

**SB0220/683826/1**

BY: Senator Simonaire

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 220

(First Reading File Bill)

On page 3, in line 28, strike “6-708” and substitute “6-701 through 6-708 and the subtitle “Subtitle 7. Citizenship Promotion Program.””.

On page 32, after line 14, insert:

“[Subtitle 7. Citizenship Promotion Program.]”

[6-701.

In this subtitle, “Program” means the Citizenship Promotion Program.]

[6-702.

There is a Citizenship Promotion Program in the Department.]

[6-703.

The purposes of the Program are:

(1) to encourage and assist eligible foreign-born residents to become naturalized citizens of the United States and active participants in the civic life of Maryland;

(2) to increase the number and proportion of eligible foreign-born residents who become citizens of the United States; and

(Over)

(3) to encourage foreign-born residents who become citizens to be involved in our democratic institutions.]

[6-704.

In accordance with the State budget, the Program shall:

- (1) encourage eligible residents to learn English;
- (2) encourage eligible residents to become naturalized citizens of the United States;
- (3) inform eligible residents about the rights and responsibilities of citizens, the process of naturalization, and the availability of citizenship services;
- (4) make available or increase the availability of instruction in:
  - (i) English as a second language;
  - (ii) United States history; and
  - (iii) citizenship preparation;
- (5) make available or increase the availability of assistance in completing applications for naturalization;
- (6) establish an effective connection to nonpartisan voter registration efforts;
- (7) encourage the involvement of new citizens in democratic institutions; and

(8) work with federal, State, and local units of government and organizations to respond to the need for citizenship services in the State.]

[6-705.

Funding for the Program shall be as provided in the State budget, not exceeding \$100,000 each year.]

[6-706.

The Department shall adopt regulations and policies to carry out the Program.]

[6-707.

All executive units of the State shall cooperate with the Department to implement the regulations and policies of the Program.]”;

and in line 20, strike “section” and substitute “subtitle”.