

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4285

To prohibit States from discriminating in the admission to the practice of law of graduates of accredited and certified law schools.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 21, 1994

Mr. MEEHAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To prohibit States from discriminating in the admission to the practice of law of graduates of accredited and certified law schools.

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. FINDINGS.**

4       The Congress finds that—

5               (1) the vast majority of States only allow out-  
6       of-State residents having gone to schools accredited  
7       by the American Bar Association to sit for the Bar;

8               (2) many law school graduates are being re-  
9       stricted in their admission to practice law because

1 they have elected to attend a school that is not so  
2 accredited;

3 (3) each State requires bar applicants to pass  
4 its individual exam of minimum competency before  
5 the applicants can practice law within its borders;  
6 and

7 (4) States should rely on such exams, not arbitrary  
8 distinctions in State accrediting and certifying  
9 procedures, to distinguish between qualified and un-  
10 qualified candidates for admission.

11 **SEC. 2. STATE RESTRICTIONS ON ADMISSIONS TO PRACTICE OF LAW.**  
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13 No State shall discriminate in the admission of individuals to the practice of law on the basis of whether such  
14 individuals successfully completed a program of post-baccalaureate legal education of a law school that—

17 (1) is approved by the accrediting or certifying  
18 agency of the State in which the law school is  
19 located,

20 (2) is approved by an educational accrediting  
21 agency recognized by the State in which the law  
22 school is located, or

23 (3) is approved by the American Bar Association.  
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