



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

BILL FOR

ACT NO. OF 2023

I ASSENT

[ ]

AN ACT to amend the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Citizenship Act, Chapter 117 of the Laws of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Revised Edition, 2009.

[ ]

THE PARLIAMENT of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines enacts as follows:

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| 1. This Act may be cited as the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2023.   | Short title  |
| 2. Section 9 of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Citizenship Act, referred to in this Act as the principal Act, is amended by-   | Amendment of section 9 (Registration of other persons) |
| (a) inserting the subsection number "(1)" at the beginning of the existing provision;  |  |
| (b) inserting after subsection (1) the following subsection-   |  |
| "(2) The Minister may cause to be registered as a citizen a person who makes an application under this section for registration if that person-  |  |
| (a) was born outside of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and has at least one grandparent who was, at the time of his birth, a citizen of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines by birth, adoption, registration or naturalisation; |  |

(b) is not otherwise qualified to be registered as a citizen under the Constitution, this Act or any other law in force in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; and

(c) is of good character.

(3) A person who makes an application under subsection (2) shall submit his application to the Minister together with the applicable fees prescribed in the Third Schedule and any of the following documents as the Minister considers necessary -

(a) proof that his parent acquired or was eligible to acquire citizenship by virtue of sections 90(3) or 92 of the Constitution;

(b) certified copies of his birth certificate and passport;

(c) certified copies of documents relevant to his application, including birth certificates, marriage certificates, death certificates, certificates of registration or naturalisation or any other certificate or evidence of citizenship of his grandparent and other relevant persons;

(d) police report or certificate of police clearance.

(4) A person qualified to be registered under subsection (2) may not be registered unless he takes the oath of allegiance as specified in section 17, but the Minister may waive the duty to take the oath for certain categories of persons.”

Amendment of section 14 of 3. Section 14 of the principal Act is amended in subsection (1) by deleting “of” before “naturalisation” and substituting “or”.

Insertion of section 16A of 4. The principal Act is amended by inserting after section 16 the following section as section 16A-

"Certificate  
of citizen-  
ship

16A. (1) A person who is a citizen of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines by virtue of section 90(3) or section 92 of the Constitution may apply to the Minister in accordance with this section to record his status as a citizen of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

(2) An application under subsection (1) shall be submitted in writing to the Minister together with -

- (a) a declaration in the manner prescribed or approved by the Minister;
- (b) such evidence satisfactory to the Minister to prove the status of the applicant as a citizen of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines by virtue of section 90(3) or section 92 of the Constitution;
- (c) the applicable fees prescribed in the Third Schedule.

(3) The following documents may be required as evidence under subsection (2) (b)-

- (a) birth certificate and passport of the applicant;
- (b) birth certificates of the parents of the applicant;

(c) proof that a parent of the applicant is a citizen of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines otherwise than by virtue of section 90 (3) or section 92 of the Constitution; or

(d) any other document as the Minister may require.

(4) If the Minister is satisfied that an applicant under subsection (1) has provided sufficient evidence to prove that he is a citizen of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines by virtue of section 90(3) or section 92 of the Constitution, the Minister may issue to the applicant a certificate of citizenship in a form prescribed or approved by the Minister.

(5) A certificate of citizenship recognises and confirms the status of the applicant as a citizen of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines pursuant to sections 90(3) or 92 of the Constitution.

(6) Section 16 (2) shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to a certificate issued under this section.

(7) The certificate of citizenship is not required but shall be accepted in support of an application for a passport of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.”.

Waiver of fees

5. Until the expiration of one year from the date of commencement of this Act, no fee shall be payable pursuant to sections 9(3) and 16A(2)(c) of the principal Act.

7. The Third Schedule of the principal Act is amended in paragraph 2 by - Amendment of  
the Third  
Schedule

(a) deleting items (c) and (d) and substituting the following -

“(c) Registration of Citizenship:

- (i) on the basis of marriage to a citizen of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.....\$2000.00
- (ii) pursuant to section 9(2).....\$300.00
- (iii) other.....\$3000.00

(d) Certificate of naturalisation .....\$3000.00.”.

(b) inserting after item (f) the following item -

“(g) Certificate of citizenship (section 16A).. \$200.00.”.

(c) inserting after paragraph 2 the following paragraph-

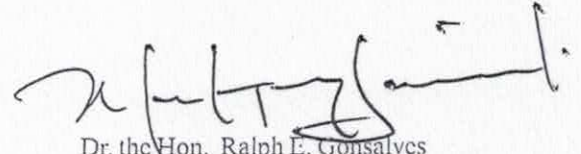
“(3) No fee shall be payable under subsection 9(3) and 16A(2)(c) for an application made on behalf of a minor.”.

Passed in the House of Assembly this            day of            2023.

Clerk of the House of Assembly

**OBJECTS AND REASONS**

This Bill seeks to amend the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Citizenship Act, Chapter 117 of the Laws of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Revised Edition, 2009.



Dr. the Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves  
Prime Minister, Minister of National  
Security, Legal Affairs and  
Information.