

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5492

To provide for automatic acquisition of United States citizenship for certain internationally adopted individuals, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

Mr. SMITH of Washington (for himself and Mr. BACON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide for automatic acquisition of United States citizenship for certain internationally adopted individuals, 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 “Protect Adoptees and
5 American Families Act” or the “PAAF Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP FOR CERTAIN INTER-**
7 **NATIONALLY ADOPTED INDIVIDUALS.**

8 Section 320(b) of the Immigration and Nationality
9 Act (8 U.S.C. 1431(b)) is amended to read as follows:

10 “(b) ADOPTED CHILDREN OF CITIZEN PARENT.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) shall apply
2 to a child adopted by a United States citizen parent
3 if the child satisfies the requirements applicable to
4 adopted children under subparagraph (E), (F), or
5 (G) of section 101(b)(1), regardless of the date on
6 which the adoption was finalized.

7 “(2) LIMITED APPLICATION TO CERTAIN
8 ADOPTED INDIVIDUALS RESIDING IN THE UNITED
9 STATES.—Notwithstanding section 318, an indi-
10 vidual born outside of the United States who was
11 adopted by a United States citizen parent shall auto-
12 matically become a citizen of the United States when
13 all of the following conditions have been fulfilled:

14 “(A) The individual was adopted by a
15 United States citizen before the individual
16 reached 18 years of age.

17 “(B) The individual was physically present
18 in the United States in the legal custody of the
19 citizen parent pursuant to a lawful admission
20 before the individual reached 18 years of age.

21 “(C) The individual never acquired United
22 States citizenship before the date of the enact-
23 ment of the Protect Adoptees and American
24 Families Act.

1 “(D) The individual was residing in the
2 United States on the date of the enactment of
3 the Protect Adoptees and American Families
4 Act pursuant to a lawful admission.

5 “(3) LIMITED APPLICATION TO CERTAIN
6 ADOPTED INDIVIDUALS RESIDING OUTSIDE OF THE
7 UNITED STATES.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An individual who
9 meets all of the criteria described in paragraph
10 (2) except for subparagraph (D) shall automati-
11 cally become a citizen of the United States on
12 the date on which the individual is physically
13 present in the United States pursuant to a law-
14 ful admission.

15 “(B) INAPPLICABILITY OF GROUNDS OF
16 INADMISSIBILITY.—The grounds of inadmis-
17 sibility set forth in section 212(a) shall not
18 apply to an individual described in subpara-
19 graph (A) who is seeking admission to the
20 United States.

21 “(C) CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK.—
22 Notwithstanding subparagraphs (A) and (B),
23 an individual described in subparagraph (A)
24 may not be issued a visa unless—

1 “(i) the individual was subjected to a
2 criminal background check; and

3 “(ii) if the background check con-
4 ducted pursuant to clause (i) reveals that
5 the individual has committed a crime that
6 was not properly resolved, the Secretary of
7 Homeland Security and the Secretary of
8 State coordinated with relevant law en-
9 forcement agencies to ensure that appro-
10 priate action is taken to resolve such crimi-
11 nal activity.”.

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