

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2600

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to simplify the requirements for United States nationals to become citizens.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2003

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

A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to simplify the requirements for United States nationals to become citizens.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Under the Immigration and Nationality
6 Act, persons born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the United
7 States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the
8 Northern Mariana Islands are citizens of the United
9 States at birth. Persons born in the United States

1 territory of American Samoa are nationals of the
2 United States, but not citizens, at birth.

3 (2) The term “national of the United States”
4 is defined under the Immigration and Nationality
5 Act to include persons who, though not citizens of
6 the United States, owe permanent allegiance to the
7 United States.

8 (3) For more than 103 years, American
9 Samoans who are United States nationals have al-
10 ways demonstrated their loyalty and allegiance to
11 the United States. On April 17, 1900, the village
12 chiefs of Tutuila ceded their islands to the United
13 States. On July 16, 1904, the village chiefs of
14 Manu’a did the same. On February 20, 1929, the
15 United States ratified the Treaty of Cession of
16 Tutuila and the Treaty of Cession of Manu’a.

17 (4) Since ratification of the Treaties of Cession,
18 many American Samoans who are United States na-
19 tionals have joined the United States Armed Forces
20 and fought for the United States during World War
21 II, the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf wars,
22 and most recently in Iraq.

23 (5) However, in order for American Samoans
24 who are United States nationals to become United
25 States citizens, they must follow the same procedure

1 as aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence.
2 This procedure requires, among other steps, an ap-
3 plication, fingerprinting, an interview, an English
4 language and civics examination, and participation
5 in an oath ceremony. The procedure may take years
6 to complete.

7 (6) Given that American Samoa’s education
8 system is structured to closely resemble that of pub-
9 lic schools in the United States, that courses on
10 United States history, civics, and government are
11 thoroughly taught, that English is the language of
12 public school instruction, and that United States na-
13 tionals by definition owe permanent allegiance to the
14 United States, it is in the national interest that
15 United States nationals be allowed to become United
16 States citizens by more expeditious means.

17 **SEC. 2. NATURALIZATION FOR UNITED STATES NATIONALS.**

18 (a) **ELIGIBILITY FOR UNITED STATES NATIONALS**
19 **TO BECOME UNITED STATES CITIZENS.**—Section 325 of
20 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1436) is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 “ELIGIBILITY FOR NATURALIZATION FOR NATIONALS OF
23 THE UNITED STATES

24 “SEC. 325. A person not a citizen who owes perma-
25 nent allegiance to the United States may, if the person

1 becomes a resident of any State, be naturalized (and fur-
2 nished by the Secretary of Homeland Security with a cer-
3 tificate of citizenship) upon—

4 “(1) establishing to the satisfaction of the Sec-
5 retary of Homeland Security that the person is a na-
6 tional of the United States; and

7 “(2) taking and subscribing before an immigra-
8 tion officer within the United States to the oath of
9 allegiance required by this Act of an applicant for
10 naturalization.”.

11 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
12 of the Immigration and Nationality Act is amended by
13 amending the item relating to section 325 to read as fol-
14 lows:

“Sec. 325. Eligibility for naturalization for nationals of the United States.”.

