

Public Law 105-319
105th Congress

An Act

To establish a cultural training program for disadvantaged individuals to assist the Irish peace process.

Oct. 30, 1998
[H.R. 4293]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998”.

SEC. 2. IRISH PEACE PROCESS CULTURAL AND TRAINING PROGRAM.

Irish Peace
Process Cultural
and Training
Program Act of
1998.
8 USC 1101 note.

8 USC 1101 note.

(a) PURPOSE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the Attorney General shall establish a program to allow young people from disadvantaged areas of designated counties suffering from sectarian violence and high structural unemployment to enter the United States for the purpose of developing job skills and conflict resolution abilities in a diverse, cooperative, peaceful, and prosperous environment, so that those young people can return to their homes better able to contribute toward economic regeneration and the Irish peace process. The program shall promote cross-community and cross-border initiatives to build grassroots support for long-term peaceful coexistence. The Secretary of State and the Attorney General shall cooperate with nongovernmental organizations to assist those admitted to participate fully in the economic, social, and cultural life of the United States.

(2) SCOPE AND DURATION OF PROGRAM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The program under paragraph (1) shall provide for the admission of not more than 4,000 aliens under section 101(a)(15)(Q)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (including spouses and minor children) in each of 3 consecutive program years.

(B) OFFSET IN NUMBER OF H-2B NONIMMIGRANT ADMIS-
SIONS ALLOWED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for each alien so admitted in a fiscal year, the numerical limitation specified under section 214(g)(1)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act shall be reduced by 1 for that fiscal year or the subsequent fiscal year.

(3) RECORDS AND REPORT.—The Immigration and Naturalization Service shall maintain records of the nonimmigrant status and place of residence of each alien admitted under the program. Not later than 120 days after the end of the third program year and for the 3 subsequent years, the

Immigration and Naturalization Service shall compile and submit to the Congress a report on the number of aliens admitted with nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(Q)(ii) who have overstayed their visas.

(4) DESIGNATED COUNTIES DEFINED.—For the purposes of this Act, the term “designated counties” means the six counties of Northern Ireland and the counties of Louth, Monaghan, Cavan, Leitrim, Sligo, and Donegal within the Republic of Ireland.

(b) TEMPORARY NONIMMIGRANT VISA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(a)(15)(Q) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(Q)) is amended—

(A) by inserting “(i)” after “(Q)”; and

(B) by inserting after the semicolon at the end the following: “or (ii)(I) an alien 35 years of age or younger having a residence in Northern Ireland, or the counties of Louth, Monaghan, Cavan, Leitrim, Sligo, and Donegal within the Republic of Ireland, which the alien has no intention of abandoning who is coming temporarily (for a period not to exceed 36 months) to the United States as a participant in a cultural and training program approved by the Secretary of State and the Attorney General under section 2(a) of the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998 for the purpose of providing practical training, employment, and the experience of coexistence and conflict resolution in a diverse society, and (II) the alien spouse and minor children of any such alien if accompanying the alien or following to join the alien;”.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this section. Amounts appropriated pursuant to this subsection are authorized to be available until expended.

(d) SUNSET.—

(1) Effective October 1, 2005, the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998 is repealed.

Effective date.

(2) Effective October 1, 2005, section 101(a)(15)(Q) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(Q)) is amended—

- (A) by striking “or” at the end of clause (i);
- (B) by striking “(i)” after “(Q)”; and
- (C) by striking clause (ii).

Approved October 30, 1998.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 4293:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 144 (1998):
Oct. 7, considered and passed House.
Oct. 8, considered and passed Senate.

