108TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 152

To adjust the status of certain aliens with longstanding ties to the United States to that of an alien lawfully admitted to permanent residence, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 7, 2003

Mr. Pastor (for himself and Mr. Gutierrez) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To adjust the status of certain aliens with longstanding ties to the United States to that of an alien lawfully admitted to permanent residence, and for other purposes.

- 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 "Immigration Adjust-
- 5 ment Act of 2003".
- 6 SEC. 2. REFERENCES.
- 7 Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in
- 8 this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms
- 9 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-

1	sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a
2	section or other provision of the Immigration and Nation-
3	ality Act.
4	TITLE I—ADJUSTMENT OF STA-
5	TUS OF CERTAIN UNDOCU-
6	MENTED ALIENS
7	SEC. 101. ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS OF CERTAIN ENTRANTS
8	BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2001, TO THAT OF PER-
9	SON ADMITTED FOR LAWFUL RESIDENCE.
10	(a) In General.—Chapter 4 of title II is amended
11	by inserting after section 245A the following:
12	"ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS OF CERTAIN ENTRANTS BE-
13	FORE JANUARY 1, 2001, TO THAT OF PERSON ADMIT-
14	TED FOR LAWFUL RESIDENCE
15	"Sec. 245B. (a) Resident Status.—
16	"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall
17	adjust the status of an alien to that of an alien law-
18	fully admitted for permanent residence if the alien
19	meets the requirements of this subsection.
20	"(2) Timely application.—
21	"(A) During application period.—Ex-
22	cept as provided in subparagraph (B), the alien
23	must apply for such adjustment during the 18-
24	month period beginning on a date (not later
25	than 360 days after date of enactment) des-
26	ignated by the Attorney General.

1	"(B) Application within 30 days of
2	NOTICE TO APPEAR.—An alien who, at any time
3	during the first 17 months of the 18-month pe-
4	riod described in subparagraph (A), is the sub-
5	ject of a notice to appear issued under section
6	239, must make application under subsection
7	(b) not later than the end of the 30-day period
8	beginning either on the first day of such 18-
9	month period or on the date of the issuance of
10	such notice, whichever day is later.
11	"(C) Information included in applica-
12	TION.—Each application under subsection (e)
13	shall contain such information as the Attorney
14	General may require, including information on
15	living relatives of the applicant with respect to
16	whom a petition for preference or other status
17	may be filed by the applicant at any later date
18	under section 204(a).
19	"(3) Continuous residence.—
20	"(A) In General.—
21	"(i) Continuous residence.—The
22	alien must establish that the alien entered
23	the United States before January 1, 2001,

and has resided continuously in the United

States since such date and through the

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1	date the application is filed under this sub-
2	section.
3	"(ii) 5 YEARS.—The alien must estab-
4	lish continuous residence in the United
5	States immediately preceding the 5-year
6	period ending on the date on which the
7	alien becomes eligible for adjustment of
8	status under this subsection.
9	"(iii) Treatment of certain ab-
10	SENCES.—An alien shall not be considered
11	to have lost continuous residence by reason
12	of an absence from the United States per-
13	mitted under subsection (b)(9).
14	"(B) Exchange visitors.—If the alien
15	was at any time a nonimmigrant exchange alien
16	(as defined in section $101(a)(15)(J)$), the alien
17	must establish that the alien was not subject to
18	the two-year foreign residence requirement of
19	section 212(e) or has fulfilled that requirement
20	or received a waiver thereof.
21	"(4) Continuous physical presence since
22	DATE OF ENACTMENT.—
23	"(A) IN GENERAL.—The alien must estab-
24	lish that the alien has been continuously phys-

1	ically present in the United States since the
2	date of the enactment of this section.
3	"(B) Treatment of brief, casual, and
4	INNOCENT ABSENCES.—An alien shall not be
5	considered to have failed to maintain contin-
6	uous physical presence in the United States for
7	purposes of subparagraph (A) by virtue of an
8	absence, or absences, from the United States
9	for any periods in the aggregate not exceeding
10	180 days.
11	"(C) Admissions.—Nothing in this section
12	shall be construed as authorizing an alien to
13	apply for admission to, or to be admitted to, the
14	United States in order to apply for adjustment
15	of status under this subsection.
16	"(5) Admissible as immigrant.—The alien
17	must establish that the alien—
18	"(A) is admissible to the United States as
19	an immigrant, except as otherwise provided
20	under subsection (c)(2); and
21	"(B) has not been convicted of any felony
22	or three or more misdemeanors committed in
23	the United States.
24	"(6) Basic citizenship skills.—

1	"(A) IN GENERAL.—The alien must dem-
2	onstrate that he either—
3	"(i) meets the requirements of section
4	312(a) (relating to minimal understanding
5	of ordinary English and a knowledge and
6	understanding of the history and govern-
7	ment of the United States); or
8	"(ii) is satisfactorily pursuing a
9	course of study (recognized by the Attor-
10	ney General) to achieve such an under-
11	standing of English and such a knowledge
12	and understanding of the history and gov-
13	ernment of the United States.
14	"(B) Exceptions.—
15	"(i) DISABILITIES.—Subparagraph
16	(A) shall not apply to a person who is un-
17	able because of physical or developmental
18	disability or mental impairment to comply
19	with such subparagraph.
20	"(ii) Age.—The Attorney General
21	may, in the Attorney General's discretion,
22	waive all or part of the requirements of
23	subparagraph (A) in the case of an alien
24	who is 65 years of age or older.

"(C) Relation to naturalization ex-AMINATION.—In accordance with regulations of the Attorney General, an alien who has dem-onstrated under subparagraph (A)(i) that the alien meets the requirements of section 312(a) may be considered to have satisfied the requirements of that section for purposes of becoming naturalized as a citizen of the United States under title III.

"(b) Applications for Adjustment of Status.—

"(1) Conditions for acceptance of application.—An application shall be accepted under this subsection upon a determination that the applicant is prima facie eligible for adjustment of status under subsection (a), which determination shall not be made before, at a minimum, the identity of the applicant has been checked against all appropriate electronic databases maintained by the Attorney General and by the Secretary of State and appropriate foreign entities or international law enforcement databases to determine any grounds on which the alien may be inadmissible to the United States that may not be waived under subsection (c)(2).

"(2) TO WHOM MAY BE MADE.—

1	"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General
2	shall provide that applications for adjustment of
3	status under subsection (a) may be filed—
4	"(i) with the Attorney General, or
5	"(ii) with a qualified designated enti-
6	ty, but only if the applicant consents to the
7	forwarding of the application to the Attor-
8	ney General.
9	"(B) Definition.—As used in this sec-
10	tion, the term 'qualified designated entity'
11	means an organization or person designated
12	under paragraph (3).
13	"(3) Designation of qualified entities to
14	RECEIVE APPLICATIONS.—For purposes of assisting
15	in the program of legalization provided under this
16	section, the Attorney General—
17	"(A) shall designate qualified voluntary or-
18	ganizations and other qualified State, local, and
19	community organizations, and
20	"(B) may designate such other persons as
21	the Attorney General determines are qualified
22	and have substantial experience, demonstrated
23	competence, and traditional long-term involve-
24	ment in the preparation and submittal of appli-
25	cations for adjustment of status under section

209 or 245, Public Law 89–732, or Public Law
 95–145.

"(4) TREATMENT OF APPLICATIONS BY DES-IGNATED ENTITIES.—Each qualified designated entity must agree to forward to the Attorney General applications filed with it in accordance with paragraph (2)(A)(ii) but not to forward to the Attorney General applications filed with it unless the applicant has consented to such forwarding. No such entity may make a determination required by this section to be made by the Attorney General.

"(5) Limitation on access to information.—Files and records of qualified designated entities relating to an alien's seeking assistance or information with respect to filing an application under this section are confidential and the Attorney General and the Service shall not have access to such files or records relating to an alien without the consent of the alien.

"(6) Confidentiality of information.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in this paragraph, neither the Attorney General, nor any other official or employee of the Department of Justice, or bureau or agency thereof, may—

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1	"(i) use the information furnished by
2	the applicant pursuant to an application
3	filed under this section for any purpose
4	other than to make a determination on the
5	application, for enforcement of paragraph
6	(7);
7	"(ii) make any publication whereby
8	the information furnished by any par-
9	ticular applicant can be identified; or
10	"(iii) permit anyone other than the
11	sworn officers and employees of the De-
12	partment or bureau or agency or, with re-
13	spect to applications filed with a des-
14	ignated entity, that designated entity, to
15	examine individual applications.
16	"(B) REQUIRED DISCLOSURES.—The At-
17	torney General shall provide the information
18	furnished under this section, and any other in-
19	formation derived from such furnished informa-
20	tion, to a duly recognized law enforcement enti-
21	ty in connection with a criminal investigation or
22	prosecution, when such information is requested
23	in writing by such entity, or to an official cor-

oner for purposes of affirmatively identifying a

deceased individual (whether or not such individual is deceased as a result of a crime).

"(C) AUTHORIZED DISCLOSURES.—The Attorney General may provide, in the Attorney General's discretion, for the furnishing of information furnished under this section in the same manner and circumstances as census information may be disclosed by the Secretary of Commerce under section 8 of title 13, United States Code.

"(D) Construction.—

"(i) In General.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the use, or release, for immigration enforcement purposes or law enforcement purposes of information contained in files or records of the Service pertaining to an application filed under this section, other than information furnished by an applicant pursuant to the application, or any other information derived from the application, that is not available from any other source.

"(ii) CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS.—Information concerning whether the applicant has at any time been convicted of a crime may

be used or released for immigration enforcement or law enforcement purposes.

"(E) CRIME.—Whoever knowingly uses, publishes, or permits information to be examined in violation of this paragraph shall be fined not more than \$10,000.

"(7) Penalties for false statements in Applications.—Whoever files an application for adjustment of status under this section and knowingly and willfully falsifies, misrepresents, conceals, or covers up a material fact or makes any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations, or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry, shall be fined in accordance with title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

"(8) APPLICATION FEES.—

"(A) FEE SCHEDULE.—The Attorney General shall provide for a schedule of fees to be charged for the filing of applications for adjustment under this section. Such fees shall not exceed the Attorney General's costs in adjudicating the applications.

"(B) Use of fees.—The Attorney Gen-1 2 eral shall deposit payments received under this 3 paragraph in a separate account and amounts 4 in such account shall be available, without fiscal 5 year limitation, to cover administrative and 6 other expenses incurred in connection with the 7 review of applications filed under this sub-8 section.

> "(9) AUTHORIZED TRAVEL AND EMPLOY-MENT.—During the period after an alien has submitted an application under this subsection and before the Attorney General has rendered a decision to accept or reject such application, and during the period after the acceptance of an alien's application under this subsection and before the Attorney General has rendered a final decision granting or denying such application, the Attorney General—

"(A) shall not remove the alien from the United States;

"(B) shall, in accordance with regulations, permit the alien to return to the United States after such brief and casual trips abroad as reflect an intention on the part of the alien to adjust to lawful permanent resident status under subsection (a) and after brief temporary trips

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1	abroad occasioned by a family obligation involv-
2	ing an occurrence such as the illness or death
3	of a close relative or other family need; and
4	"(C) shall grant the alien authorization to
5	engage in employment in the United States and
6	provide to that alien an 'employment author-
7	ized' endorsement or other appropriate work
8	permit for 12 months, renewable at 6-month in-
9	tervals, until a final ruling on the application is
10	made.
11	"(c) Waiver of Numerical Limitations and Cer-
12	TAIN GROUNDS FOR INADMISSIBILITY.—
13	"(1) Numerical limitations do not
14	APPLY.—The numerical limitations of sections 201
15	and 202 shall not apply to the adjustment of aliens
16	to lawful permanent resident status under subsection
17	(a) or (g).
18	"(2) Treatment of grounds for inadmis-
19	SIBILITY.—
20	"(A) Inapplicable grounds for inad-
21	MISSIBILITY.—In the determination of an
22	alien's admissibility under subsection (a), the
23	provisions of paragraphs (4) , (5) , $(6)(A)$,
24	(7)(A), and $(9)(B)$ of section $212(a)$ shall not
25	apply.

1	"(B) Waiver of grounds for inadmis-
2	SIBILITY.—
3	"(i) In general.—Except as pro-
4	vided in clause (ii), the Attorney General
5	may waive any other provision of section
6	212(a) in the case of individual aliens for
7	humanitarian purposes, to assure family
8	unity, or when it is otherwise in the public
9	interest.
10	"(ii) Grounds that may not be
11	WAIVED.—The following provisions of sec-
12	tion 212(a) may not be waived by the At-
13	torney General under clause (i):
14	"(I) Paragraphs $(2)(A)$ and
15	(2)(B) (relating to criminals).
16	"(II) Paragraph (2)(C) (relating
17	to drug offenses), except for so much
18	of such paragraph as relates to a sin-
19	gle offense of simple possession of 30
20	grams or less of marijuana.
21	"(III) Paragraph (3) (relating to
22	security and related grounds).
23	"(C) Medical examination.—The alien
24	shall be required, at the alien's expense, to un-
25	dergo such a medical examination (including a

1	determination of immunization status) as is ap-
2	propriate and conforms to generally accepted
3	professional standards of medical practice.
4	"(d) Temporary Stay of Deportation and
5	Work Authorization Before Application Period.—
6	The Attorney General may provide that in the case of an
7	alien who is apprehended before the beginning of the ap-
8	plication period described in subsection (a)(2)(A) and who
9	can establish a prima facie case of eligibility to have his
10	status adjusted under subsection (a) or (g) (but for the
11	fact that the alien may not apply for such adjustment until
12	the beginning of such period), until the alien has had the
13	opportunity during the first 30 days of the application pe-
14	riod to complete the filing of an application for adjust-
15	ment, the alien—
16	"(1) may not be removed from the United
17	States; and
18	"(2) shall be granted authorization to engage in
19	employment in the United States and be provided an
20	'employment authorized' endorsement or other ap-
21	propriate work permit.
22	"(e) Administrative and Judicial Review.—
23	"(1) Administrative and Judicial Re-
24	VIEW.—There shall be no administrative or judicial
25	review of a determination respecting an application

for adjustment of status under subsection (a) or (g)
except in accordance with this subsection.

"(2) No review for late filings.—No denial of adjustment of status under subsection (a) or (g) based on a late filing of an application for such adjustment may be reviewed by a court of the United States or of any State or reviewed in any administrative proceeding of the United States Government.

"(3) Administrative review.—

"(A) SINGLE LEVEL OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPELLATE REVIEW.—The Attorney General shall establish an appellate authority to provide for a single level of administrative appellate review of a determination described in paragraph (1).

"(B) STANDARD FOR REVIEW.—Such administrative appellate review shall be based solely upon the administrative record established at the time of the determination on the application and upon such additional or newly discovered evidence as may not have been available at the time of the determination.

24 "(4) Judicial review.—

1 "(A) LIMITATION TO REVIEW OF DEPOR-2 TATION.—There shall be judicial review of such 3 a denial only in the judicial review of an order 4 of removal under section 242.

"(B) STANDARD FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW.—
Such judicial review shall be based solely upon
the administrative record established at the
time of the review by the appellate authority
and the findings of fact and determinations
contained in such record shall be conclusive unless the applicant can establish abuse of discretion or that the findings are directly contrary to
clear and convincing facts contained in the
record considered as a whole.

"(C) JURISDICTION OF COURTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no court shall have jurisdiction of any cause of action or claim by or on behalf of any person asserting an interest under this section unless such person in fact filed an application under this section within the period specified by subsection (a)(2) attempted to file a complete application and application fee with an authorized legalization officer of the Service but had the application and fee refused by that officer.

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1	"(f) Implementation of Section.—
2	"(1) Regulations.—The Attorney General
3	after consultation with the Committees on the Judi
4	ciary of the House of Representatives and of the
5	Senate, shall prescribe—
6	"(A) regulations establishing a definition
7	of the term 'continuous residence', as used in
8	this section, and the evidence needed to estab-
9	lish that an alien has resided continuously in
10	the United States for purposes of this section
11	and
12	"(B) such other regulations as may be nec
13	essary to carry out this section.
14	"(2) Considerations.—In prescribing regula
15	tions described in paragraph (1)(A)—
16	"(A) Periods of continuous resi-
17	DENCE.—The Attorney General shall specify in
18	dividual periods, and aggregate periods, of ab-
19	sence from the United States which will be con-
20	sidered to break a period of continuous resi-
21	dence in the United States and shall take into
22	account absences due merely to brief and casua
23	trips abroad.

1	"(B) Absences caused by removal or
2	ADVANCED PAROLE.—The Attorney General
3	shall provide that—
4	"(i) an alien shall not be considered to
5	have resided continuously in the United
6	States, if, during any period for which con-
7	tinuous residence is required, the alien was
8	outside the United States as a result of a
9	departure under an order of removal or de-
10	portation; and
11	"(ii) any period of time during which
12	an alien is outside the United States pur-
13	suant to the advance parole procedures of
14	the Service shall not be considered as part
15	of the period of time during which an alien
16	is outside the United States for purposes
17	of this section.
18	"(C) Waivers of Certain absences.—
19	The Attorney General shall provide for a waiv-
20	er, in the discretion of the Attorney General, of
21	the periods specified under subparagraph (A) in
22	the case of an absence from the United States
23	due merely to a brief temporary trip abroad re-
24	quired by emergency or extenuating cir-
25	cumstances outside the control of the alien.

1	"(D) USE OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTA-
2	TION.—The Attorney General shall require
3	that—
4	"(i) continuous residence and physical
5	presence in the United States must be es-
6	tablished through documents, together with
7	independent corroboration of the informa-
8	tion contained in such documents; and
9	"(ii) the documents provided under
10	clause (i) be employment-related if employ-
11	ment-related documents with respect to the
12	alien are available to the applicant.
13	"(3) Interim final regulations.—Regula-
14	tions prescribed under this section may be pre-
15	scribed to take effect on an interim final basis if the
16	Attorney General determines that this is necessary
17	in order to implement this section in a timely man-
18	ner.
19	"(g) Adjustment of Status for Spouses and
20	CHILDREN.—
21	"(1) IN GENERAL.—The status of an alien shall
22	be adjusted by the Attorney General to that of an
23	alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence con-
24	currently with the adjustment of the principal alien,
25	if—

1	"(A) the alien is the spouse or child of an
2	alien whose status is adjusted to that of an
3	alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence
4	under subsection (a);
5	"(B) the alien applies for such adjustment
6	and is physically present in the United States
7	on the date the application is filed;
8	"(C) the alien is otherwise admissible to
9	the United States for permanent residence, ex-
10	cept in determining such admissibility the
11	grounds for inadmissibility specified in para-
12	graphs (4) , (5) , $(6)(A)$, $(7)(A)$, and $(9)(B)$ of
13	section 212(a) shall not apply; and
14	"(D) the alien applies for such adjustment
15	before the expiration of the application period
16	specified in subsection $(a)(2)(A)$.
17	"(2) Determination of whether applicant
18	IS A CHILD.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(A), a
19	determination of whether an alien is a child shall be
20	made using the age of the alien on the date on
21	which the alien's application under this subsection is
22	filed.
23	"(h) Inapplicability of Removal Order Rein-
24	STATEMENT.—Section 241(a)(5) shall not apply with re-

- 1 spect to an alien who is applying for adjustment of status
- 2 under this section.".
- 3 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
- 4 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section
- 5 245A the following:

"Sec. 245B. Adjustment of status of certain entrants before January 1, 2001, to that of person admitted for lawful residence.".

6 TITLE II—REGISTRY DATE

7 **CHANGE**

- 8 SEC. 201. CHANGE OF ENTRY DATE INTO THE UNITED
- 9 STATES FOR PURPOSES OF A RECORD OF AD-
- 10 MISSION FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE FOR
- 11 CERTAIN ALIENS.
- 12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 249 (8 U.S.C. 1259) is
- 13 amended—
- 14 (1) in the section heading, by striking "JANU-
- 15 ARY 1, 1972" and inserting "JANUARY 1, 2001"; and
- 16 (2) in subsection (a), by striking "January 1,
- 17 1972;" and inserting "January 1, 2001;".
- 18 (b) Clerical Amendment.—The table of contents
- 19 is amended in the item relating to section 249 by striking
- 20 "January 1, 1972" and inserting "January 1, 2001".
- 21 (c) Effective Date.—The amendments made by
- 22 subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on January 1,
- 23 2007.

1 TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

- 2 SEC. 301. REGULATIONS.
- 3 The Attorney General shall promulgate regulations to
- 4 implement this Act not more than 90 days after the date
- 5 of the enactment of this Act.
- 6 SEC. 302. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.
- 7 (a) In General.—There are authorized to be appro-
- 8 priated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this
- 9 Act.
- 10 (b) Availability of Funds.—Amounts appro-
- 11 priated pursuant to subsection (a) are authorized to re-
- 12 main available until expended.
- 13 SEC. 303. EFFECTIVE DATE.
- 14 Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the
- 15 amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date
- 16 of the enactment of this Act.

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