

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 974

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the qualifications for a country to be designated as a visa waiver pilot program country.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 26, 1997

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

A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the qualifications for a country to be designated as a visa waiver pilot program country.

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. QUALIFICATIONS FOR DESIGNATION AS PILOT**
4 **PROGRAM COUNTRY.**

5 Section 217(c)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality
6 Act (8 U.S.C. 1187(c)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

7 “(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Except as provided in
8 subsection (g), a country may not be designated as
9 a pilot program country unless the following require-
10 ments are met:

1 “(A) LOW NONIMMIGRANT VISA REFUSAL
2 RATE.—Either—

3 “(i) the average number of refusals of
4 nonimmigrant visitor visas for nationals of
5 that country during—

6 “(I) the two previous full fiscal
7 years was less than 2.0 percent of the
8 total number of nonimmigrant visitor
9 visas for nationals of that country
10 which were granted or refused during
11 those years; and

12 “(II) either of such two previous
13 full fiscal years was less than 2.5 per-
14 cent of the total number of non-
15 immigrant visitor visas for nationals
16 of that country which were granted or
17 refused during that year; or

18 “(ii) such refusal rate for nationals of
19 that country during—

20 “(I) the previous full fiscal year
21 was less than 3.5 percent; and

22 “(II) the two previous full fiscal
23 years was at least 50 percent less
24 than such refusal rate during fiscal
25 year 1994.

1 “(B) MACHINE READABLE PASSPORT PRO-
2 GRAM.—The government of the country certifies
3 that it has or is in the process of developing a
4 program to issue machine-readable passports to
5 its citizens.

6 “(C) LAW ENFORCEMENT INTERESTS.—
7 The Attorney General determines that the Unit-
8 ed States law enforcement interests would not
9 be compromised by the designation of the coun-
10 try.”.

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