

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 644

To authorize the establishment of a suboffice of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 29, 2001

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

A BILL

To authorize the establishment of a suboffice of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

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 “Fort Smith INS Sub-
5 office Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Immigration and Naturalization Serv-
9 ice office in Fort Smith, Arkansas, is an office with-

1 in the jurisdiction of the district office in New Orle-
2 ans, Louisiana.

3 (2) During the past 10 years, the foreign na-
4 tional population has grown substantially in the ju-
5 risdictional area of the Fort Smith office.

6 (3) According to the 2000 census, Arkansas'
7 Hispanic population grew by 337 percent over the
8 Hispanic population in the 1990 census. This rate of
9 growth is believed to be the fastest in the United
10 States.

11 (4) Hispanics now comprise 3.2 percent of Ar-
12 kansas' population and 5.7 percent of the Third
13 Congressional District of Arkansas' population.

14 (5) This dramatic increase in immigration will
15 continue as the growing industries and excellent
16 quality of life of Northwest Arkansas are strong at-
17 tractions.

18 (6) Interstates 540 and 40 intersect in Fort
19 Smith and air transportation is readily available
20 there.

21 (7) In the Departments of Commerce, Justice,
22 and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Ap-
23 propriations Act, 2001, Congress directed the Immi-
24 gration and Naturalization Service to review the
25 staffing needs of the Fort Smith office.

1 (8) A preliminary review shows that the Fort
2 Smith office is indeed understaffed. The office cur-
3 rently needs an additional adjudication officer, an
4 additional information officer, a part-time “jack-of-
5 all-trades” employee, 2 full-time clerks, and 1 addi-
6 tional enforcement officer.

7 (9) A suboffice designation would enable the
8 Fort Smith, Arkansas, office to obtain additional
9 staff as well as an Officer-in-Charge who would have
10 the authority to sign documents and take actions re-
11 lated to cases which now must be forwarded to the
12 New Orleans District Office for approval.

13 (10) The additional staff, authority, and auton-
14 omy that the suboffice designation would provide the
15 Fort Smith office would result in a reduction in
16 backlogs and waiting periods, a significant improve-
17 ment in customer service, and a significant improve-
18 ment in the enforcement of the immigration laws of
19 the United States.

20 (11) The designation of the Fort Smith office
21 as a suboffice would show that the Immigration and
22 Naturalization Service is—

23 (A) committed to facilitating the legal im-
24 migration process for those persons acting in
25 good faith; and

1 (B) likewise committed to enforcing the
2 immigration laws of the United States.

3 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
5 as may be necessary for each fiscal year to establish and
6 operate an Immigration and Naturalization Service sub-
7 office in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

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