

## **An Act Conferring U.S. Citizenship 1927**

An Act To confer United States citizenship upon certain inhabitants of the Virgin Islands and to extend the naturalization laws thereto.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following persons and their children born subsequent to January 17, 1917, are hereby declared to be citizens of the United States:

(a) All former Danish citizens who, on January 17, 1917, resided in the Virgin Islands of the United States, and are now residing in those islands or in the United States or Porto Rico, and who did not make the declaration required to preserve their Danish citizenship by article 6 of the treaty entered into on August 4, 1916, between the United States and Denmark, or who having made such a declaration, have heretofore renounced or may hereafter renounce it by a declaration before a court of record;

(b) All natives of the Virgin Islands of the United States who, on January 17, 1917, resided in those islands, and are now residing in those islands or in the United States or Porto Rico, and who are not citizens or subjects of any foreign country; and

(c) All natives of the Virgin Islands of the United States who, on January 17, 1917, resided in the United States, and are now residing in the Virgin Islands of the United States, and who are not citizens or subjects of any foreign country.

SEC. 2. The following persons, if not ineligible to citizenship, may, upon petition filed within one year after the effective date of this Act, and upon full and complete compliance with all other provisions of the naturalization laws, be naturalized without making a declaration of intention:

(a) All natives of the Virgin Islands of the United States who, on January 17, 1917, resided in those islands or in the United States, and who are now residing in those islands or in the United States or Porto Rico, and who are citizens or subjects of any foreign country;

(b) All natives of the Virgin Islands of the United States who, on January 17, 1917, resided in the United States, and are now residing in the United States or Porto Rico, and who are not citizens or subjects of any foreign country; and

(c) Excepts as otherwise provided in this section or in section 1, all persons who, on January 17, 1917, resided in the Virgin Islands of the United States, and are now residing in those islands, and who are not citizens of the United States.

SEC. 3. All persons born in the Virgin Islands of the United States on or after January 17, 1917 (whether before, or after the effective date of this Act), and subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, are hereby declared to be citizens of the United States.

SEC. 4. The district court of the Virgin Islands of the United States shall have jurisdiction for naturalization purposes (including jurisdiction for the purpose of setting aside and canceling certificates of citizenship under section 15 of the Act entitled "An Act to establish a Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, and to provide for a uniform rule for the naturalization of aliens throughout the United States," approved June 29, 1906, as amended); and for the purpose of the naturalization laws residence in the Virgin Islands of the United States shall be considered as residence in the United States.

SEC. 5. Section 4 of the Act entitled "An Act to provide a temporary government for the West Indian Islands acquired by the United States from Denmark by the convention entered into between said countries on the 4th day of August, 1916, and ratified by the Senate of the United States on the 7th day of September, 1916, and for other purposes," approved March 3, 1917, is amended by striking out the figure "8" and inserting in lieu thereof the figure "6".

Approved, February 25, 1927.

SOURCE: The Statutes at Large of the United States of America, from December 1, 1925 to March, 1927. (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1927), XLiV, part 2, 1927, 1234-1235.