

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

As Engrossed: H2/2/21

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1342

5 By: Representatives Godfrey, Penzo, Slape, Jett, Eaves, Hawks, Wardlaw, Christiansen, M. Berry,  
6 Watson

7 By: Senators D. Wallace, J. Hendren, L. Eads  
8

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9  
10 AN ACT PERMITTING *NONIMMIGRANTS* LEGALLY ADMITTED TO  
11 THE UNITED STATES UNDER A COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION  
12 TO BE A CERTIFIED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER; TO BE  
13 KNOWN AS THE "MARSHALLESE LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT"; AND  
14 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
15

## Subtitle

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18 PERMITTING *NONIMMIGRANTS* LEGALLY ADMITTED  
19 TO THE UNITED STATES UNDER A COMPACT OF  
20 FREE ASSOCIATION TO BE A CERTIFIED LAW  
21 ENFORCEMENT OFFICER; AND TO BE KNOWN AS  
22 THE "MARSHALLESE LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT".  
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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27 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

28 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Marshallese Law  
29 Enforcement Act".  
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31 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 12-8-202(a), concerning the qualifications  
32 to be a police officer of the Division of Arkansas State Police, is amended  
33 to read as follows:

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



1 of Free Association.

2 (B) However, the applicants must become citizens of the  
3 State of Arkansas in order to commence employment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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24 /s/Godfrey  
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