

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2957

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to exempt certain elderly persons from demonstrating an understanding of the English language and the history, principles, and form of government of the United States as a requirement for naturalization, and to permit certain other elderly persons to take the history and government examination in a language of their choice.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

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

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## A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to exempt certain elderly persons from demonstrating an understanding of the English language and the history, principles, and form of government of the United States as a requirement for naturalization, and to permit certain other elderly persons to take the history and government examination in a language of their choice.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Senior Citizenship Act  
3 of 2011”.

4 **SEC. 2. FULFILLMENT BY ELDERLY PERSONS OF REQUIRE-**  
5 **MENT FOR NATURALIZATION RELATING TO**  
6 **KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE.**

7 Section 312(b)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality  
8 Act (8 U.S.C. 1423(b)(2)) is amended—

9 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),  
10 by striking “334, either—” and inserting “334—”;

11 (2) in subparagraph (A), by striking “, or” at  
12 the end and inserting a semicolon;

13 (3) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period  
14 at the end and inserting “; or”; and

15 (4) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(C) is over sixty-five years of age and has been  
17 living in the United States for periods totaling at  
18 least five years subsequent to a lawful admission for  
19 permanent residence.”.

20 **SEC. 3. FULFILLMENT BY ELDERLY PERSONS OF REQUIRE-**  
21 **MENT FOR NATURALIZATION RELATING TO**  
22 **KNOWLEDGE OF GOVERNMENT OF THE**  
23 **UNITED STATES.**

24 Section 312(b)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality  
25 Act (8 U.S.C. 1423(b)(3)) is amended—

1           (1) by striking “Attorney General” each place  
2           such term appears and inserting “Secretary of  
3           Homeland Security”;

4           (2) by striking “(3)” and inserting “(3)(A)”;  
5           and

6           (3) by adding at the end the following:

7           “(B) In the case of a person who, on the date of the  
8           filing of the person’s application for naturalization, as pro-  
9           vided in section 334, is over sixty-five years of age and  
10          has been living in the United States for periods totaling  
11          at least five years subsequent to a lawful admission for  
12          permanent residence, the Secretary of Homeland Security  
13          shall permit the person to fulfill the requirement of sub-  
14          section (a)(2) through an examination in a language other  
15          than English selected by the person.

16          “(C) In the case of a person who, on the date of the  
17          filing of the person’s application for naturalization, as pro-  
18          vided in section 334, is over seventy-five years of age and  
19          has been living in the United States for periods totaling  
20          at least five years subsequent to a lawful admission for  
21          permanent residence, the requirement of subsection (a)(2)  
22          shall not apply.”.

23       **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

24           The amendments made by this Act shall take effect  
25          on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply

- 1 to applications for naturalization pending on or after such
- 2 date.

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