

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE BILL

No. 857 Session of  
2011

---

INTRODUCED BY METCALFE, BARRAR, CHRISTIANA, CLYMER, COX,  
CREIGHTON, EVERETT, GABLER, GEIST, HARRIS, KAUFFMAN, KNOWLES,  
MILLARD, MILLER, MUSTIO, PERRY, PYLE, ROCK, SWANGER,  
VULAKOVICH, REESE AND GROVE, MARCH 1, 2011

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 1, 2011

---

AN ACT

1 Providing for the Commonwealth Citizenship Act.

2 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

3 hereby enacts as follows:

4 Section 1. Short title.

5 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Commonwealth  
6 Citizenship Act.

7 Section 2. Citizenship.

8 (a) Criteria.--A person is a citizen of this Commonwealth  
9 if:

10 (1) The person is born in the United States and subject  
11 to the jurisdiction thereof.

12 (2) The person is a resident of this Commonwealth.

13 (b) Construction of terms.--For the purposes of this act,  
14 "subject to the jurisdiction of the United States" has the  
15 meaning that it bears in section 1 of the fourteenth amendment  
16 to the Constitution of the United States, namely, that the

1 person is a child of at least one parent who owes no allegiance  
2 to any foreign sovereignty or a child without citizenship or  
3 nationality in any foreign country. For the purposes of this  
4 act, a person who owes no allegiance to any foreign sovereignty  
5 is a United States citizen or national, or an immigrant accorded  
6 the privilege of residing permanently in the United States or a  
7 person without citizenship or nationality in any foreign  
8 country.

9 (c) Additional criteria.--In addition to the criteria of  
10 citizenship described under subsections (a) and (b), a person is  
11 a citizen of this Commonwealth if:

12 (1) The person is naturalized in the United States.

13 (2) The person is a resident of this Commonwealth.

14 (d) Effect.--Citizenship of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
15 shall not confer upon the holder thereof any right, privilege,  
16 immunity or benefit under law.

17 Section 20. Effective date.

18 This act shall take effect in 60 days.