

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1333

By: Representatives Penzo, Slape, Lundstrum

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT PERMITTING NONIMMGRANTS LEGALLY ADMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES UNDER A COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION TO BE A CERTIFIED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER; TO BE KNOWN AS THE "MARSHALLESE LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT"; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

PERMITTING NONIMMGRANTS LEGALLY ADMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES UNDER A COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION TO BE A CERTIFIED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER; AND TO BE KNOWN AS THE "MARSHALLESE LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT".

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Marshallese Law Enforcement Act".

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 12-8-202(a), concerning the qualifications to be a police officer of the Division of Arkansas State Police, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1)(A) All applicants for positions as police officers of the ~~Department~~ Division of Arkansas State Police shall be citizens of the United States or nonimmigrants legally admitted to the United States under a Compact of Free Association.

(B) However, the applicants must become citizens of the



State of Arkansas in order to commence employment.

(2) Any applicant shall be employed strictly upon an efficiency basis irrespective of race, gender, religion, or political affiliation.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 9, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

12-9-124. Certified officer required to be citizen or nonimmigrant legally admitted to the United States under Compact of Free Association.

A person is ineligible to be a certified law enforcement officer if the person is not:

(1) A citizen of the United States; or

(2) A nonimmigrant legally admitted to the United States under a Compact of Free Association entered into on or before January 1, 2021.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 12-9-304(j), concerning the qualifications to become an auxiliary law enforcement officer, is amended to read as follows:

(j) Every person appointed or serving as an auxiliary law enforcement officer shall be ~~a citizen of the United States and shall be~~ at least twenty-one (21) years of age.