

IMMIGRATION LAW SOURCEBOOK

2022 EDITION

Blue360°
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**This publication is dedicated to the hard-working
law enforcement officers who risk their lives
every day to protect and serve the community**

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PREFACE

The 2022 Edition of the **Immigration Law Sourcebook** includes select portions of the U.S. Code, including the relevant sections for the Immigration & Nationality Act of 1952, portions of the Code of Federal Regulations, the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and the Federal Rules of Evidence, and Rules for Alien Terrorist Removal Court of the U.S. The book also includes Constitutional Criminal Procedure: A Summary of Federal Arrest, Search and Seizure, and Confession Laws.

The U.S. Code is current through PL 117-185, with the exception of PL 117-180; the Code of Federal Regulations is current through September 2022; and the Federal Rules of Evidence and Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure with amendments received through September 2022.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS



Search & Seizure Survival Guide: A Law Enforcement Field Manual	3
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U.S. CODE

TITLE 5. GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION AND EMPLOYEES	215
Part I. The Agencies Generally	215
Chapter 5. Administrative Procedure	215
Subchapter II. Administrative Procedure	215

IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT

FROM TITLE 8. ALIENS AND NATIONALITY.....	223
Chapter 12. Immigration and Nationality	223
Subchapter I. General Provisions.....	225
Subchapter II. Immigration	239
Part I. Selection System.....	239
Part II. Admission Qualifications for Aliens; Travel Control of Citizens and Aliens	274
Part III. Issuance of Entry Documents.....	330
Part IV. Inspection, Apprehension, Examination, Exclusion, and Removal.....	334
Part V. Adjustment and Change of Status	362
Part VI. Special Provisions Relating to Alien Crewmen	379
Part VII. Registration of Aliens.....	385
Part VIII. General Penalty Provisions	386
Part IX. Miscellaneous	401
Subchapter III. Nationality and Naturalization.....	430
Part I. Nationality at Birth and Collective Naturalization,.....	430
Part II. Nationality through Naturalization	433
Part III. Loss of Nationality.....	451
Part IV. Miscellaneous.....	452

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Subchapter IV. Refugee Assistance	453
Subchapter V. Alien Terrorist Removal Procedures	459

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

TITLE 8. ALIENS AND NATIONALITY	465
Chapter I. Department of Homeland Security	465
Subchapter A. General Provisions	465
Part 1. Definitions	469
Part 2. Authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security	471
Part 3. Executive Office for Immigration Review	471
Part 100. Statement of Organization	471
Part 101. Presumption of Lawful Admission	480
Part 103. Immigration Benefits; Biometric Requirements; Availability of Records	483
Part 204. Immigrant Petitions	497
Part 205. Revocation of Approval of Petitions	547
Part 207. Admission of Refugees	549
Part 208. Procedures for Asylum and Withholding of Removal	551
Part 209. Adjustment of Status of Refugees and Aliens Granted Asylum	580
Part 210. Special Agricultural Workers	581
Part 211. Documentary Requirements: Immigrants; Waivers	587
Part 212. Documentary Requirements: Nonimmigrants; Waivers; Admission of Certain Inadmissible Aliens; Parole	589
Part 213. Admission of Aliens on Giving Bond or Cash Deposit	619
Part 213A. Affidavits of Support on Behalf of Immigrants	620
Part 214. Nonimmigrant Classes	627
Part 215. Controls of Aliens Departing From the United States; Electronic Visa Update System	752
Part 216. Conditional Basis of Lawful Permanent Residence Status	758
Part 217. Visa Waiver Program	763
Part 221. Admission of Visitors or Students	766
Part 223. Reentry Permits, Refugee Travel Documents, And Advance Parole Documents	766
Part 231. Arrival and Departure Manifests	767

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part 232. Detention of Aliens for Physical and Mental Examination	768
Part 233. Contracts With Transportation Lines.....	769
Part 234. Designation of Ports of Entry for Aliens Arriving by Civil Aircraft.....	770
Part 235. Inspection of Persons Applying for Admission.....	771
Part 236. Apprehension and Detention of Inadmissible and Deportable Aliens; Removal of Aliens Ordered Removed.....	785
Part 238. Expedited Removal of Aggravated Felons.....	796
Part 239. Initiation of Removal Proceedings.....	797
Part 240. Voluntary Departure, Suspension of Deportation and Special Rule Cancellation of Removal	798
Part 241. Apprehension and Detention of Aliens Ordered Removed.....	806
Part 244. Temporary Protected Status for Nationals of Designated States.....	822
Part 245. Adjustment of Status to that of Person Admitted for Permanent Residence.....	827
Part 245A. Adjustment of Status to that of Persons Admitted For Temporary or Permanent Resident Status Under Section 245A of the Immigration and Nationality Act.....	854
Part 246. Rescission of Adjustment of Status.....	885
Part 247. Adjustment of Status of Certain Resident Aliens	886
Part 248. Change of Nonimmigrant Classification.....	887
Part 249. Creation of Records of Lawful Admission for Permanent Residence.....	889
Part 250. Removal of Aliens Who Have Fallen Into Distress.....	890
Part 251. Arrival and Departure Manifests and Lists: Supporting Documents	890
Part 252. Landing of Alien Crewmen.....	892
Part 253. Parole of Alien Crewmen	895
Part 258. Limitations on Performance of Longshore Work by Alien Crewmen.....	896
Part 264. Registration and Fingerprinting of Aliens in the United States	898
Part 265. Notices of Address	901
Part 270. Penalties for Document Fraud.....	901
Part 271. Diligent and Reasonable Efforts to Prevent the Unauthorized Entry of Aliens by the Owners of Railroad Lines, International Bridges or Toll Roads.....	903

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part 273. Carrier Responsibilities At Foreign Ports of Embarkation; Reducing, Refunding, or Waiving Fines Under Section 273 of the Act.....	903
Part 274. Seizure and Forfeiture of Conveyances	904
Part 274A. Control of Employment of Aliens	904
Part 280. Imposition and Collection of Fines.....	929
Part 286. Immigration User Fee.....	932
Part 287. Field Officers; Powers and Duties	935
Part 289. American Indians Born in Canada.....	944
Part 292. Representation and Appearances	945
Part 293. Deposit of and Interest on Cash Received to Secure Immigration Bonds	949
Part 299. Immigration Forms	949
Part 301. Nationals and Citizens of the United States At Birth.....	950
Part 306. Special Classes of Persons Who May Be Naturalized: Virgin Islanders.....	951
Part 310. Naturalization Authority	951
Part 312. Educational Requirements for Naturalization.....	952
Part 313. Membership in the Communist Party or Any Other Totalitarian Organizations	954
Part 315. Persons Ineligible to Citizenship: Exemption From Military Service.....	955
Part 316. General Requirements for Naturalization.....	956
Part 318. Pending Removal Proceedings	962
Part 319. Special Classes of Persons Who May Be Naturalized: Spouses of United States Citizens.....	962
Part 320. Child Born Outside the United States and Residing Permanently in the United States; Requirements for Automatic Acquisition of Citizenship	965
Part 322. Child Born Outside the United States; Requirements for Application for Certificate of Citizenship	966
Part 324. Special Classes of Persons Who May Be Naturalized: Women Who Have Lost United States Citizenship by Marriage And Former Citizens Whose Naturalization is Authorized by Private Law	968
Part 325. Nationals But Not Citizens of the United States; Residence Within Outlying Possessions.....	969
Part 327. Special Classes of Persons Who May Be Naturalized: Persons Who Lost United States Citizenship through Service In Armed Forces of Foreign Country During World War II	969

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part 328. Special Classes of Persons Who May Be Naturalized: Persons With 1 Year of Service in the United States Armed Forces.....	970
Part 329. Special Classes of Persons Who May Be Naturalized: Persons With Active Duty or Certain Ready Reserve Service In The United States Armed Forces During Specified Periods of Hostilities.....	971
Part 330. Special Classes of Persons Who May Be Naturalized: Seamen.....	971
Part 331. Alien Enemies; Naturalization Under Specified Conditions And Procedures.....	972
Part 332. Naturalization Administration.....	973
Part 333. Photographs.....	973
Part 334. Application for Naturalization.....	973
Part 335. Examination on Application for Naturalization	974
Part 336. Hearings on Denials of Applications for Naturalization	977
Part 337. Oath of Allegiance.....	978
Part 338. Certificate of Naturalization.....	980
Part 339. Functions and Duties of Clerks of Court Regarding Naturalization Proceedings	981
Part 340. Revocation of Naturalization.....	981
Part 341. Certificates of Citizenship.....	982
Part 342. Administrative Cancellation of Certificates, Documents, or Records.....	983
Part 343. Certificate of Naturalization or Repatriation; Persons Who Resumed Citizenship Under Section 323 of the Nationality Act of 1940, As Amended, or Section 4 of the Act of June 29, 1906.....	984
Part 343A. Naturalization and Citizenship Papers Lost, Mutilated, or Destroyed; New Certificate in Changed Name; Certified Copy of Repatriation Proceedings.....	985
Part 343B. Special Certificate of Naturalization for Recognition by A Foreign State	985
Part 343C. Certifications From Records	986
Part 349. Loss of Nationality	986
Part 392. Special Classes of Persons Who May Be Naturalized: Persons Who Die While Serving on Active Duty With the United States Armed Forces During Certain Periods of Hostilities	986

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part 1001. Definitions.....	988
Part 1003. Executive Office for Immigration Review	989
Part 1101. Presumption of Lawful Admission	1033
Part 1103. Appeals, Records, and Fees.....	1035
Part 1204. Immigrant Petitions	1037
Part 1205. Revocation of Approval of Petitions.....	1037
Part 1207. Admission of Refugees.....	1038
Part 1208. Procedures for Asylum and Withholding of Removal.....	1039
Part 1209. Adjustment of Status of Refugees and Aliens Granted Asylum.....	1062
Part 1211. Documentary Requirements: Immigrants; Waivers.....	1063
Part 1212. Documentary Requirements: Nonimmigrants; Waivers; Admission of Certain Inadmissible Aliens; Parole.....	1064
Part 1214. Review of Nonimmigrant Classes	1080
Part 1215. Controls of Aliens Departing From the United States	1081
Part 1216. Conditional Basis of Lawful Permanent Residence Status	1084
Part 1235. Inspection of Persons Applying for Admission.....	1090
Part 1236. Apprehension and Detention of Inadmissible and Deportable Aliens; Removal of Aliens Ordered Removed.....	1092
Part 1238. Expedited Removal of Aggravated Felons.....	1097
Part 1239. Initiation of Removal Proceedings.....	1098
Part 1240. Proceedings to Determine Removability of Aliens In the United States.....	1099
Part 1241. Apprehension and Detention of Aliens Ordered Removed.....	1123
Part 1244. Temporary Protected Status for Nationals of Designated States.....	1128
Part 1245. Adjustment of Status to that of Person Admitted For Permanent Residence.....	1134
Part 1246. Rescission of Adjustment of Status.....	1166
Part 1249. Creation of Records of Lawful Admission for Permanent Residence.....	1167
Part 1270. Penalties for Document Fraud.....	1168
Part 1274A. Control of Employment of Aliens	1169
Part 1280. Imposition and Collection of Fines.....	1170
Part 1287. Field Officers; Powers and Duties	1170

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part 1292. Representation and Appearances	1172
Part 1299. Immigration Review Forms	1180
Part 1337. Oath of Allegiance.....	1180
TITLE 22. FOREIGN RELATIONS	1183
Chapter I. Department of State	1183
Part 40. Regulations Pertaining to Both Nonimmigrants and Immigrants Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as Amended	1183
Part 41. Visas: Documentation of Nonimmigrants Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, As Amended.....	1194
Part 42. Visas: Documentation of Immigrants Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, As Amended.....	1223
Part 46. Control of Aliens Departing From the United States.....	1243
Part 50. Nationality Procedures.....	1246
Part 51. Passports	1249
Part 53. Passport Requirement and Exceptions	1260
 UNITED STATES CODE	
TITLE 8. ALIENS AND NATIONALITY	1263
Chapter 12-Immigration and Nationality.....	1263
Subchapter II-Immigration	1263
Part II-Admission Qualifications for Aliens; Travel Control of Citizens and Aliens.....	1263
Part IV-Inspection, Apprehension, Examination, Exclusion, and Removal.....	1263
Part V-Adjustment and Change of Status	1267
Part IX-Miscellaneous.....	1267
 TITLE 18. CRIMES AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE.....	 1287
Part I. Crimes.....	1287
Chapter 1. General Provisions	1287
Chapter 2. Aircraft and Motor Vehicles.....	1291
Chapter 3. Animals, Birds, Fish, and Plants	1296
Chapter 5. Arson	1299
Chapter 7. Assault	1299
Chapter 9. Bankruptcy.....	1303
Chapter 10. Biological Weapons.....	1305
Chapter 11. Bribery, Graft, and Conflicts of Interest.....	1307

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 11A. Child Support	1322
Chapter 11B. Chemical Weapons.....	1322
Chapter 12. Civil Disorders	1325
Chapter 13. Civil Rights.....	1326
Chapter 15. Claims and Services in Matters Affecting Government.....	1330
Chapter 17. Coins and Currency.....	1332
Chapter 17A. Common Carrier Operation Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs.....	1333
Chapter 18. Congressional, Cabinet, and Supreme Court Assassination, Kidnapping, and Assault.....	1333
Chapter 19. Conspiracy.....	1334
Chapter 21. Contempts.....	1335
Chapter 23. Contracts.....	1335
Chapter 25. Counterfeiting and Forgery.....	1337
 TITLE 21. FOOD AND DRUGS	 1349
Chapter 13. Drug Abuse Prevention and Control	1349
Subchapter I. Control and Enforcement	1349
Part A. Introductory Provisions	1349
Part B. Authority to Control; Standards and Schedules	1357
Part C. Registration of Manufacturers, Distributors, and Dispensers of Controlled Substances	1364
Part D. Offenses and Penalties	1383
Part E. Administrative and Enforcement Provisions.....	1401
Part F. General Provisions	1410
Subchapter II. Import and Export.....	1410
 FEDERAL RULES OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE.....	 1421
 FEDERAL RULES OF EVIDENCE.....	 1455
 RULES FOR THE ALIEN TERRORIST REMOVAL COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.....	 1469
 INDEX.....	 I-1

IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT

The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) was enacted in 1952. The INA collected many provisions and reorganized the structure of immigration law. The INA has been amended many times over the years and contains many of the most important provisions of immigration law.

The INA is contained in the United States Code (U.S.C.). The U.S. Code is a collection of all the laws of the United States. Title 8 of the U.S. Code covers “Aliens and Nationality.”

The tables below show INA sections and their corresponding U.S. Code section. To ensure accuracy, USCIS links to the official U.S. Code prepared by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the U.S. House of Representatives.

FROM TITLE 8. ALIENS AND NATIONALITY CHAPTER 12. IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY

SUBCHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec.	
1101.	Definitions.
1102.	Diplomatic and semidiplomatic immunities.
1103.	Powers and duties of the Secretary, the Under Secretary, and the Attorney General.
1104.	Powers and duties of Secretary of State.
1105.	Liaison with internal security officers; data exchange.
1105a.	Employment authorization for battered spouses of certain nonimmigrants.
1106.	Repealed.
1107.	Additional report.

SUBCHAPTER II. IMMIGRATION

PART I. SELECTION SYSTEM

1151.	Worldwide level of immigration.
1151a.	Repealed.
1152.	Numerical limitations on individual foreign states.
1153.	Allocation of immigrant visas.
1153a.	Transparency.
1154.	Procedure for granting immigrant status.
1155.	Revocation of approval of petitions; effective date.
1156.	Unused immigrant visas.
1157.	Annual admission of refugees and admission of emergency situation refugees.
1158.	Asylum.
1159.	Adjustment of status of refugees.
1160.	Special agricultural workers.
1161.	Repealed.

PART II. ADMISSION QUALIFICATIONS FOR ALIENS; TRAVEL CONTROL OF CITIZENS AND ALIENS

1181.	Admission of immigrants into the United States.
1182.	Inadmissible aliens.
1182a to 1182c.	Repealed.
1182d.	Denial of visas to confiscators of American property.
1182e.	Denial of entry into United States of foreign nationals engaged in establishment or enforcement of forced abortion or sterilization policy.
1182f.	Denial of entry into United States of Chinese and other nationals engaged in coerced organ or bodily tissue transplantation.
1183.	Admission of aliens on giving bond or undertaking; return upon permanent departure.
1183a.	Requirements for sponsor's affidavit of support.
1184.	Admission of nonimmigrants.
1184a.	Philippine Traders as nonimmigrants.
1185.	Travel control of citizens and aliens.
1186.	Transferred.
1186a.	Conditional permanent resident status for certain alien spouses and sons and daughters.
1186b.	Conditional permanent resident status for certain alien entrepreneurs, spouses, and children.
1187.	Visa waiver program for certain visitors.
1187a.	Provision of assistance to non-program countries.

Sec.

1188.	Admission of temporary H–2A workers.
1189.	Designation of foreign terrorist organizations.

PART III. ISSUANCE OF ENTRY DOCUMENTS

1201.	Issuance of visas.
1201a.	Repealed.
1202.	Application for visas.
1203.	Reentry permit.
1204.	Immediate relative and special immigrant visas.
1205.	Repealed.

PART IV. INSPECTION, APPREHENSION, EXAMINATION, EXCLUSION, AND REMOVAL

1221.	Lists of alien and citizen passengers arriving and departing.
1222.	Detention of aliens for physical and mental examination.
1223.	Entry through or from foreign territory and adjacent islands.
1224.	Designation of ports of entry for aliens arriving by aircraft.
1225.	Inspection by immigration officers; expedited removal of inadmissible arriving aliens; referral for hearing.
1225a.	Preinspection at foreign airports.
1226.	Apprehension and detention of aliens.
1226a.	Mandatory detention of suspected terrorists; habeas corpus; judicial review.
1227.	Deportable aliens.
1228.	Expedited removal of aliens convicted of committing aggravated felonies.
1229.	Initiation of removal proceedings.
1229a.	Removal proceedings.
1229b.	Cancellation of removal; adjustment of status.
1229c.	Voluntary departure.
1230.	Records of admission.
1231.	Detention and removal of aliens ordered removed.
1232.	Enhancing efforts to combat the trafficking of children.

PART V. ADJUSTMENT AND CHANGE OF STATUS

1251.	Transferred.
1251a.	Repealed.
1252.	Judicial review of orders of removal.
1252a, 1252b.	Transferred or Repealed.
1252c.	Authorizing State and local law enforcement officials to arrest and detain certain illegal aliens.
1253.	Penalties related to removal.
1254.	Repealed.
1254a.	Temporary protected status.
1254b.	Collection of fees under temporary protected status program.
1255.	Adjustment of status of nonimmigrant to that of person admitted for permanent residence.
1255a.	Adjustment of status of certain entrants before January 1, 1982, to that of person admitted for lawful residence.
1255b.	Adjustment of status of certain nonimmigrants to that of persons admitted for permanent residence.
1256.	Rescission of adjustment of status; effect upon naturalized citizen.
1257.	Adjustment of status of certain resident aliens to nonimmigrant status; exceptions.
1258.	Change of nonimmigrant classification.
1259.	Record of admission for permanent residence in the case of certain aliens who entered the United States prior to January 1, 1972.
1260.	Removal of aliens falling into distress.

PART VI. SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO ALIEN CREWMEN

1281.	Alien crewmen.
1282.	Conditional permits to land temporarily.
1283.	Hospital treatment of alien crewmen afflicted with certain diseases.
1284.	Control of alien crewmen.
1285.	Employment on passenger vessels of aliens afflicted with certain disabilities.
1286.	Discharge of alien crewmen; penalties.
1287.	Alien crewmen brought into the United States with intent to evade immigration laws; penalties.
1288.	Limitations on performance of longshore work by alien crewmen.

PART VII. REGISTRATION OF ALIENS

1301.	Alien seeking entry; contents.
1302.	Registration of aliens.
1303.	Registration of special groups.
1304.	Forms for registration and fingerprinting.
1305.	Notices of change of address.
1306.	Penalties.

PART VIII. GENERAL PENALTY PROVISIONS

1321.	Prevention of unauthorized landing of aliens.
1322.	Bringing in aliens subject to denial of admission on a health-related ground; persons liable; clearance papers; exceptions; “person” defined.
1323.	Unlawful bringing of aliens into United States.
1324.	Bringing in and harboring certain aliens.
1324a.	Unlawful employment of aliens.
1324b.	Unfair immigration-related employment practices.
1324c.	Penalties for document fraud.

IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT

INA

Sec.
1324d. Civil penalties for failure to depart.
1325. Improper entry by alien.
1326. Reentry of removed aliens.
1327. Aiding or assisting certain aliens to enter.
1328. Importation of alien for immoral purpose.
1329. Jurisdiction of district courts.
1330. Collection of penalties and expenses.

PART IX. MISCELLANEOUS

1351. Nonimmigrant visa fees.
1352. Printing of reentry permits and blank forms of manifest and crew lists; sale to public.
1353. Travel expenses and expense of transporting remains of officers and employees dying outside of United States.
1353a. Officers and employees; overtime services; extra compensation; length of working day.
1353b. Extra compensation; payment.
1353c. Immigration officials; service in foreign contiguous territory.
1353d. Disposition of money received as extra compensation.
1354. Applicability to members of the Armed Forces.
1355. Disposal of privileges at immigrant stations; rentals; retail sale; disposition of receipts.
1356. Disposition of moneys collected under the provisions of this subchapter.
1357. Powers of immigration officers and employees.
1358. Local jurisdiction over immigrant stations.
1359. Application to American Indians born in Canada.
1360. Establishment of central file; information from other departments and agencies.
1361. Burden of proof upon alien.
1362. Right to counsel.
1363. Deposit of and interest on cash received to secure immigration bonds.
1363a. Undercover investigation authority.
1363b. Repealed.
1364. Triennial comprehensive report on immigration.
1365. Reimbursement of States for costs of incarcerating illegal aliens and certain Cuban nationals.
1365a. Integrated entry and exit data system.
1365b. Biometric entry and exit data system.
1366. Annual report on criminal aliens.
1367. Penalties for disclosure of information.
1368. Increase in INS detention facilities; report on detention space.
1369. Treatment of expenses subject to emergency medical services exception.
1370. Reimbursement of States and localities for emergency ambulance services.
1371. Reports.
1372. Program to collect information relating to nonimmigrant foreign students and other exchange program participants.
1373. Communication between government agencies and the Immigration and Naturalization Service.
1374. Information regarding female genital mutilation.
1375. Repealed.
1375a. Domestic violence information and resources for immigrants and regulation of international marriage brokers.
1375b. Protections for domestic workers and other nonimmigrants.
1375c. Protections, remedies, and limitations on issuance for A–3 and G–5 visas.
1376. Data on nonimmigrant overstay rates.
1377. Collection of data on detained asylum seekers.
1377. Collection of data on detained asylum seekers.
1377a. Report on aliens determined to have credible or reasonable fear of persecution or torture.
1378. Collection of data on other detained aliens.
1378a. Report on aliens detained.
1379. Technology standard to confirm identity.
1380. Maintenance of statistics by the Department of Homeland Security.
1381. Secretary of Labor report.
1382. Acceptance and administration of gifts for immigration integration grants program.

SUBCHAPTER III. NATIONALITY AND NATURALIZATION

PART I. NATIONALITY AT BIRTH AND COLLECTIVE NATURALIZATION

1401. Nationals and citizens of United States at birth.
1401a. Birth abroad before 1952 to service parent.
1401b. Repealed.
1402. Persons born in Puerto Rico on or after April 11, 1899.
1403. Persons born in the Canal Zone or Republic of Panama on or after February 26, 1904.
1404. Persons born in Alaska on or after March 30, 1867.
1405. Persons born in Hawaii.
1406. Persons living in and born in the Virgin Islands.
1407. Persons living in and born in Guam.
1408. Nationals but not citizens of the United States at birth.
1409. Children born out of wedlock.

PART II. NATIONALITY THROUGH NATURALIZATION

1421. Naturalization authority.
1422. Eligibility for naturalization.

Sec.
1423. Requirements as to understanding the English language, history, principles and form of government of the United States.
1424. Prohibition upon the naturalization of persons opposed to government or law, or who favor totalitarian forms of government.
1425. Ineligibility to naturalization of deserters from the Armed Forces.
1426. Citizenship denied alien relieved of service in Armed Forces because of alienage.
1427. Requirements of naturalization.
1428. Temporary absence of persons performing religious duties.
1429. Prerequisite to naturalization; burden of proof.
1430. Married persons and employees of certain nonprofit organizations.
1431. Children born outside the United States and lawfully admitted for permanent residence; conditions under which citizenship automatically acquired.
1432. Repealed.
1433. Children born and residing outside the United States; conditions for acquiring certificate of citizenship.
1434. Repealed.
1435. Former citizens regaining citizenship.
1436. Nationals but not citizens; residence within outlying possessions.
1437. Resident Philippine citizens excepted from certain requirements.
1438. Former citizens losing citizenship by entering armed forces of foreign countries during World War II.
1439. Naturalization through service in the armed forces.
1440. Naturalization through active-duty service in the Armed Forces during World War I, World War II, Korean hostilities, Vietnam hostilities, or other periods of military hostilities.
1440–1. Posthumous citizenship through death while on active-duty service in armed forces during World War I, World War II, the Korean hostilities, the Vietnam hostilities, or in other periods of military hostilities.
1440a to 1440d. Omitted.
1440e. Exemption from naturalization fees for aliens naturalized through service during Vietnam hostilities or other subsequent period of military hostilities; report by clerks of courts to Attorney General.
1440f. Fingerprints and other biometric information for members of the United States Armed Forces.
1440g. Provision of information on military naturalization.
1441. Constructive residence through service on certain United States vessels.
1442. Alien enemies.
1443. Administration.
1443a. Naturalization proceedings overseas for members of the Armed Forces and their spouses and children.
1444. Photographs; number.
1445. Application for naturalization; declaration of intention.
1446. Investigation of applicants; examination of applications.
1447. Hearings on denials of applications for naturalization.
1448. Oath of renunciation and allegiance.
1448a. Address to newly naturalized citizens.
1449. Certificate of naturalization; contents.
1450. Functions and duties of clerks and records of declarations of intention and applications for naturalization.
1451. Revocation of naturalization.
1452. Certificates of citizenship or U.S. non-citizen national status; procedure.
1453. Cancellation of certificates issued by Attorney General, the Commissioner or a Deputy Commissioner; action not to affect citizenship status.
1454. Documents and copies issued by Attorney General.
1455. Fiscal provisions.
1456. Repealed.
1457. Publication and distribution of citizenship textbooks; use of naturalization fees.
1458. Compilation of naturalization statistics and payment for equipment.
1459. Repealed.

PART III. LOSS OF NATIONALITY

1481. Loss of nationality by native-born or naturalized citizen; voluntary action; burden of proof; presumptions.
1482. Repealed.
1483. Restrictions on loss of nationality.
1484 to 1487. Repealed.
1488. Nationality lost solely from performance of acts or fulfillment of conditions.
1489. Application of treaties; exceptions.

PART IV. MISCELLANEOUS

1501. Certificate of diplomatic or consular officer of United States as to loss of American nationality.
1502. Certificate of nationality issued by Secretary of State for person not a naturalized citizen of United States for use in proceedings of a foreign state.
1503. Denial of rights and privileges as national.
1504. Cancellation of United States passports and Consular Reports of Birth.

SUBCHAPTER IV. REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

1521. Office of Refugee Resettlement; establishment; appointment of Director; functions.
1522. Authorization for programs for domestic resettlement of and assistance to refugees.

Sec.	
1523.	Congressional reports.
1524.	Authorization of appropriations.
1525.	Repealed.

SUBCHAPTER V. ALIEN TERRORIST REMOVAL PROCEDURES

1531.	Definitions.
1532.	Establishment of removal court.
1533.	Removal court procedure.
1534.	Removal hearing.
1535.	Appeals.
1536.	Custody and release pending removal hearing.
1537.	Custody and release after removal hearing.

SUBCHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

§1101. Definitions

(a) As used in this chapter—

(1) The term “administrator” means the official designated by the Secretary of State pursuant to section 1104(b) of this title.

(2) The term “advocates” includes, but is not limited to, advises, recommends, furthers by overt act, and admits belief in.

(3) The term “alien” means any person not a citizen or national of the United States.

(4) The term “application for admission” has reference to the application for admission into the United States and not to the application for the issuance of an immigrant or nonimmigrant visa.

(5) The term “Attorney General” means the Attorney General of the United States.

(6) The term “border crossing identification card” means a document of identity bearing that designation issued to an alien who is lawfully admitted for permanent residence, or to an alien who is a resident in foreign contiguous territory, by a consular officer or an immigration officer for the purpose of crossing over the borders between the United States and foreign contiguous territory in accordance with such conditions for its issuance and use as may be prescribed by regulations. Such regulations shall provide that (A) each such document include a biometric identifier (such as the fingerprint or handprint of the alien) that is machine readable and (B) an alien presenting a border crossing identification card is not permitted to cross over the border into the United States unless the biometric identifier contained on the card matches the appropriate biometric characteristic of the alien.

(7) The term “clerk of court” means a clerk of a naturalization court.

(8) The terms “Commissioner” and “Deputy Commissioner” mean the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization and a Deputy Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, respectively.

(9) The term “consular officer” means any consular, diplomatic, or other officer or employee of the United States designated under regulations prescribed under authority contained in this chapter, for the purpose of issuing immigrant or nonimmigrant visas or, when used in subchapter III, for the purpose of adjudicating nationality.

(10) The term “crewman” means a person serving in any capacity on board a vessel or aircraft.

(11) The term “diplomatic visa” means a nonimmigrant visa bearing that title and issued to a nonimmigrant in accordance with such regulations as the Secretary of State may prescribe.

(12) The term “doctrine” includes, but is not limited to, policies, practices, purposes, aims, or procedures.

(13)(A) The terms “admission” and “admitted” mean, with respect to an alien, the lawful entry of the alien into

the United States after inspection and authorization by an immigration officer.

(B) An alien who is paroled under section 1182(d)(5) of this title or permitted to land temporarily as an alien crewman shall not be considered to have been admitted.

(C) An alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States shall not be regarded as seeking an admission into the United States for purposes of the immigration laws unless the alien—

(i) has abandoned or relinquished that status,

(ii) has been absent from the United States for a continuous period in excess of 180 days,

(iii) has engaged in illegal activity after having departed the United States,

(iv) has departed from the United States while under legal process seeking removal of the alien from the United States, including removal proceedings under this chapter and extradition proceedings,

(v) has committed an offense identified in section 1182(a)(2) of this title, unless since such offense the alien has been granted relief under section 1182(h) or 1229b(a) of this title, or

(vi) is attempting to enter at a time or place other than as designated by immigration officers or has not been admitted to the United States after inspection and authorization by an immigration officer.

(14) The term “foreign state” includes outlying possessions of a foreign state, but self-governing dominions or territories under mandate or trusteeship shall be regarded as separate foreign states.

(15) The term “immigrant” means every alien except an alien who is within one of the following classes of nonimmigrant aliens—

(A)(i) an ambassador, public minister, or career diplomatic or consular officer who has been accredited by a foreign government, recognized de jure by the United States and who is accepted by the President or by the Secretary of State, and the members of the alien’s immediate family;

(ii) upon a basis of reciprocity, other officials and employees who have been accredited by a foreign government recognized de jure by the United States, who are accepted by the Secretary of State, and the members of their immediate families; and

(iii) upon a basis of reciprocity, attendants, servants, personal employees, and members of their immediate families, of the officials and employees who have a nonimmigrant status under (i) and (ii) above;

(B) an alien (other than one coming for the purpose of study or of performing skilled or unskilled labor or as a representative of foreign press, radio, film, or other foreign information media coming to engage in such vocation) having a residence in a foreign country which he has no intention of abandoning and who is visiting the United States temporarily for business or temporarily for pleasure;

(C) an alien in immediate and continuous transit through the United States, or an alien who qualifies as a person entitled to pass in transit to and from the United Nations Headquarters District and foreign countries, under the provisions of paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) of section 11 of the Headquarters Agreement with the United Nations (61 Stat. 758);

(D)(i) an alien crewman serving in good faith as such in a capacity required for normal operation and service on board a vessel, as defined in section 1288(a) of this title (other than a fishing vessel having its home port or an operating base in the United States), or aircraft, who intends to land temporarily and solely

in pursuit of his calling as a crewman and to depart from the United States with the vessel or aircraft on which he arrived or some other vessel or aircraft;

(ii) an alien crewman serving in good faith as such in any capacity required for normal operations and service aboard a fishing vessel having its home port or an operating base in the United States who intends to land temporarily in Guam or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and solely in pursuit of his calling as a crewman and to depart from Guam or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands with the vessel on which he arrived;

(E) an alien entitled to enter the United States under and in pursuance of the provisions of a treaty of commerce and navigation between the United States and the foreign state of which he is a national, and the spouse and children of any such alien if accompanying or following to join him; (i) solely to carry on substantial trade, including trade in services or trade in technology, principally between the United States and the foreign state of which he is a national; (ii) solely to develop and direct the operations of an enterprise in which he has invested, or of an enterprise in which he is actively in the process of investing, a substantial amount of capital; or (iii) solely to perform services in a specialty occupation in the United States if the alien is a national of the Commonwealth of Australia and with respect to whom the Secretary of Labor determines and certifies to the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State that the intending employer has filed with the Secretary of Labor an attestation under section 1182(t)(1) of this title;

(F)(i) an alien having a residence in a foreign country which he has no intention of abandoning, who is a bona fide student qualified to pursue a full course of study and who seeks to enter the United States temporarily and solely for the purpose of pursuing such a course of study consistent with section 1184(l) of this title at an established college, university, seminary, conservatory, academic high school, elementary school, or other academic institution or in an accredited language training program in the United States, particularly designated by him and approved by the Attorney General after consultation with the Secretary of Education, which institution or place of study shall have agreed to report to the Attorney General the termination of attendance of each nonimmigrant student, and if any such institution of learning or place of study fails to make reports promptly the approval shall be withdrawn, (ii) the alien spouse and minor children of any alien described in clause (i) if accompanying or following to join such an alien, and (iii) an alien who is a national of Canada or Mexico, who maintains actual residence and place of abode in the country of nationality, who is described in clause (i) except that the alien's qualifications for and actual course of study may be full or part-time, and who commutes to the United States institution or place of study from Canada or Mexico;

(G)(i) a designated principal resident representative of a foreign government recognized de jure by the United States, which foreign government is a member of an international organization entitled to enjoy privileges, exemptions, and immunities as an international organization under the International Organizations Immunities Act (59 Stat. 669) [22 U.S.C. 288 et seq.], accredited resident members of the staff of such representatives, and members of his or their immediate family;

(ii) other accredited representatives of such a foreign government to such international organizations, and the members of their immediate families;

(iii) an alien able to qualify under (i) or (ii) above except for the fact that the government of which such alien is an accredited representative is not recognized de jure by the United States, or that the government of which he is an accredited representative is not a member of such international organization; and the members of his immediate family;

(iv) officers, or employees of such international organizations, and the members of their immediate families;

(v) attendants, servants, and personal employees of any such representative, officer, or employee, and the members of the immediate families of such attendants, servants, and personal employees;

(H) an alien (i) [(a) Repealed. Pub. L. 106-95, §2(c), Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1316] (b) subject to section 1182(j)(2) of this title, who is coming temporarily to the United States to perform services (other than services described in subclause (a) during the period in which such subclause applies and other than services described in subclause (ii)(a) or in subparagraph (O) or (P)) in a specialty occupation described in section 1184(i)(1) of this title or as a fashion model, who meets the requirements for the occupation specified in section 1184(i)(2) of this title or, in the case of a fashion model, is of distinguished merit and ability, and with respect to whom the Secretary of Labor determines and certifies to the Attorney General that the intending employer has filed with the Secretary an application under section 1182(n)(1) of this title, or (b1) who is entitled to enter the United States under and in pursuance of the provisions of an agreement listed in section 1184(g)(8) (A) of this title, who is engaged in a specialty occupation described in section 1184(i)(3) of this title, and with respect to whom the Secretary of Labor determines and certifies to the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State that the intending employer has filed with the Secretary of Labor an attestation under section 1182(t)(1) of this title, or (c) who is coming temporarily to the United States to perform services as a registered nurse, who meets the qualifications described in section 1182(m)(1) of this title, and with respect to whom the Secretary of Labor determines and certifies to the Attorney General that an unexpired attestation is on file and in effect under section 1182(m)(2) of this title for the facility (as defined in section 1182(m)(6) of this title) for which the alien will perform the services; or (ii)(a) having a residence in a foreign country which he has no intention of abandoning who is coming temporarily to the United States to perform agricultural labor or services, as defined by the Secretary of Labor in regulations and including agricultural labor defined in section 3121(g) of title 26, agriculture as defined in section 203(f) of title 29, and the pressing of apples for cider on a farm, of a temporary or seasonal nature, or (b) having a residence in a foreign country which he has no intention of abandoning who is coming temporarily to the United States to perform other temporary service or labor if unemployed persons capable of performing such service or labor cannot be found in this country, but this clause shall not apply to graduates of medical schools coming to the United States to perform services as members of the medical profession; or (iii) having a residence in a foreign country which he has no intention of abandoning who is coming temporarily to the United States as a trainee, other than to receive graduate medical education or training, in a training

program that is not designed primarily to provide productive employment; and the alien spouse and minor children of any such alien specified in this paragraph if accompanying him or following to join him;

(I) upon a basis of reciprocity, an alien who is a bona fide representative of foreign press, radio, film, or other foreign information media, who seeks to enter the United States solely to engage in such vocation, and the spouse and children of such a representative, if accompanying or following to join him;

(J) an alien having a residence in a foreign country which he has no intention of abandoning who is a bona fide student, scholar, trainee, teacher, professor, research assistant, specialist, or leader in a field of specialized knowledge or skill, or other person of similar description, who is coming temporarily to the United States as a participant in a program designated by the Director of the United States Information Agency, for the purpose of teaching, instructing or lecturing, studying, observing, conducting research, consulting, demonstrating special skills, or receiving training and who, if he is coming to the United States to participate in a program under which he will receive graduate medical education or training, also meets the requirements of section 1182(j) of this title, and the alien spouse and minor children of any such alien if accompanying him or following to join him;

(K) subject to subsections (d) and (p) of section 1184 of this title, an alien who—

(i) is the fiancée or fiancé of a citizen of the United States (other than a citizen described in section 1154(a)(1)(A)(viii)(I) of this title) and who seeks to enter the United States solely to conclude a valid marriage with the petitioner within ninety days after admission;

(ii) has concluded a valid marriage with a citizen of the United States (other than a citizen described in section 1154(a)(1)(A)(viii)(I) of this title) who is the petitioner, is the beneficiary of a petition to accord a status under section 1151(b)(2)(A)(i) of this title that was filed under section 1154 of this title by the petitioner, and seeks to enter the United States to await the approval of such petition and the availability to the alien of an immigrant visa; or

(iii) is the minor child of an alien described in clause (i) or (ii) and is accompanying, or following to join, the alien;

(L) subject to section 1184(c)(2) of this title, an alien who, within 3 years preceding the time of his application for admission into the United States, has been employed continuously for one year by a firm or corporation or other legal entity or an affiliate or subsidiary thereof and who seeks to enter the United States temporarily in order to continue to render his services to the same employer or a subsidiary or affiliate thereof in a capacity that is managerial, executive, or involves specialized knowledge, and the alien spouse and minor children of any such alien if accompanying him or following to join him;

(M)(i) an alien having a residence in a foreign country which he has no intention of abandoning who seeks to enter the United States temporarily and solely for the purpose of pursuing a full course of study at an established vocational or other recognized nonacademic institution (other than in a language training program) in the United States particularly designated by him and approved by the Attorney General, after consultation with the Secretary of Education, which institution shall have agreed to report to the Attorney

General the termination of attendance of each nonimmigrant nonacademic student and if any such institution fails to make reports promptly the approval shall be withdrawn, (ii) the alien spouse and minor children of any alien described in clause (i) if accompanying or following to join such an alien, and (iii) an alien who is a national of Canada or Mexico, who maintains actual residence and place of abode in the country of nationality, who is described in clause (i) except that the alien's course of study may be full or part-time, and who commutes to the United States institution or place of study from Canada or Mexico;

(N)(i) the parent of an alien accorded the status of special immigrant under paragraph (27)(I)(i) (or under analogous authority under paragraph (27)(L)), but only if and while the alien is a child, or

(ii) a child of such parent or of an alien accorded the status of a special immigrant under clause (ii), (iii), or (iv) of paragraph (27)(I) (or under analogous authority under paragraph (27)(L));

(O) an alien who—

(i) has extraordinary ability in the sciences, arts, education, business, or athletics which has been demonstrated by sustained national or international acclaim or, with regard to motion picture and television productions a demonstrated record of extraordinary achievement, and whose achievements have been recognized in the field through extensive documentation, and seeks to enter the United States to continue work in the area of extraordinary ability; or

(ii)(I) seeks to enter the United States temporarily and solely for the purpose of accompanying and assisting in the artistic or athletic performance by an alien who is admitted under clause (i) for a specific event or events,

(II) is an integral part of such actual performance,

(III)(a) has critical skills and experience with such alien which are not of a general nature and which cannot be performed by other individuals, or (b) in the case of a motion picture or television production, has skills and experience with such alien which are not of a general nature and which are critical either based on a pre-existing longstanding working relationship or, with respect to the specific production, because significant production (including pre- and post-production work) will take place both inside and outside the United States and the continuing participation of the alien is essential to the successful completion of the production, and

(IV) has a foreign residence which the alien has no intention of abandoning; or

(iii) is the alien spouse or child of an alien described in clause (i) or (ii) and is accompanying, or following to join, the alien;

(P) an alien having a foreign residence which the alien has no intention of abandoning who—

(i)(a) is described in section 1184(c)(4)(A) of this title (relating to athletes), or (b) is described in section 1184(c)(4)(B) of this title (relating to entertainment groups);

(ii)(I) performs as an artist or entertainer, individually or as part of a group, or is an integral part of the performance of such a group, and

(II) seeks to enter the United States temporarily and solely for the purpose of performing as such an artist or entertainer or with such a group under a reciprocal exchange program which is between an organization or organizations in the United States and an organization or organizations in one or more

foreign states and which provides for the temporary exchange of artists and entertainers, or groups of artists and entertainers;

(iii)(I) performs as an artist or entertainer, individually or as part of a group, or is an integral part of the performance of such a group, and

(II) seeks to enter the United States temporarily and solely to perform, teach, or coach as such an artist or entertainer or with such a group under a commercial or noncommercial program that is culturally unique; or

(iv) is the spouse or child of an alien described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) and is accompanying, or following to join, the alien;

(Q) an alien having a residence in a foreign country which he has no intention of abandoning who is coming temporarily (for a period not to exceed 15 months) to the United States as a participant in an international cultural exchange program approved by the Secretary of Homeland Security for the purpose of providing practical training, employment, and the sharing of the history, culture, and traditions of the country of the alien's nationality and who will be employed under the same wages and working conditions as domestic workers;

(R) an alien, and the spouse and children of the alien if accompanying or following to join the alien, who—

(i) for the 2 years immediately preceding the time of application for admission, has been a member of a religious denomination having a bona fide nonprofit, religious organization in the United States; and

(ii) seeks to enter the United States for a period not to exceed 5 years to perform the work described in subclause (I), (II), or (III) of paragraph (27)(C)(ii);

(S) subject to section 1184(k) of this title, an alien—

(i) who the Attorney General determines—

(I) is in possession of critical reliable information concerning a criminal organization or enterprise;

(II) is willing to supply or has supplied such information to Federal or State law enforcement authorities or a Federal or State court; and

(III) whose presence in the United States the Attorney General determines is essential to the success of an authorized criminal investigation or the successful prosecution of an individual involved in the criminal organization or enterprise; or

(ii) who the Secretary of State and the Attorney General jointly determine—

(I) is in possession of critical reliable information concerning a terrorist organization, enterprise, or operation;

(II) is willing to supply or has supplied such information to Federal law enforcement authorities or a Federal court;

(III) will be or has been placed in danger as a result of providing such information; and

(IV) is eligible to receive a reward under section 2708(a) of title 22,

and, if the Attorney General (or with respect to clause (ii), the Secretary of State and the Attorney General jointly) considers it to be appropriate, the spouse, married and unmarried sons and daughters, and parents of an alien described in clause (i) or (ii) if accompanying, or following to join, the alien;

(T)(i) subject to section 1184(o) of this title, an alien who the Secretary of Homeland Security, or in the case of subclause (III)(aa) the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Attorney General, determines—

(I) is or has been a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons, as defined in section 7102 of title 22;

(II) is physically present in the United States, American Samoa, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or at a port of entry thereto, on account of such trafficking, including physical presence on account of the alien having been allowed entry into the United States for participation in investigative or judicial processes associated with an act or a perpetrator of trafficking;

(III)(aa) has complied with any reasonable request for assistance in the Federal, State, or local investigation or prosecution of acts of trafficking or the investigation of crime where acts of trafficking are at least one central reason for the commission of that crime;

(bb) in consultation with the Attorney General, as appropriate, is unable to cooperate with a request described in item (aa) due to physical or psychological trauma; or

(cc) has not attained 18 years of age; and

(IV) the alien would suffer extreme hardship involving unusual and severe harm upon removal; and

(ii) if accompanying, or following to join, the alien described in clause (i)—

(I) in the case of an alien described in clause (i) who is under 21 years of age, the spouse, children, unmarried siblings under 18 years of age on the date on which such alien applied for status under such clause, and parents of such alien;

(II) in the case of an alien described in clause (i) who is 21 years of age or older, the spouse and children of such alien; or

(III) any parent or unmarried sibling under 18 years of age, or any adult or minor children of a derivative beneficiary of the alien, as of an alien described in subclause (I) or (II) who the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the law enforcement officer investigating a severe form of trafficking, determines faces a present danger of retaliation as a result of the alien's escape from the severe form of trafficking or cooperation with law enforcement.

(U)(i) subject to section 1184(p) of this title, an alien who files a petition for status under this subparagraph, if the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that—

(I) the alien has suffered substantial physical or mental abuse as a result of having been a victim of criminal activity described in clause (iii);

(II) the alien (or in the case of an alien child under the age of 16, the parent, guardian, or next friend of the alien) possesses information concerning criminal activity described in clause (iii);

(III) the alien (or in the case of an alien child under the age of 16, the parent, guardian, or next friend of the alien) has been helpful, is being helpful, or is likely to be helpful to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement official, to a Federal, State, or local prosecutor, to a Federal or State judge, to the Service, or to other Federal, State, or local authorities investigating or prosecuting criminal activity described in clause (iii); and

(IV) the criminal activity described in clause (iii) violated the laws of the United States or occurred in the United States (including in Indian country and military installations) or the territories and possessions of the United States;

(ii) if accompanying, or following to join, the alien described in clause (i)—

(I) in the case of an alien described in clause (i) who is under 21 years of age, the spouse, children, unmarried siblings under 18 years of age on the date on which such alien applied for status under such clause, and parents of such alien; or

(II) in the case of an alien described in clause (i) who is 21 years of age or older, the spouse and children of such alien; and

(iii) the criminal activity referred to in this clause is that involving one or more of the following or any similar activity in violation of Federal, State, or local criminal law: rape; torture; trafficking; incest; domestic violence; sexual assault; abusive sexual contact; prostitution; sexual exploitation; stalking; female genital mutilation; being held hostage; peonage; involuntary servitude; slave trade; kidnapping; abduction; unlawful criminal restraint; false imprisonment; blackmail; extortion; manslaughter; murder; felonious assault; witness tampering; obstruction of justice; perjury; fraud in foreign labor contracting (as defined in section 1351 of title 18); or attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit any of the above mentioned crimes; or

(V) subject to section 1184(q) of this title, an alien who is the beneficiary (including a child of the principal alien, if eligible to receive a visa under section 1153(d) of this title) of a petition to accord a status under section 1153(a)(2)(A) of this title that was filed with the Attorney General under section 1154 of this title on or before December 21, 2000, if—

(i) such petition has been pending for 3 years or more; or

(ii) such petition has been approved, 3 years or more have elapsed since such filing date, and—

(I) an immigrant visa is not immediately available to the alien because of a waiting list of applicants for visas under section 1153(a)(2)(A) of this title; or

(II) the alien's application for an immigrant visa, or the alien's application for adjustment of status under section 1255 of this title, pursuant to the approval of such petition, remains pending.

(16) The term “immigrant visa” means an immigrant visa required by this chapter and properly issued by a consular officer at his office outside of the United States to an eligible immigrant under the provisions of this chapter.

(17) The term “immigration laws” includes this chapter and all laws, conventions, and treaties of the United States relating to the immigration, exclusion, deportation, expulsion, or removal of aliens.

(18) The term “immigration officer” means any employee or class of employees of the Service or of the United States designated by the Attorney General, individually or by regulation, to perform the functions of an immigration officer specified by this chapter or any section of this title.

(19) The term “ineligible to citizenship,” when used in reference to any individual, means, notwithstanding the provisions of any treaty relating to military service, an individual who is, or was at any time permanently debarred from becoming a citizen of the United States under section 3(a) of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, as amended (54 Stat. 885; 55 Stat. 844), or under section 4(a) of the Selective Service Act of 1948, as amended (62 Stat. 605; 65 Stat. 76) [50 U.S.C. 3803(a)], or under any section of this chapter, or any other Act, or under any law amendatory of, supplementary to, or in substitution for, any of such sections or Acts.

(20) The term “lawfully admitted for permanent residence” means the status of having been lawfully accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States

as an immigrant in accordance with the immigration laws, such status not having changed.

(21) The term “national” means a person owing permanent allegiance to a state.

(22) The term “national of the United States” means (A) a citizen of the United States, or (B) a person who, though not a citizen of the United States, owes permanent allegiance to the United States.

(23) The term “naturalization” means the conferring of nationality of a state upon a person after birth, by any means whatsoever.

(24) Repealed. Pub. L. 102–232, title III, §305(m)(1), Dec. 12, 1991, 105 Stat. 1750.

(25) The term “noncombatant service” shall not include service in which the individual is not subject to military discipline, court martial, or does not wear the uniform of any branch of the armed forces.

(26) The term “nonimmigrant visa” means a visa properly issued to an alien as an eligible nonimmigrant by a competent officer as provided in this chapter.

(27) The term “special immigrant” means—

(A) an immigrant, lawfully admitted for permanent residence, who is returning from a temporary visit abroad;

(B) an immigrant who was a citizen of the United States and may, under section 1435(a) or 1438 of this title, apply for reacquisition of citizenship;

(C) an immigrant, and the immigrant's spouse and children if accompanying or following to join the immigrant, who—

(i) for at least 2 years immediately preceding the time of application for admission, has been a member of a religious denomination having a bona fide nonprofit, religious organization in the United States;

(ii) seeks to enter the United States—

(I) solely for the purpose of carrying on the vocation of a minister of that religious denomination,

(II) before September 30, 2015, in order to work for the organization at the request of the organization in a professional capacity in a religious vocation or occupation, or

(III) before September 30, 2015, in order to work for the organization (or for a bona fide organization which is affiliated with the religious denomination and is exempt from taxation as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of title 26) at the request of the organization in a religious vocation or occupation; and

(iii) has been carrying on such vocation, professional work, or other work continuously for at least the 2-year period described in clause (i);

(D) an immigrant who—

(i) is an employee, or an honorably retired former employee, of the United States Government abroad, or of the American Institute in Taiwan, and who has performed faithful service for a total of fifteen years, or more, and his accompanying spouse and children: *Provided*, That the principal officer of a Foreign Service establishment (or, in the case of the American Institute in Taiwan, the Director thereof), in his discretion, shall have recommended the granting of special immigrant status to such alien in exceptional circumstances and the Secretary of State approves such recommendation and finds that it is in the national interest to grant such status; or

(ii) is the surviving spouse or child of an employee of the United States Government abroad: *Provided*, That the employee performed faithful service for a

total of not less than 15 years or was killed in the line of duty;

(E) an immigrant, and his accompanying spouse and children, who is or has been an employee of the Panama Canal Company or Canal Zone Government before the date on which the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977 (as described in section 3602(a)(1) of title 22) enters into force [October 1, 1979], who was resident in the Canal Zone on the effective date of the exchange of instruments of ratification of such Treaty [April 1, 1979], and who has performed faithful service as such an employee for one year or more;

(F) an immigrant, and his accompanying spouse and children, who is a Panamanian national and (i) who, before the date on which such Panama Canal Treaty of 1977 enters into force [October 1, 1979], has been honorably retired from United States Government employment in the Canal Zone with a total of 15 years or more of faithful service, or (ii) who, on the date on which such Treaty enters into force, has been employed by the United States Government in the Canal Zone with a total of 15 years or more of faithful service and who subsequently is honorably retired from such employment or continues to be employed by the United States Government in an area of the former Canal Zone;

(G) an immigrant, and his accompanying spouse and children, who was an employee of the Panama Canal Company or Canal Zone Government on the effective date of the exchange of instruments of ratification of such Panama Canal Treaty of 1977 [April 1, 1979], who has performed faithful service for five years or more as such an employee, and whose personal safety, or the personal safety of whose spouse or children, as a direct result of such Treaty, is reasonably placed in danger because of the special nature of any of that employment;

(H) an immigrant, and his accompanying spouse and children, who—

(i) has graduated from a medical school or has qualified to practice medicine in a foreign state,

(ii) was fully and permanently licensed to practice medicine in a State on January 9, 1978, and was practicing medicine in a State on that date,

(iii) entered the United States as a nonimmigrant under subsection (a)(15)(H) or (a)(15)(J) before January 10, 1978, and

(iv) has been continuously present in the United States in the practice or study of medicine since the date of such entry;

(I)(i) an immigrant who is the unmarried son or daughter of an officer or employee, or of a former officer or employee, of an international organization described in paragraph (15)(G)(i), and who (I) while maintaining the status of a nonimmigrant under paragraph (15)(G)(iv) or paragraph (15)(N), has resided and been physically present in the United States for periods totaling at least one-half of the seven years before the date of application for a visa or for adjustment of status to a status under this subparagraph and for a period or periods aggregating at least seven years between the ages of five and 21 years, and (II) applies for a visa or adjustment of status under this subparagraph no later than his twenty-fifth birthday or six months after October 24, 1988, whichever is later;

(ii) an immigrant who is the surviving spouse of a deceased officer or employee of such an international organization, and who (I) while maintaining the status of a nonimmigrant under paragraph (15)(G)(iv) or paragraph (15)(N), has resided and been physically present in the United States for periods totaling at

least one-half of the seven years before the date of application for a visa or for adjustment of status to a status under this subparagraph and for a period or periods aggregating at least 15 years before the date of the death of such officer or employee, and (II) files a petition for status under this subparagraph no later than six months after the date of such death or six months after October 24, 1988, whichever is later;

(iii) an immigrant who is a retired officer or employee of such an international organization, and who (I) while maintaining the status of a nonimmigrant under paragraph (15)(G)(iv), has resided and been physically present in the United States for periods totaling at least one-half of the seven years before the date of application for a visa or for adjustment of status to a status under this subparagraph and for a period or periods aggregating at least 15 years before the date of the officer or employee's retirement from any such international organization, and (II) files a petition for status under this subparagraph no later than six months after the date of such retirement or six months after October 25, 1994, whichever is later; or

(iv) an immigrant who is the spouse of a retired officer or employee accorded the status of special immigrant under clause (iii), accompanying or following to join such retired officer or employee as a member of his immediate family;

(J) an immigrant who is present in the United States—

(i) who has been declared dependent on a juvenile court located in the United States or whom such a court has legally committed to, or placed under the custody of, an agency or department of a State, or an individual or entity appointed by a State or juvenile court located in the United States, and whose reunification with 1 or both of the immigrant's parents is not viable due to abuse, neglect, abandonment, or a similar basis found under State law;

(ii) for whom it has been determined in administrative or judicial proceedings that it would not be in the alien's best interest to be returned to the alien's or parent's previous country of nationality or country of last habitual residence; and

(iii) in whose case the Secretary of Homeland Security consents to the grant of special immigrant juvenile status, except that—

(I) no juvenile court has jurisdiction to determine the custody status or placement of an alien in the custody of the Secretary of Health and Human Services unless the Secretary of Health and Human Services specifically consents to such jurisdiction; and

(II) no natural parent or prior adoptive parent of any alien provided special immigrant status under this subparagraph shall thereafter, by virtue of such parentage, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under this chapter;

(K) an immigrant who has served honorably on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States after October 15, 1978, and after original lawful enlistment outside the United States (under a treaty or agreement in effect on October 1, 1991) for a period or periods aggregating—

(i) 12 years and who, if separated from such service, was never separated except under honorable conditions, or

(ii) 6 years, in the case of an immigrant who is on active duty at the time of seeking special immigrant status under this subparagraph and who has

reenlisted to incur a total active duty service obligation of at least 12 years,

and the spouse or child of any such immigrant if accompanying or following to join the immigrant, but only if the executive department under which the immigrant serves or served recommends the granting of special immigrant status to the immigrant;

(L) an immigrant who would be described in clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) of subparagraph (I) if any reference in such a clause—

(i) to an international organization described in paragraph (15)(G)(i) were treated as a reference to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);

(ii) to a nonimmigrant under paragraph (15)(G)(iv) were treated as a reference to a nonimmigrant classifiable under NATO-6 (as a member of a civilian component accompanying a force entering in accordance with the provisions of the NATO Status-of-Forces Agreement, a member of a civilian component attached to or employed by an Allied Headquarters under the “Protocol on the Status of International Military Headquarters” set up pursuant to the North Atlantic Treaty, or as a dependent); and

(iii) to the Immigration Technical Corrections Act of 1988 or to the Immigration and Nationality Technical Corrections Act of 1994 were a reference to the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998

(M) subject to the numerical limitations of section 1153(b)(4) of this title, an immigrant who seeks to enter the United States to work as a broadcaster in the United States for the International Broadcasting Bureau of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, or for a grantee of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, and the immigrant’s accompanying spouse and children.

(28) The term “organization” means, but is not limited to, an organization, corporation, company, partnership, association, trust, foundation or fund; and includes a group of persons, whether or not incorporated, permanently or temporarily associated together with joint action on any subject or subjects.

(29) The term “outlying possessions of the United States” means American Samoa and Swains Island.

(30) The term “passport” means any travel document issued by competent authority showing the bearer’s origin, identity, and nationality if any, which is valid for the admission of the bearer into a foreign country.

(31) The term “permanent” means a relationship of continuing or lasting nature, as distinguished from temporary, but a relationship may be permanent even though it is one that may be dissolved eventually at the instance either of the United States or of the individual, in accordance with law.

(32) The term “profession” shall include but not be limited to architects, engineers, lawyers, physicians, surgeons, and teachers in elementary or secondary schools, colleges, academies, or seminaries.

(33) The term “residence” means the place of general abode; the place of general abode of a person means his principal, actual dwelling place in fact, without regard to intent.

(34) The term “Service” means the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Department of Justice.

(35) The term “spouse”, “wife”, or “husband” do not include a spouse, wife, or husband by reason of any marriage ceremony where the contracting parties thereto are not physically present in the presence of each other, unless the marriage shall have been consummated.

(36) The term “State” includes the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands of the United States, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(37) The term “totalitarian party” means an organization which advocates the establishment in the United States of a totalitarian dictatorship or totalitarianism. The terms “totalitarian dictatorship” and “totalitarianism” mean and refer to systems of government not representative in fact, characterized by (A) the existence of a single political party, organized on a dictatorial basis, with so close an identity between such party and its policies and the governmental policies of the country in which it exists, that the party and the government constitute an indistinguishable unit, and (B) the forcible suppression of opposition to such party.

(38) The term “United States”, except as otherwise specifically herein provided, when used in a geographical sense, means the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands of the United States, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(39) The term “unmarried”, when used in reference to any individual as of any time, means an individual who at such time is not married, whether or not previously married.

(40) The term “world communism” means a revolutionary movement, the purpose of which is to establish eventually a Communist totalitarian dictatorship in any or all the countries of the world through the medium of an internationally coordinated Communist political movement.

(41) The term “graduates of a medical school” means aliens who have graduated from a medical school or who have qualified to practice medicine in a foreign state, other than such aliens who are of national or international renown in the field of medicine.

(42) The term “refugee” means (A) any person who is outside any country of such person’s nationality or, in the case of a person having no nationality, is outside any country in which such person last habitually resided, and who is unable or unwilling to return to, and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of, that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, or (B) in such special circumstances as the President after appropriate consultation (as defined in section 1157(e) of this title) may specify, any person who is within the country of such person’s nationality or, in the case of a person having no nationality, within the country in which such person is habitually residing, and who is persecuted or who has a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. The term “refugee” does not include any person who ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in the persecution of any person on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. For purposes of determinations under this chapter, a person who has been forced to abort a pregnancy or to undergo involuntary sterilization, or who has been persecuted for failure or refusal to undergo such a procedure or for other resistance to a coercive population control program, shall be deemed to have been persecuted on account of political opinion, and a person who has a well founded fear that he or she will be forced to undergo such a procedure or subject to persecution for such failure, refusal, or resistance shall be deemed to have a well founded fear of persecution on account of political opinion.

(43) The term “aggravated felony” means—

(A) murder, rape, or sexual abuse of a minor;

(B) illicit trafficking in a controlled substance (as defined in section 802 of title 21), including a drug trafficking crime (as defined in section 924(c) of title 18);

(C) illicit trafficking in firearms or destructive devices (as defined in section 921 of title 18) or in explosive materials (as defined in section 841(c) of that title);

(D) an offense described in section 1956 of title 18 (relating to laundering of monetary instruments) or section 1957 of that title (relating to engaging in monetary transactions in property derived from specific unlawful activity) if the amount of the funds exceeded \$10,000;

(E) an offense described in—

(i) section 842(h) or (i) of title 18, or section 844(d), (e), (f), (g), (h), or (i) of that title (relating to explosive materials offenses);

(ii) section 922(g)(1), (2), (3), (4), or (5), (j), (n), (o), (p), or (r) or 924(b) or (h) of title 18 (relating to firearms offenses); or

(iii) section 5861 of title 26 (relating to firearms offenses);

(F) a crime of violence (as defined in section 16 of title 18, but not including a purely political offense) for which the term of imprisonment at least one year;

(G) a theft offense (including receipt of stolen property) or burglary offense for which the term of imprisonment at least one year;

(H) an offense described in section 875, 876, 877, or 1202 of title 18 (relating to the demand for or receipt of ransom);

(I) an offense described in section 2251, 2251A, or 2252 of title 18 (relating to child pornography);

(J) an offense described in section 1962 of title 18 (relating to racketeer influenced corrupt organizations), or an offense described in section 1084 (if it is a second or subsequent offense) or 1955 of that title (relating to gambling offenses), for which a sentence of one year imprisonment or more may be imposed;

(K) an offense that—

(i) relates to the owning, controlling, managing, or supervising of a prostitution business;

(ii) is described in section 2421, 2422, or 2423 of title 18 (relating to transportation for the purpose of prostitution) if committed for commercial advantage; or

(iii) is described in any of sections 1581–1585 or 1588–1591 of title 18 (relating to peonage, slavery, involuntary servitude, and trafficking in persons);

(L) an offense described in—

(i) section 793 (relating to gathering or transmitting national defense information), 798 (relating to disclosure of classified information), 2153 (relating to sabotage) or 2381 or 2382 (relating to treason) of title 18;

(ii) section 3121 of title 50 (relating to protecting the identity of undercover intelligence agents); or

(iii) section 3121 of title 50 (relating to protecting the identity of undercover agents);

(M) an offense that—

(i) involves fraud or deceit in which the loss to the victim or victims exceeds \$10,000; or

(ii) is described in section 7201 of title 26 (relating to tax evasion) in which the revenue loss to the Government exceeds \$10,000;

(N) an offense described in paragraph (1)(A) or (2) of section 1324(a) of this title (relating to alien smuggling), except in the case of a first offense for which the alien has affirmatively shown that the alien committed the offense for the purpose of assisting, abetting, or aiding only the alien's spouse, child, or parent (and no other individual) to violate a provision of this chapter

(O) an offense described in section 1325(a) or 1326 of this title committed by an alien who was previously deported on the basis of a conviction for an offense described in another subparagraph of this paragraph;

(P) an offense (i) which either is falsely making, forging, counterfeiting, mutilating, or altering a passport

or instrument in violation of section 1543 of title 18 or is described in section 1546(a) of such title (relating to document fraud) and (ii) for which the term of imprisonment is at least 12 months, except in the case of a first offense for which the alien has affirmatively shown that the alien committed the offense for the purpose of assisting, abetting, or aiding only the alien's spouse, child, or parent (and no other individual) to violate a provision of this chapter;

(Q) an offense relating to a failure to appear by a defendant for service of sentence if the underlying offense is punishable by imprisonment for a term of 5 years or more;

(R) an offense relating to commercial bribery, counterfeiting, forgery, or trafficking in vehicles the identification numbers of which have been altered for which the term of imprisonment is at least one year;

(S) an offense relating to obstruction of justice, perjury or subornation of perjury, or bribery of a witness, for which the term of imprisonment is at least one year;

(T) an offense relating to a failure to appear before a court pursuant to a court order to answer to or dispose of a charge of a felony for which a sentence of 2 years' imprisonment or more may be imposed; and

(U) an attempt or conspiracy to commit an offense described in this paragraph.

The term applies to an offense described in this paragraph whether in violation of Federal or State law and applies to such an offense in violation of the law of a foreign country for which the term of imprisonment was completed within the previous 15 years. Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including any effective date), the term applies regardless of whether the conviction was entered before, on, or after September 30, 1996.

(44)(A) The term “managerial capacity” means an assignment within an organization in which the employee primarily—

(i) manages the organization, or a department, subdivision, function, or component of the organization;

(ii) supervises and controls the work of other supervisory, professional, or managerial employees, or manages an essential function within the organization, or a department or subdivision of the organization;

(iii) if another employee or other employees are directly supervised, has the authority to hire and fire or recommend those as well as other personnel actions (such as promotion and leave authorization) or, if no other employee is directly supervised, functions at a senior level within the organizational hierarchy or with respect to the function managed; and

(iv) exercises discretion over the day-to-day operations of the activity or function for which the employee has authority.

A first-line supervisor is not considered to be acting in a managerial capacity merely by virtue of the supervisor's supervisory duties unless the employees supervised are professional.

(B) The term “executive capacity” means an assignment within an organization in which the employee primarily—

(i) directs the management of the organization or a major component or function of the organization;

(ii) establishes the goals and policies of the organization, component, or function;

(iii) exercises wide latitude in discretionary decision-making; and

(iv) receives only general supervision or direction from higher level executives, the board of directors, or stockholders of the organization.

(C) If staffing levels are used as a factor in determining whether an individual is acting in a managerial or executive capacity, the Attorney General shall take into account the reasonable needs of the organization, component, or function in light of the overall purpose and stage of development of the organization, component, or function. An individual shall not be considered to be acting in a managerial or executive capacity (as previously defined) merely on the basis of the number of employees that the individual supervises or has supervised or directs or has directed.

(45) The term “substantial” means, for purposes of paragraph (15)(E) with reference to trade or capital, such an amount of trade or capital as is established by the Secretary of State, after consultation with appropriate agencies of Government.

(46) The term “extraordinary ability” means, for purposes of subsection (a)(15)(O)(i), in the case of the arts, distinction.

(47)(A) The term “order of deportation” means the order of the special inquiry officer, or other such administrative officer to whom the Attorney General has delegated the responsibility for determining whether an alien is deportable, concluding that the alien is deportable or ordering deportation.

(B) The order described under subparagraph (A) shall become final upon the earlier of—

- (i) a determination by the Board of Immigration Appeals affirming such order; or
- (ii) the expiration of the period in which the alien is permitted to seek review of such order by the Board of Immigration Appeals.

(48)(A) The term “conviction” means, with respect to an alien, a formal judgment of guilt of the alien entered by a court or, if adjudication of guilt has been withheld, where—

- (i) a judge or jury has found the alien guilty or the alien has entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere or has admitted sufficient facts to warrant a finding of guilt, and
- (ii) the judge has ordered some form of punishment, penalty, or restraint on the alien’s liberty to be imposed.

(B) Any reference to a term of imprisonment or a sentence with respect to an offense is deemed to include the period of incarceration or confinement ordered by a court of law regardless of any suspension of the imposition or execution of that imprisonment or sentence in whole or in part.

(49) The term “stowaway” means any alien who obtains transportation without the consent of the owner, charterer, master or person in command of any vessel or aircraft through concealment aboard such vessel or aircraft. A passenger who boards with a valid ticket is not to be considered a stowaway.

(50) The term “intended spouse” means any alien who meets the criteria set forth in section 1154(a)(1)(A)(iii)(II) (aa)(BB), 1154(a)(1)(B)(ii)(II)(aa)(BB), or 1229b(b)(2)(A)(i) (III) of this title.

(51) The term “VAWA self-petitioner” means an alien, or a child of the alien, who qualifies for relief under—

- (A) clause (iii), (iv), or (vii) of section 1154(a)(1)(A) of this title;
- (B) clause (ii) or (iii) of section 1154(a)(1)(B) of this title;

(C) section 1186a(c)(4)(C) of this title;

(D) the first section of Public Law 89–732 (8 U.S.C. 1255 note) (commonly known as the Cuban Adjustment Act) as a child or spouse who has been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty;

(E) section 902(d)(1)(B) of the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 1998 (8 U.S.C. 1255 note);

(F) section 202(d)(1) of the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act; or

(G) section 309 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (division C of Public Law 104–208).

(52) The term “accredited language training program” means a language training program that is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the Secretary of Education.

(b) As used in subchapters I and II—

(1) The term “child” means an unmarried person under twenty-one years of age who is—

(A) a child born in wedlock;

(B) a stepchild, whether or not born out of wedlock, provided the child had not reached the age of eighteen years at the time the marriage creating the status of stepchild occurred;

(C) a child legitimated under the law of the child’s residence or domicile, or under the law of the father’s residence or domicile, whether in or outside the United States, if such legitimation takes place before the child reaches the age of eighteen years and the child is in the legal custody of the legitimating parent or parents at the time of such legitimation;

(D) a child born out of wedlock, by, through whom, or on whose behalf a status, privilege, or benefit is sought by virtue of the relationship of the child to its natural mother or to its natural father if the father has or had a bona fide parent-child relationship with the person;

(E)(i) a child adopted while under the age of sixteen years if the child has been in the legal custody of, and has resided with, the adopting parent or parents for at least two years or if the child has been battered or subject to extreme cruelty by the adopting parent or by a family member of the adopting parent residing in the same household: *Provided*, That no natural parent of any such adopted child shall thereafter, by virtue of such parentage, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under this chapter; or

(ii) subject to the same proviso as in clause (i), a child who: (I) is a natural sibling of a child described in clause (i) or subparagraph (F)(i); (II) was adopted by the adoptive parent or parents of the sibling described in such clause or subparagraph; and (III) is otherwise described in clause (i), except that the child was adopted while under the age of 18 years;

(F)(i) a child, under the age of sixteen at the time a petition is filed in his behalf to accord a classification as an immediate relative under section 1151(b) of this title, who is an orphan because of the death or disappearance of, abandonment or desertion by, or separation or loss from, both parents, or for whom the sole or surviving parent is incapable of providing the proper care and has in writing irrevocably released the child for emigration and adoption; who has been adopted abroad by a United States citizen and spouse jointly, or by an unmarried United States citizen who is at least 25 years of age, at least 1 of whom personally saw and observed the child before or during the adoption proceedings; or who is coming to the United States for adoption by a United States citizen and spouse jointly, or by an unmarried United States citizen at least twenty-five years of age, who have or has complied with the preadoption requirements, if any, of the child’s proposed residence; *Provided*, That the Attorney General is satisfied that proper care will be furnished the child if admitted to the United States: *Provided further*, That no natural parent or prior adoptive parent of any such child shall thereafter, by virtue of such parentage, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under this chapter; or

(ii) subject to the same provisos as in clause (i), a child who: (I) is a natural sibling of a child described in clause (i) or subparagraph (E)(i); (II) has been adopted abroad, or is coming to the United States for adoption, by the adoptive parent (or prospective adoptive parent) or parents of the sibling described in such clause or subparagraph; and (III) is otherwise described in clause (i), except that the child is under the age of 18 at the time a petition is filed in his or her behalf to accord a classification as an immediate relative under section 1151(b) of this title; or

(G)(i) a child, younger than 16 years of age at the time a petition is filed on the child's behalf to accord a classification as an immediate relative under section 1151(b) of this title, who has been adopted in a foreign state that is a party to the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, done at The Hague on May 29, 1993, or who is emigrating from such a foreign state to be adopted in the United States by a United States citizen and spouse jointly or by an unmarried United States citizen who is at least 25 years of age, Provided, That—

(I) the Secretary of Homeland Security is satisfied that proper care will be furnished the child if admitted to the United States;

(II) the child's natural parents (or parent, in the case of a child who has one sole or surviving parent because of the death or disappearance of, abandonment or desertion by, the other parent), or other persons or institutions that retain legal custody of the child, have freely given their written irrevocable consent to the termination of their legal relationship with the child, and to the child's emigration and adoption;

(III) in the case of a child having two living natural parents, the natural parents are incapable of providing proper care for the child;

(IV) the Secretary of Homeland Security is satisfied that the purpose of the adoption is to form a bona fide parent-child relationship, and the parent-child relationship of the child and the natural parents has been terminated (and in carrying out both obligations under this subclause the Secretary of Homeland Security may consider whether there is a petition pending to confer immigrant status on one or both of such natural parents); and

(V) in the case of a child who has not been adopted—

(aa) the competent authority of the foreign state has approved the child's emigration to the United States for the purpose of adoption by the prospective adoptive parent or parents; and

(bb) the prospective adoptive parent or parents has or have complied with any pre-adoption requirements of the child's proposed residence; and

(ii) except that no natural parent or prior adoptive parent of any such child shall thereafter, by virtue of such parentage, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under this chapter; or

(iii) subject to the same provisos as in clauses (i) and (ii), a child who—

(I) is a natural sibling of a child described in clause (i), subparagraph (E)(i), or subparagraph (F)(i);

(II) was adopted abroad, or is coming to the United States for adoption, by the adoptive parent (or prospective adoptive parent) or parents of the sibling described in clause (i), subparagraph (E)(i), or subparagraph (F)(i); and

(III) is otherwise described in clause (i), except that the child is younger than 18 years of age at the time a petition is filed on his or her behalf for classification as an immediate relative under section 1151(b) of this title.

(2) The terms "parent", "father", or "mother" mean a parent, father, or mother only where the relationship exists by reason of any of the circumstances set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection, except that, for purposes of paragraph (1)(F) (other than the second proviso therein) and paragraph (1)(G)(i) in the case of a child born out of wedlock described in paragraph (1)(D) (and not described in paragraph (1)(C)), the term "parent" does not include the natural father of the child if the father has disappeared or abandoned or deserted the child or if the father has in writing irrevocably released the child for emigration and adoption.

(3) The term "person" means an individual or an organization.

(4) The term "immigration judge" means an attorney whom the Attorney General appoints as an administrative judge within the Executive Office for Immigration Review, qualified to conduct specified classes of proceedings, including a hearing under section 1229a of this title. An immigration judge shall be subject to such supervision and shall perform such duties as the Attorney General shall prescribe, but shall not be employed by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

(5) The term "adjacent islands" includes Saint Pierre, Miquelon, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, the Windward and Leeward Islands, Trinidad, Martinique, and other British, French, and Netherlands territory or possessions in or bordering on the Caribbean Sea.

(c) As used in subchapter III—

(1) The term "child" means an unmarried person under twenty-one years of age and includes a child legitimated under the law of the child's residence or domicile, or under the law of the father's residence or domicile, whether in the United States or elsewhere, and, except as otherwise provided in sections 1431 and 1432 of this title, a child adopted in the United States, if such legitimation or adoption takes place before the child reaches the age of 16 years (except to the extent that the child is described in subparagraph (E)(ii) or (F)(ii) of subsection (b)(1)), and the child is in the legal custody of the legitimating or adopting parent or parents at the time of such legitimation or adoption.

(2) The terms "parent", "father", and "mother" include in the case of a posthumous child a deceased parent, father, and mother.

(d) Repealed. Pub. L. 100-525, §9(a)(3), Oct. 24, 1988, 102 Stat. 2619.

(e) For the purposes of this chapter—

(1) The giving, loaning, or promising of support or of money or any other thing of value to be used for advocating any doctrine shall constitute the advocating of such doctrine; but nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as an exclusive definition of advocating.

(2) The giving, loaning, or promising of support or of money or any other thing of value for any purpose to any organization shall be presumed to constitute affiliation therewith; but nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as an exclusive definition of affiliation.

(3) Advocating the economic, international, and governmental doctrines of world communism means advocating the establishment of a totalitarian Communist dictatorship in any or all of the countries of the world through the medium of an internationally coordinated Communist movement.

(f) For the purposes of this chapter—

No person shall be regarded as, or found to be, a person of good moral character who, during the period for which good moral character is required to be established is, or was—

(1) a habitual drunkard;

(2) Repealed. Pub. L. 97–116, §2(c)(1), Dec. 29, 1981, 95 Stat. 1611.

(3) a member of one or more of the classes of persons, whether inadmissible or not, described in paragraphs (2)(D), (6)(E), and (10)(A) of section 1182(a) of this title; or subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 1182(a)(2) of this title and subparagraph (C) thereof of such section (except as such paragraph relates to a single offense of simple possession of 30 grams or less of marihuana), if the offense described therein, for which such person was convicted or of which he admits the commission, was committed during such period;

(4) one whose income is derived principally from illegal gambling activities;

(5) one who has been convicted of two or more gambling offenses committed during such period;

(6) one who has given false testimony for the purpose of obtaining any benefits under this chapter;

(7) one who during such period has been confined, as a result of conviction, to a penal institution for an aggregate period of one hundred and eighty days or more, regardless of whether the offense, or offenses, for which he has been confined were committed within or without such period;

(8) one who at any time has been convicted of an aggravated felony (as defined in subsection (a)(43)); or

(9) one who at any time has engaged in conduct described in section 1182(a)(3)(E) of this title (relating to assistance in Nazi persecution, participation in genocide, or commission of acts of torture or extrajudicial killings) or 1182(a)(2)(G) of this title (relating to severe violations of religious freedom).

The fact that any person is not within any of the foregoing classes shall not preclude a finding that for other reasons such person is or was not of good moral character. In the case of an alien who makes a false statement or claim of citizenship, or who registers to vote or votes in a Federal, State, or local election (including an initiative, recall, or referendum) in violation of a lawful restriction of such registration or voting to citizens, if each natural parent of the alien (or, in the case of an adopted alien, each adoptive parent of the alien) is or was a citizen (whether by birth or naturalization), the alien permanently resided in the United States prior to attaining the age of 16, and the alien reasonably believed at the time of such statement, claim, or violation that he or she was a citizen, no finding that the alien is, or was, not of good moral character may be made based on it.

(g) For the purposes of this chapter any alien ordered deported or removed (whether before or after the enactment of this chapter) who has left the United States, shall be considered to have been deported or removed in pursuance of law, irrespective of the source from which the expenses of his transportation were defrayed or of the place to which he departed.

(h) For purposes of section 1182(a)(2)(E) of this title, the term “serious criminal offense” means—

(1) any felony;

(2) any crime of violence, as defined in section 16 of title 18; or

(3) any crime of reckless driving or of driving while intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol or of prohibited substances if such crime involves personal injury to another.

(i) With respect to each nonimmigrant alien described in subsection (a)(15)(T)(i)—

(1) the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and other Government officials, where appropriate, shall provide the alien with a referral to a nongovernmental organization that would advise the alien regarding the alien's options while in the United States and the resources available to the alien; and

(2) the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, during the period the alien is in lawful temporary resident status under that subsection, grant the alien authorization to engage in employment in the United States and provide the alien with an “employment authorized” endorsement or other appropriate work permit.

(June 27, 1952, ch. 477, title I, §101, 66 Stat. 166; Pub. L. 85–316, §§1, 2, Sept. 11, 1957, 71 Stat. 639; Pub. L. 85–508, §22, July 7, 1958, 72 Stat. 351; Pub. L. 86–3, §20(a), Mar. 18, 1959, 73 Stat. 13; Pub. L. 87–256, §109(a), (b), Sept. 21, 1961, 75 Stat. 534; Pub. L. 87–301, §§1, 2, 7, Sept. 26, 1961, 75 Stat. 650, 653; Pub. L. 89–236, §§8, 24, Oct. 3, 1965, 79 Stat. 916, 922; Pub. L. 89–710, Nov. 2, 1966, 80 Stat. 1104; Pub. L. 91–225, §1, Apr. 7, 1970, 84 Stat. 116; Pub. L. 94–155, Dec. 16, 1975, 89 Stat. 824; Pub. L. 94–484, title VI, §601(b), (e), Oct. 12, 1976, 90 Stat. 2301, 2302; Pub. L. 94–571, §7(a), Oct. 20, 1976, 90 Stat. 2706; Pub. L. 94–484, title VI, §602(c), Oct. 12, 1976, as added Pub. L. 95–83, title III, §307(q)(3), Aug. 1, 1977, 91 Stat. 395; Pub. L. 95–105, title I, §109(b)(3), Aug. 17, 1977, 91 Stat. 847; Pub. L. 96–70, title III, §3201(a), Sept. 27, 1979, 93 Stat. 496; Pub. L. 96–212, title II, §201(a), Mar. 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 102; Pub. L. 97–116, §§2, 5(d)(1), 18(a), Dec. 29, 1981, 95 Stat. 1611, 1614, 1619; Priv. L. 98–47, §3, Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 3435; Pub. L. 99–505, §1, Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1806; Pub. L. 99–603, title III, §§301(a), 312, 315(a), Nov. 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 3411, 3434, 3439; Pub. L. 99–653, §§2, 3, Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3655; Pub. L. 100–459, title II, §210(a), Oct. 1, 1988, 102 Stat. 2203; Pub. L. 100–525, §§2(o)(1), 8(b), 9(a), Oct. 24, 1988, 102 Stat. 2613, 2617, 2619; Pub. L. 100–690, title VII, §7342, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4469; Pub. L. 101–162, title VI, §611(a), Nov. 21, 1989, 103 Stat. 1038; Pub. L. 101–238, §3(a), Dec. 18, 1989, 103 Stat. 2100; Pub. L. 101–246, title I, §131(b), Feb. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 31; Pub. L. 101–649, title I, §§123, 151(a), 153(a), 162(f)(2)(A), title II, §§203(c), 204(a), (c), 205(c)(1), (d), (e), 206(c), 207(a), 208, 209(a), title IV, §407(a)(2), title V, §§501(a), 509(a), title VI, §603(a)(1), Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4995, 5004, 5005, 5012, 5018–5020, 5022, 5023, 5026, 5027, 5040, 5048, 5051, 5082; Pub. L. 102–110, §2(a), Oct. 1, 1991, 105 Stat. 555; Pub. L. 102–232, title II, §§203(a), 205(a)–(c), 206(b), (c)(1), (d), 207(b), title III, §§302(e)(8)(A), 303(a)(5)(A), (7)(A), (14), 305(m)(1), 306(a)(1), 309(b)(1), (4), Dec. 12, 1991, 105 Stat. 1737, 1740, 1741, 1746–1748, 1750, 1751, 1758; Pub. L. 103–236, title I, §162(h)(1), Apr. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 407; Pub. L. 103–322, title XIII, §130003(a), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2024; Pub. L. 103–337, div. C, title XXXVI, §3605, Oct. 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 3113; Pub. L. 103–416, title II, §§201, 202, 214, 219(a), 222(a), Oct. 25, 1994, 108 Stat. 4310, 4311, 4314, 4316, 4320; Pub. L. 104–51, §1, Nov. 15, 1995, 109 Stat. 467; Pub. L. 104–132, title IV, §440(b), (e), Apr. 24, 1996, 110 Stat. 1277; Pub. L. 104–208, div. C, title I, §104(a), title III, §§301(a), 308(d)(3)(A), (4)(A), (e)(3), (f)(1)(A), (B), 321(a), (b), 322(a)(1), (2)(A), 361(a), 371(a), title VI, §601(a)(1), 625(a)(2), 671(a)(3)(B), (b)(5), (e) (2), Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009–555, 3009–575, 3009–617, 3009–620, 3009–621, 3009–627 to 3009–629, 3009–644, 3009–645, 3009–689, 3009–700, 3009–721 to 3009–723; Pub. L. 105–54, §1(a), Oct. 6, 1997, 111 Stat. 1175; Pub. L. 105–119, title I, §113, Nov. 26, 1997, 111 Stat. 2460; Pub. L. 105–277, div. C, title IV, §421, div. G, title XXII, §2222(e), Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681–657, 2681–819; Pub. L. 105–319, §2(b)(1), (e)(2), formerly (d)(2), Oct. 30, 1998, 112 Stat. 3014, 3015, renumbered §2(e)(2), Pub. L. 108–449, §1(a)(3)(A), Dec. 10, 2004, 118 Stat. 3470; Pub. L. 106–95, §2(a), (c), Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1312, 1316; Pub. L. 106–139, §1(a), (b)(1), Dec. 7, 1999, 113 Stat. 1696; Pub. L. 106–279, title III, §302(a), (c), Oct. 6, 2000, 114 Stat. 838, 839; Pub. L. 106–386, div. A, §107(e)(1), (4), div. B, title V, §§1503(a), §1513(b), Oct. 28, 2000, 114 Stat. 1477, 1479, 1518, 1534; Pub. L. 106–395, title II, §201(a)(1),

Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1633; Pub. L. 106–409, §2(a), Nov. 1, 2000, 114 Stat. 1787; Pub. L. 106–536, §1(a), Nov. 22, 2000, 114 Stat. 2560; Pub. L. 106–553, §1(a)(2) [title XI, §§1102(a), 1103(a)], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2762, 2762A–142, 2762A–144; Pub. L. 107–125, §2(b), Jan. 16, 2002, 115 Stat. 2403; Pub. L. 107–274, §2(a), (b), Nov. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 1923; Pub. L. 108–77, title IV, §402(a)(1), Sept. 3, 2003, 117 Stat. 939; Pub. L. 108–99, §1, Oct. 15, 2003, 117 Stat. 1176; Pub. L. 108–193, §4(b)(1), (5), 8(a)(1), Dec. 19, 2003, 117 Stat. 2878, 2879, 2886; Pub. L. 108–449, §1(a)(2)(B), (b)(1), Dec. 10, 2004, 118 Stat. 3469, 3470; Pub. L. 108–458, title V, §5504, Dec. 17, 2004, 118 Stat. 3741; Pub. L. 109–13, div. B, title V, §501(a), May 11, 2005, 119 Stat. 321; Pub. L. 109–90, title V, §536, Oct. 18, 2005, 119 Stat. 2087; Pub. L. 109–162, title VIII, §§801, 805(d), 811, 822(c)(1), Jan. 5, 2006, 119 Stat. 3053, 3056, 3057, 3063; Pub. L. 109–248, title IV, §402(b), July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 623; Pub. L. 110–229, title VII, §702(j)(1)–(3), May 8, 2008, 122 Stat. 866; Pub. L. 110–391, §2(a), Oct. 10, 2008, 122 Stat. 4193; Pub. L. 110–457, title II, §§201(a), 235(d)(1), Dec. 23, 2008, 122 Stat. 5052, 5079; Pub. L. 111–9, §1, Mar. 20, 2009, 123 Stat. 989; Pub. L. 111–83, title V, §568(a)(1), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2186; Pub. L. 111–287, §3, Nov. 30, 2010, 124 Stat. 3058; Pub. L. 111–306, §1(a), Dec. 14, 2010, 124 Stat. 3280; Pub. L. 112–176, §3, Sept. 28, 2012, 126 Stat. 1325; Pub. L. 113–4, title VIII, §801, title XII, §§1221, 1222, Mar. 7, 2013, 127 Stat. 110, 144; Pub. L. 113–76, div. K, title VII, §7083, Jan. 17, 2014, 128 Stat. 567; Pub. L. 117–31, Title IV, § 403(a), July 30, 2021, 135 Stat. 318.)

§1102. Diplomatic and semidiplomatic immunities

Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, for so long as they continue in the nonimmigrant classes enumerated in this section, the provisions of this chapter relating to ineligibility to receive visas and the removal of aliens shall not be construed to apply to nonimmigrants—

(1) within the class described in paragraph (15)(A)(i) of section 1101(a) of this title, except those provisions relating to reasonable requirements of passports and visas as a means of identification and documentation necessary to establish their qualifications under such paragraph (15)(A)(i), and, under such rules and regulations as the President may deem to be necessary, the provisions of subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 1182(a)(3) of this title;

(2) within the class described in paragraph (15)(G)(i) of section 1101(a) of this title, except those provisions relating to reasonable requirements of passports and visas as a means of identification and documentation necessary to establish their qualifications under such paragraph (15)(G)(i), and the provisions of subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 1182(a)(3) of this title; and

(3) within the classes described in paragraphs (15)(A)(ii), (15)(G)(ii), (15)(G)(iii), or (15)(G)(iv) of section 1101(a) of this title, except those provisions relating to reasonable requirements of passports and visas as a means of identification and documentation necessary to establish their qualifications under such paragraphs, and the provisions of subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 1182(a)(3) of this title.

(June 27, 1952, ch. 477, title I, §102, 66 Stat. 173; Pub. L. 100–525, §9(b), Oct. 24, 1988, 102 Stat. 2619; Pub. L. 101–649, title VI, §603(a)(2), Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 5082; Pub. L. 102–232, title III, §307(i), Dec. 12, 1991, 105 Stat. 1756; Pub. L. 104–208, div. C, title III, §308(d)(4)(B), Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009–617.)

§1103. Powers and duties of the Secretary, the Under Secretary, and the Attorney General

(a) Secretary of Homeland Security

(1) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall be charged with the administration and enforcement of this chapter

and all other laws relating to the immigration and naturalization of aliens, except insofar as this chapter or such laws relate to the powers, functions, and duties conferred upon the President, Attorney General, the Secretary of State, the officers of the Department of State, or diplomatic or consular officers: *Provided, however*, That determination and ruling by the Attorney General with respect to all questions of law shall be controlling.

(2) He shall have control, direction, and supervision of all employees and of all the files and records of the Service.

(3) He shall establish such regulations; prescribe such forms of bond, reports, entries, and other papers; issue such instructions; and perform such other acts as he deems necessary for carrying out his authority under the provisions of this chapter.

(4) He may require or authorize any employee of the Service or the Department of Justice to perform or exercise any of the powers, privileges, or duties conferred or imposed by this chapter or regulations issued thereunder upon any other employee of the Service.

(5) He shall have the power and duty to control and guard the boundaries and borders of the United States against the illegal entry of aliens and shall, in his discretion, appoint for that purpose such number of employees of the Service as to him shall appear necessary and proper.

(6) He is authorized to confer or impose upon any employee of the United States, with the consent of the head of the Department or other independent establishment under whose jurisdiction the employee is serving, any of the powers, privileges, or duties conferred or imposed by this chapter or regulations issued thereunder upon officers or employees of the Service.

(7) He may, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, establish offices of the Service in foreign countries; and, after consultation with the Secretary of State, he may, whenever in his judgment such action may be necessary to accomplish the purposes of this chapter, detail employees of the Service for duty in foreign countries.

(8) After consultation with the Secretary of State, the Attorney General may authorize officers of a foreign country to be stationed at preclearance facilities in the United States for the purpose of ensuring that persons traveling from or through the United States to that foreign country comply with that country's immigration and related laws.

(9) Those officers may exercise such authority and perform such duties as United States immigration officers are authorized to exercise and perform in that foreign country under reciprocal agreement, and they shall enjoy such reasonable privileges and immunities necessary for the performance of their duties as the government of their country extends to United States immigration officers.

(10) In the event the Attorney General determines that an actual or imminent mass influx of aliens arriving off the coast of the United States, or near a land border, presents urgent circumstances requiring an immediate Federal response, the Attorney General may authorize any State or local law enforcement officer, with the consent of the head of the department, agency, or establishment under whose jurisdiction the individual is serving, to perform or exercise any of the powers, privileges, or duties conferred or imposed by this chapter or regulations issued thereunder upon officers or employees of the Service.

(11) The Attorney General, in support of persons in administrative detention in non-Federal institutions, is authorized—

(A) to make payments from funds appropriated for the administration and enforcement of the laws relating to immigration, naturalization, and alien registration for necessary clothing, medical care, necessary

guard hire, and the housing, care, and security of persons detained by the Service pursuant to Federal law under an agreement with a State or political subdivision of a State; and

(B) to enter into a cooperative agreement with any State, territory, or political subdivision thereof, for the necessary construction, physical renovation, acquisition of equipment, supplies or materials required to establish acceptable conditions of confinement and detention services in any State or unit of local government which agrees to provide guaranteed bed space for persons detained by the Service.

(b) Land acquisition authority

(1) The Attorney General may contract for or buy any interest in land, including temporary use rights, adjacent to or in the vicinity of an international land border when the Attorney General deems the land essential to control and guard the boundaries and borders of the United States against any violation of this chapter.

(2) The Attorney General may contract for or buy any interest in land identified pursuant to paragraph (1) as soon as the lawful owner of that interest fixes a price for it and the Attorney General considers that price to be reasonable.

(3) When the Attorney General and the lawful owner of an interest identified pursuant to paragraph (1) are unable to agree upon a reasonable price, the Attorney General may commence condemnation proceedings pursuant to section 3113 of title 40.

(4) The Attorney General may accept for the United States a gift of any interest in land identified pursuant to paragraph (1).

(c) Commissioner; appointment

The Commissioner shall be a citizen of the United States and shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. He shall be charged with any and all responsibilities and authority in the administration of the Service and of this chapter which are conferred upon the Attorney General as may be delegated to him by the Attorney General or which may be prescribed by the Attorney General. The Commissioner may enter into cooperative agreements with State and local law enforcement agencies for the purpose of assisting in the enforcement of the immigration laws.

(d) Statistical information system

(1) The Commissioner, in consultation with interested academicians, government agencies, and other parties, shall provide for a system for collection and dissemination, to Congress and the public, of information (not in individually identifiable form) useful in evaluating the social, economic, environmental, and demographic impact of immigration laws.

(2) Such information shall include information on the alien population in the United States, on the rates of naturalization and emigration of resident aliens, on aliens who have been admitted, paroled, or granted asylum, on nonimmigrants in the United States (by occupation, basis for admission, and duration of stay), on aliens who have not been admitted or have been removed from the United States, on the number of applications filed and granted for cancellation of removal, and on the number of aliens estimated to be present unlawfully in the United States in each fiscal year.

(3) Such system shall provide for the collection and dissemination of such information not less often than annually.

(e) Annual report

(1) The Commissioner shall submit to Congress annually a report which contains a summary of the information

collected under subsection (d) and an analysis of trends in immigration and naturalization.

(2) Each annual report shall include information on the number, and rate of denial administratively, of applications for naturalization, for each district office of the Service and by national origin group.

(f) Minimum number of agents in States

The Attorney General shall allocate to each State not fewer than 10 full-time active duty agents of the Immigration and Naturalization Service to carry out the functions of the Service, in order to ensure the effective enforcement of this chapter.

(g) Attorney General

(1) In general

The Attorney General shall have such authorities and functions under this chapter and all other laws relating to the immigration and naturalization of aliens as were exercised by the Executive Office for Immigration Review, or by the Attorney General with respect to the Executive Office for Immigration Review, on the day before the effective date of the Immigration Reform, Accountability and Security Enhancement Act of 2002.

(2) Powers

The Attorney General shall establish such regulations, prescribe such forms of bond, reports, entries, and other papers, issue such instructions, review such administrative determinations in immigration proceedings, delegate such authority, and perform such other acts as the Attorney General determines to be necessary for carrying out this section.

(June 27, 1952, ch. 477, title I, §103, 66 Stat. 173; Pub. L. 100–525, §9(c), Oct. 24, 1988, 102 Stat. 2619; Pub. L. 101–649, title I, §142, Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 5004; Pub. L. 104–208, div. C, title I, §§102(d), 125, 134(a), title III, §§308(d)(4)(C), (e)(4), 372, 373, Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009–555, 3009–562, 3009–564, 3009–618, 3009–620, 3009–646, 3009–647; Pub. L. 107–296, title XI, §1102, Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2273; Pub. L. 108–7, div. L, §105(a)(1), (2), Feb. 20, 2003, 117 Stat. 531; Pub. L. 108–458, title V, §5505(a), Dec. 17, 2004, 118 Stat. 3741; Pub. L. 111–122, §2(a), Dec. 22, 2009, 123 Stat. 3480.)

§1104. Powers and duties of Secretary of State

(a) Powers and duties

The Secretary of State shall be charged with the administration and the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter and all other immigration and nationality laws relating to (1) the powers, duties, and functions of diplomatic and consular officers of the United States, except those powers, duties, and functions conferred upon the consular officers relating to the granting or refusal of visas; (2) the powers, duties, and functions of the Administrator; and (3) the determination of nationality of a person not in the United States. He shall establish such regulations; prescribe such forms of reports, entries and other papers; issue such instructions; and perform such other acts as he deems necessary for carrying out such provisions. He is authorized to confer or impose upon any employee of the United States, with the consent of the head of the department or independent establishment under whose jurisdiction the employee is serving, any of the powers, functions, or duties conferred or imposed by this chapter or regulations issued thereunder upon officers or employees of the Department of State or of the American Foreign Service.

(b) Designation and duties of Administrator

The Secretary of State shall designate an Administrator who shall be a citizen of the United States, qualified by

experience. The Administrator shall maintain close liaison with the appropriate committees of Congress in order that they may be advised regarding the administration of this chapter by consular officers. The Administrator shall be charged with any and all responsibility and authority in the administration of this chapter which are conferred on the Secretary of State as may be delegated to the Administrator by the Secretary of State or which may be prescribed by the Secretary of State, and shall perform such other duties as the Secretary of State may prescribe.

(c) Passport Office, Visa Office, and other offices; directors

Within the Department of State there shall be a Passport Office, a Visa Office, and such other offices as the Secretary of State may deem to be appropriate, each office to be headed by a director. The Directors of the Passport Office and the Visa Office shall be experienced in the administration of the nationality and immigration laws.

(d) Transfer of duties

The functions heretofore performed by the Passport Division and the Visa Division of the Department of State shall hereafter be performed by the Passport Office and the Visa Office, respectively.

(e) General Counsel of Visa Office; appointment and duties

There shall be a General Counsel of the Visa Office, who shall be appointed by the Secretary of State and who shall serve under the general direction of the Legal Adviser of the Department of State. The General Counsel shall have authority to maintain liaison with the appropriate officers of the Service with a view to securing uniform interpretations of the provisions of this chapter.

(June 27, 1952, ch. 477, title I, §104, 66 Stat. 174; Pub. L. 87-510, §4(a)(2), June 28, 1962, 76 Stat. 123; Pub. L. 88-426, title III, §305(43), Aug. 14, 1964, 78 Stat. 428; Pub. L. 95-105, title I, §109(b)(1), Aug. 17, 1977, 91 Stat. 847; Pub. L. 100-525, §9(d), Oct. 24, 1988, 102 Stat. 2620; Pub. L. 103-236, title I, §162(h)(2), Apr. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 407.)

§1105. Liaison with internal security officers; data exchange

(a) In general

The Commissioner and the Administrator shall have authority to maintain direct and continuous liaison with the Directors of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency and with other internal security officers of the Government for the purpose of obtaining and exchanging information for use in enforcing the provisions of this chapter in the interest of the internal and border security of the United States. The Commissioner and the Administrator shall maintain direct and continuous liaison with each other with a view to a coordinated, uniform, and efficient administration of this chapter, and all other immigration and nationality laws.

(b) Access to National Crime Information Center files

(1) The Attorney General and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall provide the Department of State and the Service access to the criminal history record information contained in the National Crime Information Center's Interstate Identification Index (NCIC-III), Wanted Persons File, and to any other files maintained by the National Crime Information Center that may be mutually agreed upon by the Attorney General and the agency receiving the access, for the purpose of determining whether or not a visa applicant or

applicant for admission has a criminal history record indexed in any such file.

(2) Such access shall be provided by means of extracts of the records for placement in the automated visa lookout or other appropriate database, and shall be provided without any fee or charge.

(3) The Federal Bureau of Investigation shall provide periodic updates of the extracts at intervals mutually agreed upon with the agency receiving the access. Upon receipt of such updated extracts, the receiving agency shall make corresponding updates to its database and destroy previously provided extracts.

(4) Access to an extract does not entitle the Department of State to obtain the full content of the corresponding automated criminal history record. To obtain the full content of a criminal history record, the Department of State shall submit the applicant's fingerprints and any appropriate fingerprint processing fee authorized by law to the Criminal Justice Information Services Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(c) Reconsideration upon development of more cost effective means of sharing information

The provision of the extracts described in subsection (b) may be reconsidered by the Attorney General and the receiving agency upon the development and deployment of a more cost-effective and efficient means of sharing the information.

(d) Regulations

For purposes of administering this section, the Department of State shall, prior to receiving access to NCIC data but not later than 4 months after October 26, 2001, promulgate final regulations—

(1) to implement procedures for the taking of fingerprints; and

(2) to establish the conditions for the use of the information received from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in order—

- (A) to limit the dissemination of such information;
- (B) to ensure that such information is used solely to determine whether or not to issue a visa to an alien or to admit an alien to the United States;
- (C) to ensure the security, confidentiality, and destruction of such information; and
- (D) to protect any privacy rights of individuals who are subjects of such information.

(June 27, 1952, ch. 477, title I, §105, 66 Stat. 175; Pub. L. 95-105, title I, §109(b)(2), Aug. 17, 1977, 91 Stat. 847; Pub. L. 103-236, title I, §162(h)(3), Apr. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 408; Pub. L. 107-56, title IV, §403(a), Oct. 26, 2001, 115 Stat. 343.)

§1105a. Employment authorization for battered spouses of certain nonimmigrants

(a) In general

In the case of an alien spouse admitted under subparagraph (A), (E)(iii), (G), or (H) of section 1101(a)(15) of this title who is accompanying or following to join a principal alien admitted under subparagraph (A), (E)(iii), (G), or (H) of such section, respectively, the Secretary of Homeland Security may authorize the alien spouse to engage in employment in the United States and provide the spouse with an "employment authorized" endorsement or other appropriate work permit if the alien spouse demonstrates that during the marriage the alien spouse or a child of the alien spouse has been battered or has been the subject of extreme cruelty perpetrated by the spouse of the alien spouse. Requests for relief under this section shall be handled under the procedures that apply

to aliens seeking relief under section 1154(a)(1)(A)(iii) of this title.

(b) Construction

The grant of employment authorization pursuant to this section shall not confer upon the alien any other form of relief.

(June 27, 1952, ch. 477, title I, §106, as added Pub. L. 109–162, title VIII, §814(c), Jan. 5, 2006, 119 Stat. 3059.)

§1106. Repealed. Pub. L. 91–510, title IV, §422(a), Oct. 26, 1970, 84 Stat. 1189

Section, act June 27, 1952, ch. 477, title IV, §401, 66 Stat. 274, provided for establishment of Joint Committee on Immigration and Nationality, including its composition, necessity of membership on House or Senate Committee on the Judiciary, vacancies and election of chairman, functions, reports, submission of regulations to Committee, hearings and subpena, travel expenses, employment of personnel, payment of Committee expenses, and effective date.

§1107. Additional report

At the beginning and midpoint of each fiscal year, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Senate, a written report providing a description of internal affairs operations at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, including the general state of such operations and a detailed description of investigations that are being conducted (or that were conducted during the previous six months) and the resources devoted to such investigations. The first such report shall be submitted not later than April 1, 2006.

(Pub. L. 109–177, title I, §109(c), Mar. 9, 2006, 120 Stat. 205.)

SUBCHAPTER II. IMMIGRATION

PART I. SELECTION SYSTEM

§1151. Worldwide level of immigration

(a) In general

Exclusive of aliens described in subsection (b), aliens born in a foreign state or dependent area who may be issued immigrant visas or who may otherwise acquire the status of an alien lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence are limited to—

(1) family-sponsored immigrants described in section 1153(a) of this title (or who are admitted under section 1181(a) of this title on the basis of a prior issuance of a visa to their accompanying parent under section 1153(a) of this title) in a number not to exceed in any fiscal year the number specified in subsection (c) for that year, and not to exceed in any of the first 3 quarters of any fiscal year 27 percent of the worldwide level under such subsection for all of such fiscal year;

(2) employment-based immigrants described in section 1153(b) of this title (or who are admitted under section 1181(a) of this title on the basis of a prior issuance of a visa to their accompanying parent under section 1153(b) of this title), in a number not to exceed in any fiscal year the number specified in subsection (d) for that year, and not to exceed in any of the first

3 quarters of any fiscal year 27 percent of the worldwide level under such subsection for all of such fiscal year; and

(3) for fiscal years beginning with fiscal year 1995, diversity immigrants described in section 1153(c) of this title (or who are admitted under section 1181(a) of this title on the basis of a prior issuance of a visa to their accompanying parent under section 1153(c) of this title) in a number not to exceed in any fiscal year the number specified in subsection (e) for that year, and not to exceed in any of the first 3 quarters of any fiscal year 27 percent of the worldwide level under such subsection for all of such fiscal year.

(b) Aliens not subject to direct numerical limitations

Aliens described in this subsection, who are not subject to the worldwide levels or numerical limitations of subsection (a), are as follows:

(1)(A) Special immigrants described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 1101(a)(27) of this title.

(B) Aliens who are admitted under section 1157 of this title or whose status is adjusted under section 1159 of this title.

(C) Aliens whose status is adjusted to permanent residence under section 1160 or 1255a of this title.

(D) Aliens whose removal is canceled under section 1229b(a) of this title.

(E) Aliens provided permanent resident status under section 1259 of this title.

(2)(A)(i) Immediate relatives.—For purposes of this subsection, the term “immediate relatives” means the children, spouses, and parents of a citizen of the United States, except that, in the case of parents, such citizens shall be at least 21 years of age. In the case of an alien who was the spouse of a citizen of the United States and was not legally separated from the citizen at the time of the citizen’s death, the alien (and each child of the alien) shall be considered, for purposes of this subsection, to remain an immediate relative after the date of the citizen’s death but only if the spouse files a petition under section 1154(a)(1)(A)(ii) of this title within 2 years after such date and only until the date the spouse remarries. For purposes of this clause, an alien who has filed a petition under clause (iii) or (iv) of section 1154(a)(1)(A) of this title remains an immediate relative in the event that the United States citizen spouse or parent loses United States citizenship on account of the abuse.

(ii) Aliens admitted under section 1181(a) of this title on the basis of a prior issuance of a visa to their accompanying parent who is such an immediate relative.

(B) Aliens born to an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence during a temporary visit abroad.

(c) Worldwide level of family-sponsored immigrants

(1)(A) The worldwide level of family-sponsored immigrants under this subsection for a fiscal year is, subject to subparagraph (B), equal to—

(i) 480,000, minus

(ii) the sum of the number computed under paragraph (2) and the number computed under paragraph (4), plus

(iii) the number (if any) computed under paragraph (3).

(B)(i) For each of fiscal years 1992, 1993, and 1994, 465,000 shall be substituted for 480,000 in subparagraph (A)(i).

(ii) In no case shall the number computed under subparagraph (A) be less than 226,000.

(2) The number computed under this paragraph for a fiscal year is the sum of the number of aliens described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (b)(2) who were issued immigrant visas or who otherwise acquired the status of aliens lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence in the previous fiscal year.

(3)(A) The number computed under this paragraph for fiscal year 1992 is zero.

(B) The number computed under this paragraph for fiscal year 1993 is the difference (if any) between the worldwide level established under paragraph (1) for the previous fiscal year and the number of visas issued under section 1153(a) of this title during that fiscal year.

(C) The number computed under this paragraph for a subsequent fiscal year is the difference (if any) between the maximum number of visas which may be issued under section 1153(b) of this title (relating to employment-based immigrants) during the previous fiscal year and the number of visas issued under that section during that year.

(4) The number computed under this paragraph for a fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year 1999) is the number of aliens who were paroled into the United States under section 1182(d)(5) of this title in the second preceding fiscal year—

(A) who did not depart from the United States (without advance parole) within 365 days; and

(B) who (i) did not acquire the status of aliens lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence in the two preceding fiscal years, or (ii) acquired such status in such years under a provision of law (other than subsection (b)) which exempts such adjustment from the numerical limitation on the worldwide level of immigration under this section.

(5) If any alien described in paragraph (4) (other than an alien described in paragraph (4)(B)(ii)) is subsequently admitted as an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, such alien shall not again be considered for purposes of paragraph (1).

(d) Worldwide level of employment-based immigrants

(1) The worldwide level of employment-based immigrants under this subsection for a fiscal year is equal to—

(A) 140,000, plus

(B) the number computed under paragraph (2).

(2)(A) The number computed under this paragraph for fiscal year 1992 is zero.

(B) The number computed under this paragraph for fiscal year 1993 is the difference (if any) between the worldwide level established under paragraph (1) for the previous fiscal year and the number of visas issued under section 1153(b) of this title during that fiscal year.

(C) The number computed under this paragraph for a subsequent fiscal year is the difference (if any) between the maximum number of visas which may be issued under section 1153(a) of this title (relating to family-sponsored immigrants) during the previous fiscal year and the number of visas issued under that section during that year.

(e) Worldwide level of diversity immigrants

The worldwide level of diversity immigrants is equal to 55,000 for each fiscal year.

(f) Rules for determining whether certain aliens are immediate relatives

(1) Age on petition filing date

Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), for purposes of subsection (b)(2)(A)(i), a determination of whether an alien satisfies the age requirement in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) of section 1101(b)(1) of this title shall be made using the age of the alien on the date on which the petition is filed with

the Attorney General under section 1154 of this title to classify the alien as an immediate relative under subsection (b)(2)(A)(i).

(2) Age on parent's naturalization date

In the case of a petition under section 1154 of this title initially filed for an alien child's classification as a family-sponsored immigrant under section 1153(a)(2)(A) of this title, based on the child's parent being lawfully admitted for permanent residence, if the petition is later converted, due to the naturalization of the parent, to a petition to classify the alien as an immediate relative under subsection (b)(2)(A)(i), the determination described in paragraph (1) shall be made using the age of the alien on the date of the parent's naturalization.

(3) Age on marriage termination date

In the case of a petition under section 1154 of this title initially filed for an alien's classification as a family-sponsored immigrant under section 1153(a)(3) of this title, based on the alien's being a married son or daughter of a citizen, if the petition is later converted, due to the legal termination of the alien's marriage, to a petition to classify the alien as an immediate relative under subsection (b)(2)(A)(i) or as an unmarried son or daughter of a citizen under section 1153(a)(1) of this title, the determination described in paragraph (1) shall be made using the age of the alien on the date of the termination of the marriage.

(4) Application to self-petitions

Paragraphs (1) through (3) shall apply to self-petitioners and derivatives of self-petitioners.

(June 27, 1952, ch. 477, title II, ch. 1, §201, 66 Stat. 175; Pub. L. 89-236, §1, Oct. 3, 1965, 79 Stat. 911; Pub. L. 94-571, §2, Oct. 20, 1976, 90 Stat. 2703; Pub. L. 95-412, §1, Oct. 5, 1978, 92 Stat. 907; Pub. L. 96-212, title II, §203(a), Mar. 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 106; Pub. L. 97-116, §20[a], Dec. 29, 1981, 95 Stat. 1621; Pub. L. 101-649, title I, §101(a), Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4980; Pub. L. 102-232, title III, §302(a)(1), Dec. 12, 1991, 105 Stat. 1742; Pub. L. 103-322, title IV, §40701(b)(2), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 1954; Pub. L. 103-416, title II, §219(b)(1), Oct. 25, 1994, 108 Stat. 4316; Pub. L. 104-208, div. C, title III, §308(e)(5), (g)(8)(A)(i), title VI, §§603, 671(d)(1)(A), Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-620, 3009-624, 3009-690, 3009-723; Pub. L. 106-386, div. B, title V, §1507(a)(3), Oct. 28, 2000, 114 Stat. 1530; Pub. L. 107-208, §2, Aug. 6, 2002, 116 Stat. 927; Pub. L. 109-162, title VIII, §805(b)(1), Jan. 5, 2006, 119 Stat. 3056; Pub. L. 111-83, title V, §568(c)(1), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2186.)

§1151a. Repealed. Pub. L. 94-571, §7(g), Oct. 20, 1976, 90 Stat. 2706

Section, Pub. L. 89-236, §21(e), Oct. 3, 1965, 79 Stat. 921, limited total number of special immigrants under section 1101(a)(27)(A) of this title, less certain exclusions, to 120,000 for fiscal years beginning July 1, 1968, or later.

§1152. Numerical limitations on individual foreign states

(a) Per country level

(1) Nondiscrimination

(A) Except as specifically provided in paragraph (2) and in sections 1101(a)(27), 1151(b)(2)(A)(i), and 1153 of this title, no person shall receive any preference or priority or be discriminated against in the issuance of an immigrant visa because of the person's race, sex, nationality, place of birth, or place of residence.

(B) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the authority of the Secretary of State to

determine the procedures for the processing of immigrant visa applications or the locations where such applications will be processed.

(2) Per country levels for family-sponsored and employment-based immigrants

Subject to paragraphs (3), (4), and (5), the total number of immigrant visas made available to natives of any single foreign state or dependent area under subsections (a) and (b) of section 1153 of this title in any fiscal year may not exceed 7 percent (in the case of a single foreign state) or 2 percent (in the case of a dependent area) of the total number of such visas made available under such subsections in that fiscal year.

(3) Exception if additional visas available

If because of the application of paragraph (2) with respect to one or more foreign states or dependent areas, the total number of visas available under both subsections (a) and (b) of section 1153 of this title for a calendar quarter exceeds the number of qualified immigrants who otherwise may be issued such a visa, paragraph (2) shall not apply to visas made available to such states or areas during the remainder of such calendar quarter.

(4) Special rules for spouses and children of lawful permanent resident aliens

(A) 75 percent of 2nd preference set-aside for spouses and children not subject to per country limitation

(i) In general

Of the visa numbers made available under section 1153(a) of this title to immigrants described in section 1153(a)(2)(A) of this title in any fiscal year, 75 percent of the 2-A floor (as defined in clause (ii)) shall be issued without regard to the numerical limitation under paragraph (2).

(ii) “2-A floor” defined

In this paragraph, the term “2-A floor” means, for a fiscal year, 77 percent of the total number of visas made available under section 1153(a) of this title to immigrants described in section 1153(a)(2) of this title in the fiscal year.

(B) Treatment of remaining 25 percent for countries subject to subsection (e)

(i) In general

Of the visa numbers made available under section 1153(a) of this title to immigrants described in section 1153(a)(2)(A) of this title in any fiscal year, the remaining 25 percent of the 2-A floor shall be available in the case of a state or area that is subject to subsection (e) only to the extent that the total number of visas issued in accordance with subparagraph (A) to natives of the foreign state or area is less than the subsection (e) ceiling (as defined in clause (ii)).

(ii) “Subsection (e) ceiling” defined

In clause (i), the term “subsection (e) ceiling” means, for a foreign state or dependent area, 77 percent of the maximum number of visas that may be made available under section 1153(a) of this title to immigrants who are natives of the state or area under section 1153(a)(2) of this title consistent with subsection (e).

(C) Treatment of unmarried sons and daughters in countries subject to subsection (e)

In the case of a foreign state or dependent area to which subsection (e) applies, the number of immigrant visas that may be made available to natives of the state or area under section 1153(a)(2)(B) of this title may not exceed—

(i) 23 percent of the maximum number of visas that may be made available under section 1153(a) of this title to immigrants of the state or area described in section 1153(a)(2) of this title consistent with subsection (e), or

(ii) the number (if any) by which the maximum number of visas that may be made available under section 1153(a) of this title to immigrants of the state or area described in section 1153(a)(2) of this title consistent with subsection (e) exceeds the number of visas issued under section 1153(a)(2)(A) of this title, whichever is greater.

(D) Limiting pass down for certain countries subject to subsection (e)

In the case of a foreign state or dependent area to which subsection (e) applies, if the total number of visas issued under section 1153(a)(2) of this title exceeds the maximum number of visas that may be made available to immigrants of the state or area under section 1153(a)(2) of this title consistent with subsection (e) (determined without regard to this paragraph), in applying paragraphs (3) and (4) of section 1153(a) of this title under subsection (e)(2) all visas shall be deemed to have been required for the classes specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) of such section.

(5) Rules for employment-based immigrants

(A) Employment-based immigrants not subject to per country limitation if additional visas available

If the total number of visas available under paragraph (1), (2), (3), (4), or (5) of section 1153(b) of this title for a calendar quarter exceeds the number of qualified immigrants who may otherwise be issued such visas, the visas made available under that paragraph shall be issued without regard to the numerical limitation under paragraph (2) of this subsection during the remainder of the calendar quarter.

(B) Limiting fall across for certain countries subject to subsection (e)

In the case of a foreign state or dependent area to which subsection (e) applies, if the total number of visas issued under section 1153(b) of this title exceeds the maximum number of visas that may be made available to immigrants of the state or area under section 1153(b) of this title consistent with subsection (e) (determined without regard to this paragraph), in applying subsection (e) all visas shall be deemed to have been required for the classes of aliens specified in section 1153(b) of this title.

(b) Rules for chargeability

Each independent country, self-governing dominion, mandated territory, and territory under the international trusteeship system of the United Nations, other than the United States and its outlying possessions, shall be treated as a separate foreign state for the purposes of a numerical level established under subsection (a)(2) when approved by the Secretary of State. All other inhabited lands shall be attributed to a foreign state specified by the Secretary of State. For the purposes of this chapter the foreign state to which an immigrant is chargeable shall be determined by birth within such foreign state except that (1) an alien child, when accompanied by or following to join his alien parent or parents, may be charged to the foreign state of either parent if such parent has received or would be qualified for an immigrant visa, if necessary to prevent the separation of the child from the parent or parents, and if immigration

charged to the foreign state to which such parent has been or would be chargeable has not reached a numerical level established under subsection (a)(2) for that fiscal year; (2) if an alien is chargeable to a different foreign state from that of his spouse, the foreign state to which such alien is chargeable may, if necessary to prevent the separation of husband and wife, be determined by the foreign state of the spouse he is accompanying or following to join, if such spouse has received or would be qualified for an immigrant visa and if immigration charged to the foreign state to which such spouse has been or would be chargeable has not reached a numerical level established under subsection (a)(2) for that fiscal year; (3) an alien born in the United States shall be considered as having been born in the country of which he is a citizen or subject, or, if he is not a citizen or subject of any country, in the last foreign country in which he had his residence as determined by the consular officer; and (4) an alien born within any foreign state in which neither of his parents was born and in which neither of his parents had a residence at the time of such alien's birth may be charged to the foreign state of either parent.

(c) Chargeability for dependent areas

Any immigrant born in a colony or other component or dependent area of a foreign state overseas from the foreign state, other than an alien described in section 1151(b) of this title, shall be chargeable for the purpose of the limitation set forth in subsection (a), to the foreign state.

(d) Changes in territory

In the case of any change in the territorial limits of foreign states, the Secretary of State shall, upon recognition of such change issue appropriate instructions to all diplomatic and consular offices.

(e) Special rules for countries at ceiling

If it is determined that the total number of immigrant visas made available under subsections (a) and (b) of section 1153 of this title to natives of any single foreign state or dependent area will exceed the numerical limitation specified in subsection (a)(2) in any fiscal year, in determining the allotment of immigrant visa numbers to natives under subsections (a) and (b) of section 1153 of this title, visa numbers with respect to natives of that state or area shall be allocated (to the extent practicable and otherwise consistent with this section and section 1153 of this title) in a manner so that—

(1) the ratio of the visa numbers made available under section 1153(a) of this title to the visa numbers made available under section 1153(b) of this title is equal to the ratio of the worldwide level of immigration under section 1151(c) of this title to such level under section 1151(d) of this title;

(2) except as provided in subsection (a)(4), the proportion of the visa numbers made available under each of paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 1153(a) of this title is equal to the ratio of the total number of visas made available under the respective paragraph to the total number of visas made available under section 1153(a) of this title, and

(3) except as provided in subsection (a)(5), the proportion of the visa numbers made available under each of paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 1153(b) of this title is equal to the ratio of the total number of visas made available under the respective paragraph to the total number of visas made available under section 1153(b) of this title.

Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as limiting the number of visas that may be issued to natives of a foreign state or dependent area under section 1153(a) or 1153(b) of this title if there is insufficient demand for visas for such natives under section 1153(b) or 1153(a) of this

title, respectively, or as limiting the number of visas that may be issued under section 1153(a)(2)(A) of this title pursuant to subsection (a)(4)(A).

(June 27, 1952, ch. 477, title II, ch. 1, §202, 66 Stat. 176; Pub. L. 87–301, §9, Sept. 26, 1961, 75 Stat. 654; Pub. L. 89–236, §2, Oct. 3, 1965, 79 Stat. 911; Pub. L. 94–571, §3, Oct. 20, 1976, 90 Stat. 2703; Pub. L. 95–412, §2, Oct. 5, 1978, 92 Stat. 907; Pub. L. 96–212, title II, §203(b), Mar. 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 107; Pub. L. 97–116, §§18(c), 20(b), Dec. 29, 1981, 95 Stat. 1620, 1622; Pub. L. 99–603, title III, §311(a), Nov. 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 3434; Pub. L. 99–653, §4, Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3655; Pub. L. 100–525, §§8(c), 9(f), Oct. 24, 1988, 102 Stat. 2617, 2620; Pub. L. 101–649, title I, §102, Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4982; Pub. L. 102–232, title III, §302(a)(3), Dec. 12, 1991, 105 Stat. 1742; Pub. L. 104–208, div. C, title VI, §633, Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009–701; Pub. L. 106–313, title I, §104(a), (b), Oct. 17, 2000, 114 Stat. 1252, 1253.)

§1153. Allocation of immigrant visas

(a) Preference allocation for family-sponsored immigrants

Aliens subject to the worldwide level specified in section 1151(c) of this title for family-sponsored immigrants shall be allotted visas as follows:

(1) Unmarried sons and daughters of citizens

Qualified immigrants who are the unmarried sons or daughters of citizens of the United States shall be allocated visas in a number not to exceed 23,400, plus any visas not required for the class specified in paragraph (4).

(2) Spouses and unmarried sons and unmarried daughters of permanent resident aliens

Qualified immigrants—

(A) who are the spouses or children of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, or

(B) who are the unmarried sons or unmarried daughters (but are not the children) of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, shall be allocated visas in a number not to exceed 114,200, plus the number (if any) by which such worldwide level exceeds 226,000, plus any visas not required for the class specified in paragraph (1); except that not less than 77 percent of such visa numbers shall be allocated to aliens described in subparagraph (A).

(3) Married sons and married daughters of citizens

Qualified immigrants who are the married sons or married daughters of citizens of the United States shall be allocated visas in a number not to exceed 23,400, plus any visas not required for the classes specified in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(4) Brothers and sisters of citizens

Qualified immigrants who are the brothers or sisters of citizens of the United States, if such citizens are at least 21 years of age, shall be allocated visas in a number not to exceed 65,000, plus any visas not required for the classes specified in paragraphs (1) through (3).

(b) Preference allocation for employment-based immigrants

Aliens subject to the worldwide level specified in section 1151(d) of this title for employment-based immigrants in a fiscal year shall be allotted visas as follows:

(1) Priority workers

Visas shall first be made available in a number not to exceed 28.6 percent of such worldwide level, plus any visas not required for the classes specified in