any date, to accord status under section 203(a)(3) or 203(a)(6) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (as in effect before such date) shall be deemed, on and after October 1, 1991 (or, if later, the date of such approval), to be a petition approved to accord status under section 203(b)(2) or under the appropriate classification under section 203(b)(3), respectively, of such Act (as in effect on and after such date). Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed as exempting the beneficiaries of such petitions from the numerical limitations under section 203(b)(2) or 203(b)(3) of such Act.

“(B) Subparagraph (A) shall not apply more than two years after the date the priority date for issuance of a visa on the basis of such a petition has been reached.”

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1992.

Subsection (a) of section 414 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1524) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 1992 such sums as may be necessary to carry out this chapter.”.

Approved October 1, 1991.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 296:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 102-195 (Comm. on the Judiciary).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 137 (1991):

Jan. 30, considered and passed Senate.

Sept. 16, considered and passed House, amended.

Sept. 24, Senate concurred in House amendment with an amendment.

Sept. 26, House concurred in Senate amendment.