

**“AN ACT TO AMEND AND/OR NULLIFY CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF  
THE ALIENS AND NATIONALITY LAW RELATING TO CITIZENSHIP  
AND RESTORING THE CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS LOST AS A  
CONSEQUENCE OF THOSE PROVISIONS”**

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MONROVIA, LIBERIA**

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**An Act**

**to Amend and/or Nullify Certain Provisions of the Aliens and  
Nationality Law Relating to Citizenship and restoring the  
Citizenship Rights Lost as a Consequence of those Provisions**



**REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**





**The Liberian Senate**  
CAPITOL BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL, MONROVIA, LIBERIA  
WEST AFRICA

-2022-

FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
LIBERIA

SCHEDULE OF SENATE'S ENROLLED BILL NO. 12 ENTITLED:

"AN ACT TO AMEND AND/OR NULLIFY CERTAIN PROVISION OF  
THE ALIEN AND NATIONALITY LAW RELATING TO CITIZENSHIP  
AND RESTORING THE CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS LOST AS A  
CONSEQUENCE OF THOSE PROVISIONS"

PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA FOR  
EXECUTIVE APPROVAL

APPROVED THIS: 22<sup>ND</sup> DAY OF JULY A.D.  
2022

AT THE HOUR OF 3:00 PM

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

**An Act to Amend and/or Nullify Certain Provisions of the Aliens  
and Nationality Law Relating to Citizenship and Restoring the  
Citizenship Rights Lost as a Consequence of those Provisions**

**Whereas**, subsequent to the enactment of the Aliens and Nationality Law the 1986 Constitution came into effect, which rendered certain provisions of Part III, Chapter 22, Sections 22.1 and 22.2 and other provisions of said Aliens and Nationality Law repugnant to and inconsistent with certain Articles of the aforesaid 1986 Constitution, particularly Article 11(b), (c), Article 27 and Article 28 relating to citizenship and equal protection under the law; and

**Whereas**, the Aliens and Nationality Law discriminates Liberian citizenship rights between a person born of Liberian parents (father and/or mother) on Liberian soil on the one hand, and a person born of Liberian parents (father and/or mother) outside of Liberia on the other hand in violation of the equal protection clause of the 1986 Constitution; and

**Whereas**, in recognition of those inconsistencies it is mandated by the 1986 Constitution that the Legislature shall prescribe other standards, criteria and procedures by which Liberian citizenship may be obtained; and

**Whereas**, among other things, the Aliens and Nationality Law provides that a natural born Liberian citizen automatically loses his/her citizenship, without due process;

**Now therefore,**

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia, in Legislature Assembled:

**Article 1**  
**Amendment to Certain Provisions of Chapters 20, 21 and 22 of the Aliens and**  
**Nationality Law**

Immediately upon the passage of this Act, Part III, Chapter 20, Section 20.1, Chapter 21, Sections 21.30, 21.31, 21.51, 21.52 and 21.55, and Chapter 22, Sections 22.1, 22.2 and 22.4 are hereby amended and/or repealed as follows:

**Section 1. Amendment of Section 20.1. Citizens of Liberia at birth.**

Part III Chapter 20, Section 20.1 of the Aliens and Nationality Law relating to citizenship by birth is hereby amended and a new Subsection 2 is added to read as follows:



### Section 20.1. Citizenship by birth.

The following persons shall qualify to be citizens of the Republic of Liberia at birth:

- (a) A person who is a negro, or of negro descent, born in Liberia, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof at birth; or
- (b) A person born outside of the Republic of Liberia, whose father or mother (i) was born a citizen of Liberia; or (ii) was a citizen of Liberia at the time of the birth of such person.

### Section 20.2. Citizenship by Adoption.

A person under the age of 18 years, whose natural/biological parents are not citizens of Liberia, but who is adopted by a citizen of Liberia, shall automatically become a citizen of Liberia by virtue of such adoption if such person is a Negro or of Negro descent.

### Section 2. Nullification of the final paragraph of Section 20.1 - Citizenship Status of a Person Born of Liberian Parents Outside of Liberia.

The final paragraph of Section 20.1 of the Aliens and Nationality Law, which reads:

“A child who is a citizen of Liberia by virtue of the provisions of subparagraph (b) of this section shall lose his citizenship unless he has resided in Liberia before attaining his maturity or unless when he attains his maturity and before attaining the age of 23 he goes before a Liberian consul and takes the oath of allegiance to the Republic of Liberia required of a petitioner for naturalization.”

is hereby nullified and made void *ab initio*.

### Section 3: Amendment of Section 21.30. Woman who marries citizen.

Part III, Chapter 21, Subchapter B, Section 21.30 of the Aliens and Nationality Law relating to the acquisition of citizenship through marriage is hereby amended to read as follows:

#### Section 21.30. Acquisition of Liberian citizenship by marriage.

A person of Negro descent who marries a Liberian citizen shall become a citizen of Liberia by virtue of such marriage without affecting that person's citizenship before the marriage. Such person needs to only appear before a Liberian Consul in any country or before a circuit judge in Liberia and take an oath of allegiance.

-2022-

FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH  
LEGISLATURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

SENATE'S ENGROSSED BILL NO: 12 ENTITLED:

“AN ACT TO AMEND AND/OR NULLIFY CERTAIN  
PROVISION OF THE ALIEN AND NATIONALITY  
LAW RELATING TO CITIZENSHIP AND RESTORING  
THE CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS LOST AS A  
CONSEQUENCE OF THOSE PROVISIONS”

On Motion, Bill read on its 1st reading, Thursday, December 9, 2021 at the hour of 12:35 GMT. On motion, Bill read on its second reading and adopted and sent to Committee Room on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at the hour of 13:15 GMT.

On motion, Bill taken from the Committee Room and sent to Conference Committee on Tuesday, May 24, 2022. On motion under the suspension of the rule, the Conference Committee report was adopted and passed into the full force of the law and ordered engrossed today, Tuesday, July 19, 2022 @ 14:20 G.M.T.

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE, R.L.

- 2022 -

FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH  
LEGISLATURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

HOUSE'S ENDORSEMENT TO SENATE'S  
ENGROSSED BILL NO: 12 ENTITLED:

“AN ACT TO AMEND AND/OR NULLIFY CERTAIN  
PROVISION OF THE ALIEN AND NATIONALITY  
LAW RELATING TO CITIZENSHIP AND RESTORING  
THE CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS LOST AS A  
CONSEQUENCE OF THOSE PROVISIONS”

On Motion, Bill was read. On motion, the Bill was adopted on its 1st reading and sent to committee Room on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at the hour of 13:15 GMT.

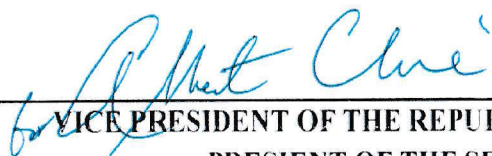
On motion, Bill taken from the Committee Room and sent to Conference Committee on Thursday, May 26, 2022. On motion under the suspension of the rule, the Conference Committee report was adopted and passed into the full force of the law and ordered engrossed today, Tuesday, July 19, 2022 @ 16:25 G.M.T.

CHIEF CLERK, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

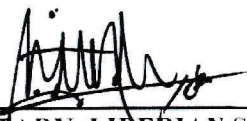
-2022-

## ATTESTATION

"AN ACT TO AMEND AND/OR NULLIFY CERTAIN PROVISION OF  
THE ALIEN AND NATIONALITY LAW RELATING TO CITIZENSHIP  
AND RESTORING THE CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS LOST AS A  
CONSEQUENCE OF THOSE PROVISIONS"



VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA/  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE



SECRETARY, LIBERIAN SENATE, R.L



SPEAKER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, R. L.



CHIEF CLERK, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, R.L.

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### Section 4: Amendment of Section 21.31. Children born outside of Liberia of alien parents or of citizen mother and alien father.

Part III, Chapter 21, Subchapter B, Section 21.31 of the Aliens and Nationality Law relating to children born outside of Liberia of alien parents or to a citizen mother and an alien father is hereby amended to read, as follows:

#### Section 21.31. Children born outside of Liberia to naturalized Liberian parent(s).

A child born outside of Liberia to parents either of whom are naturalized Liberians shall become a citizen of Liberia through naturalization of the father or mother if:

- (a) such naturalization takes place while such child is under the age of 21 years; or
- (b) such person appears before a Liberian consul in his/her country of residence upon attaining the age of 21 years, but not later than the age of 25, and takes an oath of allegiance to Liberia, or appears before a circuit judge in Liberia and takes an oath of allegiance to Liberia. A certificate of citizenship shall be issued by a circuit court to such person after taking the oath of allegiance.

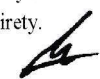
### Section 5: Amendments of Section 21.51 and Section 21.52 of the Aliens and Nationality Law - Foreign residence as *prima facie* evidence of misrepresentation and reports on naturalized citizens residing in foreign country.

Section 21.51 of the Aliens and Nationality, relative to foreign residence of naturalized Liberian citizen as *prima facie* evidence of misrepresentation, is hereby amended to read, as follows:

#### Section 21.51. Foreign Residence of Naturalized Citizen shall not be *prima facie* evidence of misrepresentation at the time of naturalization.

The residency of a person who has obtained Liberian citizenship through adoption or naturalization in his/her own country of origin or in another country other than Liberia, shall not be *prima facie* evidence of misrepresentation at the time of naturalization, and such person shall continue to be considered a domicile of Liberia. Diplomatic or consular officers assigned in foreign countries are not required to furnish to the Minister of Justice through the Minister of Foreign Affairs any statement of names of naturalized Liberian citizens within their jurisdiction who may have taken residence in a foreign country.

Part III, Chapter 21, Subchapter B, Section 21.52 of the Aliens and Nationality Law - Reports on Naturalized citizens residing in foreign country is hereby repealed in its entirety.





**Section 6: Amendment of Section 21.55 of the Aliens and Nationality Law - Effect of revocation of the citizenship of father on his minor child.**

Section 21.55 of the Aliens and Nationality Law relative to the effect of Revocation of citizenship of a Father on his minor child, is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Section 21.55. Effect of Revocation of citizenship of a naturalized person on his/her direct offspring.**

Except where the Liberian citizenship of a person naturalized under Liberian law was acquired through fraud, the revocation of the citizenship of such person shall not affect the citizenship of his/her direct offspring, who was born before the time of revocation of citizenship. A person, whose Liberian citizenship is derived by virtue of the naturalization of his/her father or mother shall continue to be a Liberian citizen notwithstanding the revocation of the citizenship of his/her father and/or mother through whose Liberian citizenship his/her own Liberian citizenship derived.

**Section 7: Annulment of Section 22.1, Section 22.2, and Section 22.4 of the Aliens and Nationality Law – regarding acts causing loss of citizenship and the loss of citizenship solely from the performance of certain acts.**

Part III, Chapter 22, Section 22.1, Section 22.2 and 22.4 of the Alien and Nationality Law, relating to actions causing loss of citizenship and to the loss of citizenship solely from performance of certain acts are hereby nullified *nunc pro tunc* and the Liberian citizenship of all persons heretofore affected by these provisions of law is hereby restored as though those provisions of law never existed.

**Article 2**

**Inalienability of Liberian Citizenship Right by Persons Whose Liberian Citizenship Derived from Parent(s) Who Were Liberians at the Time of the Birth of Such Persons and Persons Who Are Citizens by Birth in Liberia**

The citizenship right of a person derived by virtue of the Liberian citizenship of one or both parents being a Liberian at the time of that person's birth or by virtue of the birth of that person in Liberia is inalienable. The acquisition of another citizenship by such person shall not affect that person's right of citizenship of Liberia.

**Article 3**

**Reservation of the Right to a Liberian Citizen to Acquire the Citizenship Right of Another Country Without Affecting His/Her Liberian Citizenship**

**Section 1. Right of Liberian citizen to acquire citizenship of another country.**

To promote reconciliation, unity, social harmony, and in order to be in compliance with the

modern trend of the nationality laws of most countries, the right is reserved to a Liberian citizen to acquire the citizenship of another country without affecting his/her Liberian citizenship and the rights and emoluments attendant thereto.

**Section 2. Limitation of inquiry into the other citizenship of a Liberian citizen.**

Except for purpose of eligibility to hold elective public office, no inquiry shall be made about the citizenship of a person, whose Liberian citizenship derived from the Liberian citizenship of one or both of his/her parents or from having been born in Liberia, as to whether such person holds the citizenship of another country.

**Article 4**

**Limitation on a Liberian Citizen Who Holds the Citizenship of Another Country**

**Section 1. Limitation on elective public offices.**

A Liberian citizen who holds the citizenship of another country shall not be eligible for any elective public office while still a citizen of another country. Should such person desire to contest for elective public office, the person must renounce the citizenship of the other country at least one (1) year prior to applying to the National Elections Commission to contest for an elective public office and such documentary evidence of such renunciation of citizenship of the other country shall be filed with a circuit court in Liberia and with the National Elections Commission at least one (1) year before application to the National Elections Commission to contest for elective public office.

**Section 2. Limitation on appointment to certain public offices.**

A Liberian citizen, who holds the citizenship of another country, shall not be eligible for appointment to the public office of Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Minister of Defense and Executive Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia.

**Article 5**

**Effective Date**

Except for the *nunc pro tunc* annulment of Section 22.1, Section 22.2 and Section 22.4 of the Aliens and Nationality Law regarding acts causing loss of citizenship and the loss of citizenship solely from the performance of certain acts, as provided in Article 1, Section 7 hereof, which makes such provisions of this Act effective as though such provisions were never law of Liberia, this Act shall otherwise take effect immediately upon publication into handbills.

**ANY LAW TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING**