

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6578

To amend section 6 of the Joint Resolution entitled “A Joint Resolution to approve the Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, and for other purposes”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 26, 2018

Mr. SABLAN (for himself, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. CORREA, Mr. SIRES, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. HANABUSA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GALLEG0, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. MENG, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. KIHUEN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. LOFGREN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend section 6 of the Joint Resolution entitled “A Joint Resolution to approve the Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Northern Mariana Is-
3 lands Workforce Stabilization Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. LONG-TERM LEGAL RESIDENTS OF THE COMMON-**
5 **WEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA IS-**
6 **LANDS.**

7 Section 6(e) of the Joint Resolution entitled “A Joint
8 Resolution to approve the Covenant To Establish a Com-
9 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political
10 Union with the United States of America, and for other
11 purposes”, approved March 24, 1976 (48 U.S.C. 1806),
12 is amended by adding at the end the following:

13 “(6) SPECIAL PROVISION REGARDING LONG-
14 TERM RESIDENTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH.—

15 “(A) CNMI-ONLY RESIDENT STATUS.—
16 Notwithstanding paragraph (1), an alien de-
17 scribed in subparagraph (B) may, upon the ap-
18 plication of the alien, be admitted as an immi-
19 grant to the Commonwealth subject to the fol-
20 lowing rules:

21 “(i) The alien shall be treated as an
22 immigrant lawfully admitted for permanent
23 residence in the Commonwealth only, in-
24 cluding permitting entry to and exit from
25 the Commonwealth or to Guam for the

1 purpose of transit only, until the earlier of
2 the date on which—

3 “(I) the alien ceases to perma-
4 nently reside in the Commonwealth;
5 or

6 “(II) the alien’s status is ad-
7 justed under this paragraph or section
8 245 of the Immigration and Nation-
9 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255) to that of
10 an alien lawfully admitted for perma-
11 nent residence in accordance with all
12 applicable eligibility requirements.

13 “(ii) The Secretary of Homeland Se-
14 curity shall establish a process for such
15 aliens to apply for CNMI-only permanent
16 resident status during the 180-day period
17 beginning on the first day of the sixth
18 month after the date of the enactment of
19 this paragraph.

20 “(iii) Nothing in this subparagraph
21 may be construed to provide any alien
22 granted status under this subparagraph
23 with public assistance to which the alien is
24 not otherwise entitled.

1 “(B) ALIENS DESCRIBED.—An alien is de-
2 scribed in this subparagraph if—

3 “(i) the alien is lawfully present in the
4 Commonwealth under the immigration
5 laws of the United States;

6 “(ii) the alien is otherwise admissible
7 to the United States under the Immigra-
8 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et
9 seq.);

10 “(iii) the alien is not a citizen of the
11 Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Fed-
12 erated States of Micronesia, or the Repub-
13 lic of Palau; and

14 “(iv) the alien—

15 “(I) was admitted to the Com-
16 monwealth as a Commonwealth Only
17 Transitional Worker during fiscal year
18 2015, and during every subsequent
19 fiscal year beginning before the date
20 of the enactment of the Northern
21 Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act
22 of 2018; or

23 “(II) resided in the Northern
24 Mariana Islands as an investor under
25 Commonwealth immigration law, and

1 is presently resident under E–2 CNMI
2 Investor Status (E2C).

3 “(C) ADJUSTMENT FOR LONG-TERM RESI-
4 DENTS.—Beginning on the date that is 5 years
5 after the date of the enactment of this para-
6 graph, an alien described in subparagraph (B)
7 may apply to receive an immigrant visa or to
8 adjust his or her status to that of an alien law-
9 fully admitted for permanent residence.”.

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