

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2025

To facilitate the naturalization of aliens who served with special guerrilla units or irregular forces in Laos.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 2, 2000

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

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## A BILL

To facilitate the naturalization of aliens who served with special guerrilla units or irregular forces 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' Natu-  
5       ralization Act of 2000".

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENTS AS TO UNDERSTANDING THE**  
2 **ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOR CERTAIN ALIENS**  
3 **WHO SERVED WITH SPECIAL GUERRILLA**  
4 **UNITS OR IRREGULAR FORCES IN LAOS.**

5 (a) PROHIBITION.—No alien described in subsection  
6 (b) shall be naturalized as a citizen of the United States  
7 upon his own application who cannot demonstrate an un-  
8 derstanding of the English language, including an ability  
9 to speak words in ordinary usage in the English language,  
10 except that the requirements of this subsection shall be  
11 met if the applicant can speak simple words and phrases  
12 to the end that the applicant can perform daily functions  
13 and that no extraordinary or unreasonable condition shall  
14 be imposed upon the applicant.

15 (b) COVERED ALIENS.—An alien described in this  
16 subsection is an alien—

17 (1) who—

18 (A) was admitted into the United States as  
19 a refugee from Laos pursuant to section 207 of  
20 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
21 1157); and

22 (B) served with a special guerrilla unit, or  
23 irregular forces, operating from a base in Laos  
24 in support of the United States military at any  
25 time during the period beginning February 28,  
26 1961, and ending September 18, 1978; or

1 (2) who—

2 (A) satisfies the requirement of paragraph  
3 (1)(A); and

4 (B) was the spouse of a person described  
5 in paragraph (1) on the day on which such de-  
6 scribed person applied for admission into the  
7 United States as a refugee.

8 **SEC. 3. SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CONCERNING CIVICS RE-**  
9 **QUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN ALIENS WHO**  
10 **SERVED WITH SPECIAL GUERRILLA UNITS OR**  
11 **IRREGULAR FORCES IN LAOS.**

12 The Attorney General shall provide for special consid-  
13 eration, as determined by the Attorney General, con-  
14 cerning the requirement of paragraph (2) of section  
15 312(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
16 1423(a)(2)) with respect to the naturalization of any per-  
17 son described in paragraph (1) or (2) of section 2 of this  
18 Act.

19 **SEC. 4. DOCUMENTATION OF QUALIFYING SERVICE.**

20 A person seeking an exemption under section 2 or  
21 special consideration under section 3, or an individual fil-  
22 ing on behalf of that person, shall submit to the Attorney  
23 General documentation of the service by the person or the  
24 person's spouse with a special guerrilla unit, or irregular  
25 forces, described in section 2(1)(B), in the form of—

1 (1) original documents;

2 (2) an affidavit of the serving person's superior  
3 officer;

4 (3) two affidavits from other individuals who  
5 also were serving with such a special guerrilla unit,  
6 or irregular forces, and who personally knew of the  
7 person's service; or

8 (4) other appropriate proof.

9 **SEC. 5. DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR EXEMPTION**  
10 **AND SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.**

11 In determining a person's eligibility for an exemption  
12 under section 2 or special consideration under section 3,  
13 the Attorney General—

14 (1) shall review the refugee processing docu-  
15 mentation for the person, or, in an appropriate case,  
16 for the person and the person's spouse, to verify that  
17 the requirements of section 2 relating to refugee ap-  
18 plications and admissions have been satisfied;

19 (2) shall consider the documentation submitted  
20 by the person, or by the individual filing on behalf  
21 of a person, under section 4; and

22 (3) shall request an advisory opinion from the  
23 Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central In-  
24 telligence regarding the person's or their spouse's  
25 service in a special guerrilla unit, or irregular forces,

1 described in section 2(1)(B) and shall take into ac-  
2 count that opinion.

3 **SEC. 6. DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF**  
4 **FEES.**

5 This Act shall apply to a person only if the person's  
6 application for naturalization is filed, as provided in sec-  
7 tion 334 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
8 1445), with appropriate fees not later than 18 months  
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

10 **SEC. 7. LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES.**

11 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the  
12 total number of aliens who may be granted an exemption  
13 under section 2 or special consideration under section 3,  
14 or both, may not exceed 45,000.

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