

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 719

To expedite the naturalization of aliens who served with special guerrilla units in Laos.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 8, 1997

Mr. WELLSTONE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To expedite the naturalization of aliens who served with special guerrilla units in Laos.

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 “Hmong Veterans’ Nat-  
5       uralization Act of 1997”.

6       **SEC. 2. WAIVER OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT**  
7                       **FOR CERTAIN ALIENS WHO SERVED WITH**  
8                       **SPECIAL GUERRILLA UNITS IN LAOS.**

9       The requirement of paragraph (1) of section 312(a)  
10      of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.

1 1423(a)) shall not apply to the naturalization of any per-  
 2 son who—

3 (1) served with a special guerrilla unit operat-  
 4 ing from a base in Laos in support of the United  
 5 States at any time during the period beginning Feb-  
 6 ruary 28, 1961, and ending September 18, 1978, or

7 (2) is the spouse or widow of a person described  
 8 in paragraph (1).

9 **SEC. 3. NATURALIZATION THROUGH SERVICE IN A SPECIAL**  
 10 **GUERRILLA UNIT IN LAOS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The first sentence of subsection  
 12 (a) and subsection (b) (other than paragraph (3)) of sec-  
 13 tion 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
 14 1440) shall apply to an alien who served with a special  
 15 guerrilla unit operating from a base in Laos in support  
 16 of the United States at any time during the period begin-  
 17 ning February 28, 1961, and ending September 18, 1978,  
 18 in the same manner as they apply to an alien who has  
 19 served honorably in an active-duty status in the military  
 20 forces of the United States during the period of the Viet-  
 21 nam hostilities.

22 (b) PROOF.—The Immigration and Naturalization  
 23 Service shall verify an alien's service with a guerrilla unit  
 24 described in subsection (a) through—

1           (1) review of refugee processing documentation  
2       for the alien,

3           (2) the affidavit of the alien's superior officer,

4           (3) original documents,

5           (4) two affidavits from persons who were also  
6       serving with such a special guerrilla unit and who  
7       personally knew of the alien's service, or

8           (5) other appropriate proof.

9       The Service shall liberally construe the provisions of this  
10     subsection to take into account the difficulties inherent in  
11     proving service in such a guerrilla unit.

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