

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1342

5 By: Representatives Godfrey, Slape  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT PERMITTING NONIMMGRANTS LEGALLY ADMITTED TO  
9 THE UNITED STATES UNDER A COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION  
10 TO BE A CERTIFIED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER; TO BE  
11 KNOWN AS THE "MARSHALLESE LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT"; AND  
12 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
13  
14

## Subtitle

15 PERMITTING NONIMMGRANTS LEGALLY ADMITTED  
16 TO THE UNITED STATES UNDER A COMPACT OF  
17 FREE ASSOCIATION TO BE A CERTIFIED LAW  
18 ENFORCEMENT OFFICER; AND TO BE KNOWN AS  
19 THE "MARSHALLESE LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT".  
20  
21  
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
24

25 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

26 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Marshallese Law  
27 Enforcement Act".  
28

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

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

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



1 State of Arkansas in order to commence employment.

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

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

7 12-9-124. Certified officer required to be citizen or nonimmigrant  
8 legally admitted to the United States under Compact of Free Association.

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

11 (1) A citizen of the United States; or

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

14  
15 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 12-9-304(j), concerning the qualifications  
16 to become an auxiliary law enforcement officer, is amended to read as  
17 follows:

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