

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4681

AN ACT

To provide for the adjustment of status of certain
Syrian nationals.

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

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) President Bush and President Clinton suc-
2 cessively conducted successful negotiations with the
3 Government of Syria to bring about the release of
4 members of the Syrian Jewish population and their
5 immigration to the United States.

6 (2) In order to accommodate the Syrian Gov-
7 ernment, the United States was required to admit
8 these aliens by first granting them temporary non-
9 immigrant visas and subsequently granting them
10 asylum, rather than admitting them as refugees (as
11 is ordinarily done when the United States grants
12 refuge to members of a persecuted alien minority
13 group).

14 (3) The asylee status of these aliens has re-
15 sulted in a long and unnecessary delay in their ad-
16 justment to lawful permanent resident status that
17 would not have been encountered had they been ad-
18 mitted as refugees.

19 (4) This delay has impaired these aliens' ability
20 to work in their chosen professions, travel freely,
21 and apply for naturalization.

22 (5) The Attorney General should act without
23 further delay to grant lawful permanent resident
24 status to these aliens in accordance with section 2.

1 **SEC. 2. ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS OF CERTAIN SYRIAN NA-**
2 **TIONALS.**

3 (a) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—Subject to subsection
4 (c), the Attorney General shall adjust the status of an
5 alien described in subsection (b) to that of an alien law-
6 fully admitted for permanent residence, if the alien—

7 (1) applies for adjustment of status under this
8 section not later than 1 year after the date of the
9 enactment of this Act or applied for adjustment of
10 status under the Immigration and Nationality Act
11 before the date of the enactment of this Act;

12 (2) has been physically present in the United
13 States for at least 1 year after being granted asy-
14 lum;

15 (3) is not firmly resettled in any foreign coun-
16 try; and

17 (4) is admissible as an immigrant under the
18 Immigration and Nationality Act at the time of ex-
19 amination for adjustment of such alien.

20 (b) ALIENS ELIGIBLE FOR ADJUSTMENT OF STA-
21 TUS.—The benefits provided by subsection (a) shall apply
22 to any alien—

23 (1) who—

24 (A) is a Jewish national of Syria;

1 (B) arrived in the United States after De-
2 cember 31, 1991, after being permitted by the
3 Syrian Government to depart from Syria; and

4 (C) is physically present in the United
5 States at the time of filing the application de-
6 scribed in subsection (a)(1); or

7 (2) who is the spouse, child, or unmarried son
8 or daughter of an alien described in paragraph (1).

9 (c) NUMERICAL LIMITATION.—The total number of
10 aliens whose status may be adjusted under this section
11 may not exceed 2,000.

12 (d) RECORD OF PERMANENT RESIDENCE.—Upon
13 approval of an application for adjustment of status under
14 this section, the Attorney General shall establish a record
15 of the alien's admission for lawful permanent residence as
16 of the date 1 year before the date of the approval of the
17 application.

18 (e) AVAILABILITY OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.—
19 The Attorney General shall provide to applicants for ad-
20 justment of status under subsection (a) the same right to,
21 and procedures for, administrative review as are provided
22 to applicants for adjustment of status under section
23 209(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
24 1159(b)).

1 (f) NO OFFSET IN NUMBER OF VISAS AVAILABLE.—
2 Whenever an alien is granted the status of having been
3 lawfully admitted for permanent residence pursuant to
4 this section, the Secretary of State shall not be required
5 to reduce the number of immigrant visas authorized to be
6 issued under any provision of the Immigration and Na-
7 tionality Act.

8 (g) APPLICATION OF IMMIGRATION AND NATION-
9 ALITY ACT PROVISIONS.—The definitions contained in the
10 Immigration and Nationality Act shall apply in the admin-
11 istration of this section. The fact that an alien may be
12 eligible to be granted the status of having been lawfully
13 admitted for permanent residence under this section shall
14 not preclude the alien from seeking such status under any
15 other provision of law for which the alien may be eligible.

Passed the House of Representatives July 11, 2000.

Attest:

Clerk.