

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2884

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 8, 2007

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Kendell Frederick Citi-
3 zenship Assistance Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINGERPRINTS FOR MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
6 sion of law, including section 552a of title 5, United States
7 Code (commonly referred to as the “Privacy Act of
8 1974”), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall use the
9 fingerprints provided by an individual at the time the indi-
10 vidual enlisted in the Armed Forces to satisfy any require-
11 ment for fingerprints that is part of an application for
12 naturalization if—

13 (1) the individual may be naturalized pursuant
14 to section 328 or 329 of the Immigration and Na-
15 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1439–1440);

16 (2) the individual was fingerprinted in accord-
17 ance with the requirements of the Department of
18 Defense at the time the individual enlisted in the
19 Armed Forces;

20 (3) the individual submits an application for
21 naturalization not later than 24 months after the
22 date on which the individual enlisted in the Armed
23 Forces; and

24 (4) the Secretary of Homeland Security deter-
25 mines that the fingerprints are sufficient to adju-
26 dicate the applicant’s naturalization application.

1 (b) MOST TIMELY AND EFFECTIVE ADJUDICA-
2 TION.—Nothing in this section shall preclude an individual
3 described in subsection (a) from submitting new finger-
4 prints to the Secretary of Homeland Security. If the Sec-
5 retary of Homeland Security determines that submitting
6 new fingerprints would result in more timely and effective
7 adjudication of the individual’s naturalization application,
8 the Secretary shall inform the individual that submitting
9 new fingerprints would result in more timely and effective
10 adjudication of the individual’s naturalization application,
11 along with a description of how to submit new finger-
12 prints.

13 (c) COOPERATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Se-
14 curity, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall
15 determine the format of fingerprints acceptable for usage
16 under subsection (a). The Secretary of Defense, or any
17 other official having custody of the fingerprints referred
18 to in subsection (a), shall make such prints available to
19 the Secretary of Homeland Security for the purpose de-
20 scribed in subsection (a) without charge and shall other-
21 wise cooperate with the Secretary of Homeland Security
22 in fulfilling the Secretary’s satisfaction of the requirement
23 under subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 3. PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON MILITARY NATU-**
2 **RALIZATION.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
4 effective date of any modification to a regulation related
5 to naturalization under section 328 or 329 of the Immi-
6 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1439–1440), the
7 Secretary of Homeland Security shall update as necessary
8 the appropriate Internet site or sites maintained by the
9 Secretary to reflect such modification.

10 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the
11 Congress that the Secretary of Homeland Security should
12 update as necessary the appropriate application form or
13 forms promulgated by the Secretary not later than 180
14 days after an effective date described in subsection (a).

15 **SEC. 4. REPORTS.**

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

1 disposition of such application. Such report shall include
2 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 Fed-
8 eral Government or of other entities, including con-
9 tract employees, who have any role in such process
10 or adjudication; 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.

Passed the House of Representatives November 6,
2007.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.