

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 196

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 19, 2020

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON
District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Memorializes President and Department of Homeland Security to expedite and prioritize certain immigration applications.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** memorializing the President of the
2 United States and the United States Citizenship and Immigration
3 Services in the Department of Homeland Security to expedite
4 and prioritize immigration applications, green card applications,
5 and other applications for individuals seeking U.S. citizenship
6 classified as essential during the Covid-19 pandemic.

7
8 **WHEREAS**, In late 2019, the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) surfaced
9 in Wuhan China and as it began rapidly spreading across the globe,
10 the World Health Organization declared the spread of Covid-19 a
11 pandemic; and

12 **WHEREAS**, The United States took action to inform and safeguard
13 United States citizens at home and overseas and in order to limit the
14 further spread of Covid-19, the United States reached agreements
15 with many countries to limit all non-essential travel across borders;
16 and

17 **WHEREAS**, During the Covid-19 pandemic, the United States
18 government tightened restrictions on immigration and suspended
19 approval of green card requests for immigrants abroad seeking
20 United States residency and halted processing requests from green
21 card applicants already residing in the United States; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Covid-19 has raised a host of difficult immigration issues
23 for United States businesses, including the status of H-1B visa
24 holders and international students, obtaining 1-9 verification for
25 new employees and travel restrictions that limit mobility for
26 international personnel; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Many immigration courts across the United States closed
28 during the spring of 2020 due to Covid-19 concerns and a federal
29 executive order in June 2020 placed a freeze on most, but not all,
30 green card applications for the remainder of 2020; and

31 **WHEREAS**, Although it is of national importance to maintain the safety
32 of our citizens through border restrictions during the Covid-19
33 pandemic, it is also imperative to ensure those seeking United
34 States citizenship requesting to serve in healthcare fields, and other
35 essential fields, during the Covid-19 crisis receive immediate due
36 process of their applications; and

37 **WHEREAS**, The citizens of the State of New Jersey salute the service
38 and sacrifice of these essential heroes and asks that their desire to
39 become citizens be embraced with urgency by our great nation;
40 now, therefore,

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42 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
43 Jersey:

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45 1. The President of the United States and the United States
46 Citizenship and Immigration Services in the Department of
47 Homeland Security are respectfully requested to expedite and
48 prioritize immigration applications, green card applications, and

1 other applications in process or waiting for individuals seeking
2 United States citizenship who are classified as essential during the
3 Covid-19 pandemic.

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5 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
6 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
7 President of the United States and the Director the United States
8 Citizenship and Immigration Services in the Department of
9 Homeland Security.

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STATEMENT

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14 This Assembly Resolution urges the President of the United
15 States and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
16 in the Department of Homeland Security to expedite and prioritize
17 immigration applications, green card applications, and other
18 applications for individuals seeking United States citizenship
19 classified as essential during the Covid-19 pandemic.

20 Although it is of national importance to maintain the safety of
21 our citizens through border restrictions during the Covid-19
22 pandemic, it is also imperative to ensure those seeking United
23 States citizenship requesting to serve in the healthcare field, and
24 other essential fields, during the Covid-19 crisis receive immediate
25 due process of their applications.

26 This Assembly Resolution salutes the service and sacrifice of
27 these heroes and asks that their desire to become United States
28 citizens be embraced with urgency by our great nation.

29 Duly authenticated copies of this Assembly resolution would be
30 transmitted to the President of the United States and the Director of
31 the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services in the
32 Department of Homeland Security.