

Union Calendar No. 331

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5323

[Report No. 109-576]

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide for ceremonies on or near Independence Day for administering oaths of allegiance to legal immigrants whose applications for naturalization have been approved.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 9, 2006

Mr. FARR (for himself and Mr. HOBSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JULY 17, 2006

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide for ceremonies on or near Independence Day for administering oaths of allegiance to legal immigrants whose applications for naturalization have been approved.

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 “Proud to Be an Amer-
3 ican Citizen Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds as follows:

6 (1) The United States is a nation of immi-
7 grants.

8 (2) Immigrants strengthen the economic and
9 political ties of the United States with other nations.

10 (3) Immigrants enhance the Nation’s ability to
11 compete in the global market.

12 (4) Immigrants contribute to the Nation’s sci-
13 entific, literary, artistic, and other cultural re-
14 sources.

15 (5) A properly regulated system of legal immi-
16 gration is in the Nation’s interest.

17 (6) The Naturalization Oath of Allegiance im-
18 presses on new United States citizens—

19 (A) the shared American values of liberty,
20 democracy, and equal opportunity; and

21 (B) the obligation to respect and abide by
22 the Constitution, including the Bill of Rights.

23 (7) Naturalization rewards legal immigrants
24 who have abided by all United States laws and Im-
25 migration and Naturalization Service regulations.

1 (8) Naturalization bestows all the legal rights,
2 privileges, and responsibilities of a United States citi-
3 izen.

4 **SEC. 3. INDEPENDENCE DAY CEREMONIES FOR OATHS OF**
5 **ALLEGIANCE.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Secu-
7 rity shall make available funds each fiscal year to the Di-
8 rector of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services or to
9 public or private nonprofit entities to support public cere-
10 monies for administering oaths of allegiance under section
11 337(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
12 1448(a)) to legal immigrants whose applications for natu-
13 ralization have been approved.

14 (b) CEREMONIES.—A ceremony conducted with funds
15 under this section—

16 (1) shall be held on a date that is on or near
17 Independence Day; and

18 (2) shall include appropriate outreach, ceremo-
19 nial, and celebratory activities.

20 (c) SELECTION OF SITES.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland
22 Security shall select the site for each ceremony con-
23 ducted with funds under this section.

1 (2) SELECTION PROCESS.—In selecting a site
2 under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Se-
3 curity should consider—

4 (A) the number of naturalization appli-
5 cants living in proximity to the site; and

6 (B) the degree of participation in and sup-
7 port for the ceremony by the local community
8 at the site.

9 (d) AMOUNTS AVAILABLE; USE OF FUNDS.—

10 (1) AMOUNTS AVAILABLE.—Amounts made
11 available under this section for each ceremony shall
12 not exceed \$5,000.

13 (2) FUNDS.—Funds made available under this
14 section may be used only for the following:

15 (A) Costs of personnel of the Immigration
16 and Naturalization Service and the Federal ju-
17 diciary (including travel and overtime ex-
18 penses).

19 (B) Site rental, including audio equipment
20 rental.

21 (C) Logistical requirements, including
22 sanitation.

23 (D) Costs for printing brochures about the
24 naturalization participants and the naturaliza-
25 tion process.

1 (3) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds that are
2 otherwise available to the Immigration and Natu-
3 ralization Service to carry out naturalization activi-
4 ties shall be available to carry out this section.

5 (e) APPLICATION.—No amount may be made avail-
6 able under this section to an entity that is not part of
7 the Immigration and Naturalization Service, for sup-
8 porting a ceremony described in subsection (b), unless—

9 (1) the entity submits an application to the Sec-
10 retary of Homeland Security, in a form and manner
11 specified by the Secretary of Homeland Security;
12 and

13 (2) the Secretary of Homeland Security ap-
14 proves the application.

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