111TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION S.656

To provide for the adjustment of status of certain nationals of Liberia to that of lawful permanent residents.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

March 19, 2009

Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KERRY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. KENNEDY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide for the adjustment of status of certain nationals of Liberia to that of lawful permanent residents.

- 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. SHORT TITLE.

- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Liberian Refugee Im-
- 5 migration Fairness Act of 2009".

6 SEC. 2. ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.

- 7 (a) Adjustment of Status.—
- 8 (1) IN GENERAL.—
- 9 (A) ELIGIBILITY.—Except as provided
 10 under subparagraph (B), the Secretary of

1	Homeland Security shall adjust the status of an
2	alien described in subsection (b) to that of an
3	alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence,
4	if the alien—
5	(i) applies for adjustment before April
6	1, 2011; and
7	(ii) is otherwise eligible to receive an
8	immigrant visa and admissible to the
9	United States for permanent residence, ex-
10	cept that, in determining such admissi-
11	bility, the grounds for inadmissibility speci-
12	fied in paragraphs (4) , (5) , $(6)(A)$, and
13	(7)(A) of section $212(a)$ of the Immigra-
14	tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
15	1182(a)) shall not apply.
16	(B) INELIGIBLE ALIENS.—An alien shall
17	not be eligible for adjustment of status under
18	this section if the Secretary of Homeland Secu-
19	rity determines that the alien has been con-
20	victed of—
21	(i) any aggravated felony (as defined
22	in section $101(a)(43)$ of the Immigration
23	and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
24	1101(a)(43)); or

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1	(ii) 2 or more crimes involving moral
2	turpitude.
3	(2) Relationship of application to cer-
4	TAIN ORDERS.—
5	(A) IN GENERAL.—An alien present in the
6	United States who has been subject to an order
7	of exclusion, deportation, or removal, or has
8	been ordered to depart voluntarily from the
9	United States under any provision of the Immi-
10	gration and Nationality Act may, notwith-
11	standing such order, apply for adjustment of
12	status under paragraph (1) if otherwise quali-
13	fied under such paragraph.
14	(B) SEPARATE MOTION NOT REQUIRED.—
15	An alien described in subparagraph (A) may
16	not be required, as a condition of submitting or
17	granting such application, to file a separate mo-
18	tion to reopen, reconsider, or vacate the order
19	described in subparagraph (A).
20	(C) EFFECT OF DECISION BY SEC-
21	RETARY.—If the Secretary of Homeland Secu-
22	rity grants an application under paragraph (1),
23	the Secretary shall cancel the order described in
24	subparagraph (A). If the Secretary of Home-
25	land Security makes a final decision to deny the

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1	application, the order shall be effective and en-
2	forceable to the same extent as if the applica-
3	tion had not been made.
4	(b) Aliens Eligible for Adjustment of Sta-
5	TUS.—
6	(1) IN GENERAL.—The benefits provided under
7	subsection (a) shall apply to any alien—
8	(A) who is—
9	(i) a national of Liberia; and
10	(ii) has been continuously present in
11	the United States from January 1, 2009,
12	through the date of application under sub-
13	section (a); or
14	(B) who is the spouse, child, or unmarried
15	son or daughter of an alien described in sub-
16	paragraph (A).
17	(2) Determination of continuous phys-
18	ICAL PRESENCE.—For purposes of establishing the
19	period of continuous physical presence referred to in
20	paragraph (1), an alien shall not be considered to
21	have failed to maintain continuous physical presence
22	by reasons of an absence, or absences, from the
23	United States for any period or periods amounting
24	in the aggregate to not more than 180 days.
25	(c) STAY OF REMOVAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland
 Security shall provide by regulation for an alien who
 is subject to a final order of deportation or removal
 or exclusion to seek a stay of such order based on
 the filing of an application under subsection (a).

6 (2) DURING CERTAIN PROCEEDINGS.—Notwith-7 standing any provision in the Immigration and Nationality Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security 8 9 shall not order an alien to be removed from the 10 United States if the alien is in exclusion, deporta-11 tion, or removal proceedings under any provision of 12 such Act and has applied for adjustment of status 13 under subsection (a), except where the Secretary of 14 Homeland Security has made a final determination 15 to deny the application.

16 (3) WORK AUTHORIZATION.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of
18 Homeland Security may—

(i) authorize an alien who has applied
for adjustment of status under subsection
(a) to engage in employment in the United
States during the pendency of such application; and

24 (ii) provide the alien with an "employ-25 ment authorized" endorsement or other ap-

1	propriate document signifying authoriza-
2	tion of employment.
3	(B) PENDING APPLICATIONS.—If an appli-
4	cation for adjustment of status under sub-
5	section (a) is pending for a period exceeding
6	180 days and has not been denied, the Sec-
7	retary of Homeland Security shall authorize
8	such employment.
9	(d) Record of Permanent Residence.—Upon the
10	approval of an alien's application for adjustment of status
11	under subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security
12	shall establish a record of the alien's admission for perma-
13	nent record as of the date of the alien's arrival in the
14	United States.
15	(e) Availability of Administrative Review.—
16	The Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide to ap-
17	plicants for adjustment of status under subsection (a) the
18	same right to, and procedures for, administrative review
19	as are provided to—
20	(1) applicants for adjustment of status under
21	section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act
22	(8 U.S.C. 1255); and
23	(2) aliens subject to removal proceedings under
24	section 240 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a).

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1 (f) LIMITATION ON JUDICIAL REVIEW.—A determination by the Secretary of Homeland Security regarding 2 3 the adjustment of status of any alien under this section 4 is final and shall not be subject to review by any court. 5 (g) NO OFFSET IN NUMBER OF VISAS AVAILABLE. 6 If an alien is granted the status of having been lawfully 7 admitted for permanent residence pursuant to this section, 8 the Secretary of State shall not be required to reduce the 9 number of immigrant visas authorized to be issued under 10 any provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8) U.S.C. 1101 et seq.). 11

12 (h) APPLICATION OF IMMIGRATION AND NATION-13 ALITY ACT PROVISIONS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Act, the definitions contained
in the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
1101 et seq.) shall apply in this section.

(2) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this Act
may be construed to repeal, amend, alter, modify, effect, or restrict the powers, duties, function, or authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security in the
administration and enforcement of the Immigration
and Nationality Act or any other law relating to immigration, nationality, or naturalization.

(3) EFFECT OF ELIGIBILITY FOR ADJUSTMENT
 OF STATUS.—Eligibility to be granted the status of
 having been lawfully admitted for permanent resi dence under this section shall not preclude an alien
 from seeking any status under any other provision
 of law for which the alien may otherwise be eligible.

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