

---

**By: Delegate Valderrama**

Rules suspended

Introduced and read first time: March 14, 1997

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

---

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Citizenship Program Center**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Citizenship Program Center to encourage and assist  
4 eligible immigrants to become U.S. citizens; authorizing the Department of  
5 Education to direct the Citizenship Program Center and to use the resources and  
6 manpower of the nonprofit agencies and organizations serving the immigrants;  
7 directing the Citizenship Program Center to provide services necessary for the  
8 naturalization of the eligible immigrants; and generally relating to the Citizenship  
9 Program Center and its functions.

10 BY adding to

11 Article - Education  
12 Section 24-501 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 5. Citizenship Program  
13 Center"  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (1997 Replacement Volume)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article - Education**

19 SUBTITLE 5. CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM CENTER.

20 24-501.

21 (A) THERE IS THE CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM CENTER TO ENCOURAGE AND  
22 ASSIST ELIGIBLE IMMIGRANTS TO BECOME U.S. CITIZENS THROUGH ITS CITIZENSHIP  
23 PROGRAMS SO THAT THEY MAY FULLY ENJOY THE PRIVILEGES, BENEFITS, AND  
24 OBLIGATIONS OF CITIZENSHIP IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

25 (B) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DIRECTS THE CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM  
26 CENTER AND USES THE RESOURCES AND MANPOWER OF THE NONPROFIT AGENCIES  
27 AND ORGANIZATIONS SERVING THE IMMIGRANT POPULATION IN MARYLAND.

28 (C) THE CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM CENTER IS TO:

1 (1) PROVIDE THE IMMIGRANTS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR CITIZENSHIP  
2 WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THE NATURALIZATION PROCESS AND THE CITIZENSHIP  
3 PROGRAMS THROUGH STATEWIDE AND LOCAL PUBLICITY AND MEDIA;

4 (2) CONDUCT MULTILINGUAL DIRECT MAILING TO THE IMMIGRANTS  
5 WHO LOST SSI BENEFITS DUE TO THE FEDERAL PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND  
6 WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996 TO INFORM THEM ABOUT THE  
7 NATURALIZATION PROCESS AND THE CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMS;

8 (3) VISIT HOMES AND RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES WHERE THE  
9 IMMIGRANTS WHO LOST SSI BENEFITS OR WHO ARE DISABLED OR ELDERLY PEOPLE  
10 RESIDE TO INFORM THEM ABOUT THE NATURALIZATION PROCESS AND THE  
11 CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMS;

12 (4) CONDUCT CLASSES ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE, CIVIC DUTIES, AND  
13 HISTORY IN PREPARATION OF THE INS CITIZENSHIP TEST;

14 (5) ESTABLISH GROUP CLASSES FOR THE INS CITIZENSHIP TESTS IN THE  
15 PLACES WHERE A NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS WHO LOST SSI BENEFITS RESIDE;

16 (6) PREPARE CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION FORMS, FINGERPRINTS AND  
17 PHOTOGRAPHS, AND ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS NECESSARY FOR THE CITIZENSHIP  
18 APPLICATIONS AND REVIEW THE COMPLETED CITIZENSHIP APPLICATIONS PRIOR  
19 TO THE SUBMISSION TO THE INS;

20 (7) TRANSPORT THE PARTICIPATING IMMIGRANTS TO THE CLASSES,  
21 INTERVIEWS, INS, AND ANY OTHER PLACES RELATED TO THE CITIZENSHIP  
22 PROGRAMS;

23 (8) RECRUIT AND TRAIN VOLUNTEERS AND RECRUIT QUALIFIED  
24 INTERPRETERS WHO WILL ASSIST IN THE CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMS;

25 (9) TRAIN DISABILITY ENTITLEMENT AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM  
26 CONTRACTORS, PERSONNEL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE  
27 DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES, ASSISTED CARE FACILITIES, AND OTHER  
28 AGENCIES IN THE STATE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITIZENSHIP  
29 PROGRAMS;

30 (10) CONDUCT SPECIAL NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES WHICH WILL BE  
31 SPONSORED LOCALLY BY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS; AND

32 (11) PROVIDE ANY OTHER NECESSARY SERVICES TO ASSIST THE  
33 ELIGIBLE IMMIGRANTS TO BECOME NATURALIZED IN THE UNITED STATES.

34 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
35 October 1, 1997.