

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3272

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to restore certain provisions relating to the definition of aggravated felony and other provisions as they were before the enactment of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 9, 1999

Mr. FILNER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to restore certain provisions relating to the definition of aggravated felony and other provisions as they were before the enactment of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.

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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Keeping Families Together Act of 1999”.

6 (b) SHORT TITLE.—The table of contents of this Act
7 is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
 Sec. 2. Restoration of definition of aggravated felony (repeal of section 321 of IIRAIRA).
 Sec. 3. Restoration of detention policy.
 Sec. 4. Repeal of time stop provisions.
 Sec. 5. Repeal of section 101(a)(48).
 Sec. 6. Restoration of section 212(c).
 Sec. 7. Restoration of judicial review provisions.

1 SEC. 2. RESTORATION OF DEFINITION OF AGGRAVATED
2 FELONY (REPEAL OF SECTION 321 OF
3 IIRAIRA).

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Effective as if included in the en-
 5 actment of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant
 6 Responsibility Act of 1996 (division C of Public Law 104–
 7 208), section 321 of such Act is repealed and the provi-
 8 sions of law amended by such section are restored as if
 9 such section had not been enacted.

10 (b) RESTORATION OF RIGHTS.—Any alien whose
 11 legal permanent resident status, application for permanent
 12 residence, or application for cancellation of removal, was
 13 affected by the changes in the definition of “aggravated
 14 felony” made by such section 321 may apply to the Attor-
 15 ney General to be considered for adjustment of status or
 16 cancellation of removal in conformance with the provisions
 17 of section 101(a)(43) of the Immigration and Nationality
 18 Act, as restored by subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 3. RESTORATION OF DETENTION POLICY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 236(c) of the Immigration
3 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1226(c)) is amended to
4 read as follows:

5 “(c) DETENTION OF CRIMINAL ALIENS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall
7 take into custody any alien convicted of an aggra-
8 vated felony upon release of the alien (regardless of
9 whether or not such release is on parole, supervised
10 release, or probation, and regardless of the possi-
11 bility of rearrest or further confinement in respect of
12 the same offense). Notwithstanding subsection (a) or
13 section 241(a) but subject to paragraph (2), the At-
14 torney General shall not release such felon from cus-
15 tody.

16 “(2) NON-RELEASE.—The Attorney General
17 may not release from custody any who has been con-
18 victed of an aggravated felony, either before or after
19 a determination of removability, unless—

20 “(A)(i) the alien was lawfully admitted, or

21 “(ii) the alien was not lawfully admitted
22 but the alien cannot be removed because the
23 designated country of removal will not accept
24 the alien; and

25 “(B) the alien satisfies the Attorney Gen-
26 eral that the alien will not pose a danger to the

1 safety of other persons or of property and is
 2 likely to appear for any scheduled proceeding.”.

3 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by
 4 subsection (a) shall be effective as if included in the Illegal
 5 Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of
 6 1996.

7 **SEC. 4. REPEAL OF TIME STOP PROVISIONS.**

8 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 240A(d) of the Immigra-
 9 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229b(d)) is repealed.

10 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The repeal made by sub-
 11 section (a) shall be effective as if included in the enact-
 12 ment of subtitle A of title III of the Illegal Immigration
 13 Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.

14 **SEC. 5. REPEAL OF SECTION 101(A)(48).**

15 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Paragraph (48) of section
 16 101(a)(48) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
 17 U.S.C. 1101(a)) is repealed.

18 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The repeal made by sub-
 19 section (a) shall take effect as if included in the enactment
 20 of section 322(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and
 21 Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.

22 **SEC. 6. RESTORATION OF SECTION 212(C).**

23 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 212 of the Immigration
 24 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182) is amended by insert-
 25 ing after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

1 “(c) Aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence
2 who temporarily proceeded abroad voluntarily and not
3 under an order of deportation or removal, and who are
4 returning to a lawful unrelinquished domicile of seven con-
5 secutive years, may be admitted in the discretion of the
6 Attorney General without regard to the provisions of sub-
7 section (a) (other than paragraphs (3) and (10)(C)).
8 Nothing contained in this subsection shall limit the au-
9 thority of the Attorney General to exercise the discretion
10 vested in him under section 211(b). The first sentence of
11 this subsection shall not apply to an alien who has been
12 convicted of one or more aggravated felonies and has
13 served for such felony or felonies a term of imprisonment
14 of at least 5 years.”.

15 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
16 subsection (a) applies as of April 24, 1996, as if section
17 440(d) of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty
18 Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–132) and section 304(b) of
19 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility
20 Act of 1996 (division C of Public Law 104–208) had not
21 been enacted.

22 **SEC. 7. RESTORATION OF JUDICIAL REVIEW PROVISIONS.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 242 of the Immigration
24 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1252) is amended to read
25 as follows:

1 “JUDICIAL REVIEW OF ORDERS OF REMOVAL

2 “SEC. 242. (a) The procedure prescribed by, and all
3 the provisions of chapter 158 of title 28, United States
4 Code, shall apply to, and shall be the sole and exclusive
5 procedure for, the judicial review of all final orders of re-
6 moval heretofore or hereafter made against aliens within
7 the United States pursuant to administrative proceedings
8 under section 240 of this Act or comparable provisions of
9 any prior Act, except that—

10 “(1) a petition for review may be filed not later
11 than 90 days after the date of the issuance of the
12 final removal order, or, in the case of an alien con-
13 victed of an aggravated felony not later than 30
14 days after the issuance of such order;

15 “(2) the venue of any petition for review under
16 this section shall be in the judicial circuit in which
17 the administrative proceedings before an immigra-
18 tion judge were conducted in whole or in part, or in
19 the judicial circuit wherein is the residence, as de-
20 fined in this Act, of the petitioner, but not in more
21 than one circuit;

22 “(3) the action shall be brought against the Im-
23 migration and Naturalization Service, as respondent.
24 Service of the petition to review shall be made upon
25 the Attorney General of the United States and upon

1 the official of the Immigration and Naturalization
2 Service in charge of the Service district in which the
3 office of the clerk of the court is located. The service
4 of the petition for review upon such official of the
5 Service shall stay the removal of the alien pending
6 determination of the petition by the court, unless the
7 court otherwise directs or unless the alien is con-
8 victed of an aggravated felony, in which case the
9 Service shall not stay the removal of the alien pend-
10 ing determination of the petition of the court unless
11 the court otherwise directs;

12 “(4) except as provided in clause (B) of para-
13 graph (5) of this subsection, the petition shall be de-
14 termined solely upon the administrative record upon
15 which the removal order is based and the Attorney
16 General’s findings of fact, if supported by reason-
17 able, substantial, and probative evidence on the
18 record considered as a whole, shall be conclusive;

19 “(5) whenever any petitioner, who seeks review
20 of an order under this section, claims to be a na-
21 tional of the United States and makes a showing
22 that his claim is not frivolous, the court shall (A)
23 pass upon the issues presented when it appears from
24 the pleadings and affidavits filed by the parties that
25 no genuine issue of material fact is presented; or (B)

1 where a genuine issue of material fact as to the peti-
2 tioner's nationality is presented, transfer the pro-
3 ceedings to a United States district court for the
4 district where the petitioner has his residence for
5 hearing de novo of the nationality claim and deter-
6 mination as if such proceedings were originally initi-
7 ated in the district court under the provisions of sec-
8 tion 2201 of title 28, United States Code. Any such
9 petitioner shall not be entitled to have such issue de-
10 termined under section 360(a) of this Act or other-
11 wise;

12 “(6) whenever a petitioner seeks review of an
13 order under this section, any review sought with re-
14 spect to a motion to reopen or reconsider such an
15 order shall be consolidated with the review of the
16 order;

17 “(7) if the validity of a removal order has not
18 been judicially determined, its validity may be chal-
19 lenged in a criminal proceeding against the alien for
20 violation of subsection (a) or (b) of section 243 of
21 this Act only by separate motion for judicial review
22 before trial. Such motion shall be determined by the
23 court without a jury and before the trial of the gen-
24 eral issue. Whenever a claim to United States na-
25 tionality is made in such motion, and in the opinion

1 of the court, a genuine issue of material fact as to
2 the alien's nationality is presented, the court shall
3 accord him a hearing de novo on the nationality
4 claim and determine that issue as if proceedings had
5 been initiated under the provisions of section 2201
6 of title 28, United States Code. Any such alien shall
7 not be entitled to have such issue determined under
8 section 360(a) of this Act or otherwise. If no such
9 hearing de novo as to nationality is conducted, the
10 determination shall be made solely upon the admin-
11 istrative record upon which the removal order is
12 based and the Attorney General's findings of fact, if
13 supported by reasonable, substantial, and probative
14 evidence on the record considered as a whole, shall
15 be conclusive. If the removal order is held invalid,
16 the court shall dismiss the indictment and the
17 United States shall have the right to appeal to the
18 court of appeals within 30 days. The procedure on
19 such appeals shall be as provided in the Federal
20 rules of criminal procedure. No petition for review
21 under this section may be filed by any alien during
22 the pendency of a criminal proceeding against such
23 alien for violation of subsection (a) or (b) of section
24 243 of this Act;

1 “(8) nothing in this section shall be construed
2 to require the Attorney General to defer removal of
3 an alien after the issuance of a removal order be-
4 cause of the right of judicial review of the order
5 granted by this section, or to relieve any alien from
6 compliance with subsections (a) and (b) of section
7 243 of this Act. Nothing contained in this section
8 shall be construed to preclude the Attorney General
9 from detaining or continuing to detain an alien or
10 from taking the alien into custody pursuant to sec-
11 tion 241 of this Act at any time after the issuance
12 of a removal order;

13 “(9) it shall not be necessary to print the
14 record or any part thereof, or the briefs, and the
15 court shall review the proceedings on a typewritten
16 record and on typewritten briefs; and

17 “(10) any alien held in custody pursuant to an
18 order of removal may obtain judicial review thereof
19 by habeas corpus proceedings.

20 “(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law,
21 any alien against whom a final order of removal has been
22 made heretofore or hereafter under the provisions of sec-
23 tion 235 of this Act or comparable provisions of any prior
24 Act may obtain judicial review of such order by habeas
25 corpus proceedings and not otherwise.

1 “(c) An order of removal shall not be reviewed by any
2 court if the alien has not exhausted the administrative
3 remedies available to the alien as of right under the immi-
4 gration laws and regulations or if the alien has departed
5 from the United States after the issuance of the order.
6 Every petition for review or for habeas corpus shall state
7 whether the validity of the order has been upheld in any
8 prior judicial proceeding, and, if so, the nature and date
9 thereof, and the court in which such proceeding took place.
10 No petition for review or for habeas corpus shall be enter-
11 tained if the validity of the order has been previously de-
12 termined in any civil or criminal proceeding, unless the
13 petition presents grounds which the court finds could not
14 have been presented in such prior proceeding, or the court
15 finds that the remedy provided by such prior proceeding
16 was inadequate or ineffective to test the validity of the
17 order.

18 “(d)(1) A petition for review or for habeas corpus on
19 behalf of an alien against whom a final order of removal
20 has been issued pursuant to section 238(b) may challenge
21 only—

22 “(A) whether the alien is in fact the alien de-
23 scribed in the order;

24 “(B) whether the alien is in fact an alien de-
25 scribed in section 238(b)(2);

1 “(C) whether the alien has been convicted of an
2 aggravated felony and such conviction has become
3 final; and

4 “(D) whether the alien was afforded the proce-
5 dures required by section 238(b)(4).

6 “(2) No court shall have jurisdiction to review any
7 issue other than an issue described in paragraph (1).”.

8 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
9 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enact-
10 ment of this Act and shall apply to determinations pending
11 on or after such date with respect to which—

12 (1) a final administrative decision has been not
13 been rendered as of such date; or

14 (2) such a decision has been rendered but the
15 period for seeking judicial review of the decision has
16 not expired.

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