

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2165

To assist members of the Armed Forces in obtaining United States citizenship, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 21, 2005

Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. SARBANES) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To assist members of the Armed Forces in obtaining United States citizenship, 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 “Kendell Frederick Citi-
5 zenship Assistance Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. WAIVER OF REQUIREMENT FOR FINGERPRINTS**
7 **FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

8 Notwithstanding any other provision of law or any
9 regulation, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall use
10 the fingerprints provided by an individual at the time the

1 individual enlists in the Armed Forces to satisfy any re-
 2 quirement for fingerprints as part of an application for
 3 naturalization if the individual—

4 (1) may be naturalized pursuant to section 328
 5 or 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
 6 U.S.C. 1439 or 1440);

7 (2) was fingerprinted in accordance with the re-
 8 quirements of the Department of Defense at the
 9 time the individual enlisted in the Armed Forces;
 10 and

11 (3) submits an application for naturalization
 12 not later than 12 months after the date the indi-
 13 vidual enlisted in the Armed Forces.

14 **SEC. 3. PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON NATURALIZATION**
 15 **TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

16 (a) CITIZENSHIP ADVOCATE.—The Secretary of De-
 17 fense shall establish the position of Citizenship Advocate
 18 at each Military Entry Processing Station to provide infor-
 19 mation and assistance related to the naturalization process
 20 to members of the Armed Forces. An individual serving
 21 as a Citizenship Advocate may be a civilian.

22 (b) WRITTEN MATERIALS.—The Secretary of De-
 23 fense shall ensure that written information describing the
 24 naturalization process for members of the Armed Forces
 25 is provided to each individual who is not a citizen of the

1 United States at the time that the individual enlists in
2 the Armed Forces.

3 (c) TELEPHONE HOT LINE.—The Secretary of
4 Homeland Security shall—

5 (1) establish a dedicated toll free telephone
6 service available only to members of the Armed
7 Forces and the families of such members to provide
8 information related to naturalization pursuant to
9 section 328 or 329 of the Immigration and Nation-
10 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1439 or 1440), including the sta-
11 tus of an application for such naturalization;

12 (2) ensure that the telephone service required
13 by paragraph (1) is operated by employees of the
14 Department of Homeland Security who—

15 (A) have received specialized training on
16 the naturalization process for members of the
17 Armed Forces and the families of such mem-
18 bers; and

19 (B) are physically located in the same unit
20 as the military processing unit that adjudicates
21 applications for naturalization pursuant to such
22 section 328 or 329; and

23 (3) implement a quality control program to
24 monitor, on a regular basis, the accuracy and quality
25 of information provided by the employees who oper-

1 ate the telephone service required by paragraph (1),
2 including the breadth of the knowledge related to the
3 naturalization process of such employees.

4 **SEC. 4. PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON NATURALIZATION**
5 **TO THE PUBLIC.**

6 Not later than 30 days after the date that a modifica-
7 tion to any law or regulation related to the naturalization
8 process becomes effective, the Secretary of Homeland Se-
9 curity shall update the appropriate application form for
10 naturalization, the instructions and guidebook for obtain-
11 ing naturalization, and the Internet website maintained by
12 the Secretary of Homeland Security to reflect such modi-
13 fication.

14 **SEC. 5. REPORTS.**

15 (a) ADJUDICATION PROCESS.—Not later than 120
16 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
17 Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to
18 the appropriate congressional committees a report on the
19 entire process for the adjudication of an application for
20 naturalization filed pursuant to section 328 or 329 of the
21 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1439 or
22 1440), including the process that begins at the time the
23 application is mailed to, or received by, the Secretary of
24 Homeland Security, regardless of whether the Secretary
25 determines that such application is complete, through the

1 final disposition of such application. Such report shall in-
2 clude a description of—

3 (1) the methods of the Secretary of Homeland
4 Security and the Secretary of Defense to prepare,
5 handle, and adjudicate such applications;

6 (2) the effectiveness of the chain of authority,
7 supervision, and training of employees of the Gov-
8 ernment or of other entities, including contract em-
9 ployees, who have any role in such process or adju-
10 dication; and

11 (3) the ability of the Secretary of Homeland Se-
12 curity and the Secretary of Defense to use tech-
13 nology to facilitate or accomplish any aspect of such
14 process or adjudication.

15 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—

16 (1) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the
17 United States shall conduct a study on the imple-
18 mentation of this Act by the Secretary of Homeland
19 Security and the Secretary of Defense, including
20 studying any technology that may be used to im-
21 prove the efficiency of the naturalization process for
22 members of the Armed Forces.

23 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after
24 the date that the Comptroller General submits the
25 report required by subsection (a), the Comptroller

1 General shall submit to the appropriate congres-
2 sional committees a report on the study required by
3 paragraph (1). The report shall include any rec-
4 ommendations of the Comptroller General for im-
5 proving the implementation of this Act by the Sec-
6 retary of Homeland Security or the Secretary of De-
7 fense.

8 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-
9 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-
10 sional committees” means—

11 (1) the Committee on Armed Services and the
12 Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

13 (2) the Committee on Armed Services and the
14 Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Rep-
15 resentatives.

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