

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 574

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for less restrictive standards for naturalization as a citizen of the United States for certain categories of persons.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 1997

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii (for herself, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. STARK, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. TORRES, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. OLVER, and Mr. JEFFERSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for less restrictive standards for naturalization as a citizen of the United States for certain categories of persons.

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. LESS RESTRICTIVE STANDARDS FOR NATU-**
2 **RALIZATION AS A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED**
3 **STATES FOR CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF PER-**
4 **SONS.**

5 The Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101
6 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 322 the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “NATURALIZATION OF PERSONS WHO HAVE RESIDED IN
9 THE UNITED STATES FOR 20 YEARS, ARE ELIGIBLE
10 TO RECEIVE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS, ARE UNIT-
11 ED STATES VETERANS, OR HAVE ATTAINED 70
12 YEARS OF AGE

13 “SEC. 323. (a) The requirements in sections 312 and
14 316 shall not apply to the following persons applying for
15 naturalization as a citizen of the United States:

16 “(1) A person who has resided in the United
17 States as a lawful permanent resident for at least 20
18 years.

19 “(2) A person who is a lawful permanent resi-
20 dent of the United States and who has been accred-
21 ited by the Social Security Administration with 40
22 quarters of coverage under title II of the Social Se-
23 curity Act.

24 “(3) A person who is a lawful permanent resi-
25 dent of the United States and who is a veteran, as

1 defined in section 101(2) of title 38, United States
2 Code.

3 “(4) A person who is at least 70 years old and
4 has resided in the United States as a lawful perma-
5 nent resident for at least 5 years.

6 “(b) A person described in subsection (a) shall not
7 be eligible for naturalization as a citizen of the United
8 States unless the person is—

9 “(1) of good moral character;

10 “(2) attached to the principles of the Constitu-
11 tion of the United States; and

12 “(3) well disposed to the good order and happi-
13 ness of the United States.

14 “(c) A person who has been convicted of a crime pun-
15 ishable by imprisonment for more than 12 months shall
16 not be eligible under this section for naturalization as a
17 citizen of the United States.

18 “(d) Section 310(b)(1)(B) shall not apply with re-
19 spect to a person naturalized as a citizen of the United
20 States pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

21 “(e) An applicant for naturalization under this sub-
22 section may be administered the oath of allegiance under
23 section 337(a) by any district court of the United States,
24 without regard to the residence of the applicant.”.

1 **SEC. 2. CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**

2 The table of contents of the Immigration and Nation-
3 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) is amended by inserting
4 after the item relating to section 322 the following:

“Sec. 323. Naturalization of persons who have resided in the United States for
20 years, are eligible to receive social security benefits, are
United States veterans, or have attained 70 years of age.”.

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