

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3544

To permit remote oath ceremonies, and for other purposes.

---

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 18, 2023

Mrs. TORRES of California (for herself, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Mr. CORREA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

## A BILL

To permit remote oath ceremonies, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Remote Naturalization  
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ACCOMMODATIONS FOR NATURALIZATION OATH**  
7 **CEREMONIES.**

8 The Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101  
9 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 337 the fol-  
10 lowing:

1 **“SEC. 337A. REMOTE OATH CEREMONIES.**

2       “(a) REMOTE OATH CEREMONIES.—Not later than  
3 30 days after the date of the enactment of this section,  
4 the Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish proce-  
5 dures for the administration of the oath of renunciation  
6 and allegiance under section 337 using remote  
7 videoconferencing, or other remote means for individuals  
8 who cannot reasonably access, understand, or use remote  
9 videoconferencing, as an alternative to an in-person oath  
10 ceremony.

11       “(b) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—Notwithstanding sec-  
12 tion 310(b), an individual may complete the naturalization  
13 process by participating in a remote oath ceremony con-  
14 ducted pursuant to subsection (a) if such individual—

15               “(1) has an approved application for naturaliza-  
16       tion;

17               “(2) is unable otherwise to complete the natu-  
18       ralization process due to—

19                       “(A) the cancellation or suspension of in-  
20       person oath ceremonies during—

21                               “(i) a national emergency declared by  
22       the President under the National Emer-  
23       gencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.);

24                               “(ii) an emergency or major disaster  
25       declared by the President under the Robert

1 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency  
2 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.);

3 “(iii) a public health emergency de-  
4 clared by the Secretary of Health and  
5 Human Services under section 319 of the  
6 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
7 247d); or

8 “(iv) any emergency that, in the judg-  
9 ment of the Secretary of Homeland Secu-  
10 rity, is appropriate for the cancellation or  
11 suspension of such ceremonies; or

12 “(B) the inability of the individual to at-  
13 tend the ceremony in person; and

14 “(3) elects to participate in a remote oath cere-  
15 mony in lieu of waiting for an in-person ceremony.

16 “(c) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—Upon estab-  
17 lishing the procedures described in subsection (a), the Sec-  
18 retary of Homeland Security shall—

19 “(1) without undue delay, provide written no-  
20 tice to individuals described in subsection (b)(1) of  
21 the option of participating in a remote oath cere-  
22 mony in lieu of a participating in an in-person cere-  
23 mony;

24 “(2) to the greatest extent practicable, ensure  
25 that remote oath ceremonies are administered to in-

1 individuals who elect to participate in such a ceremony  
2 not later than 30 days after the individual so noti-  
3 fies the Secretary; and

4 “(3) administer oath ceremonies to all other eli-  
5 gible individuals as expeditiously as possible after  
6 the end of the public health emergency referred to  
7 in subsection (b)(2).

8 “(d) CLARIFICATION.—Failure to appear for a re-  
9 mote oath ceremony shall not create a presumption that  
10 the individual has abandoned his or her intent to be natu-  
11 ralized.

12 “(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year  
13 after the date of enactment of this section, and each year  
14 thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall sub-  
15 mit a report to Congress that identifies, for each State  
16 and political subdivision of a State, the number of—

17 “(1) individuals who were scheduled for an in-  
18 person oath ceremony that was cancelled due to an  
19 emergency described in subsection (b)(2)(A);

20 “(2) individuals who elected to participate in a  
21 remote oath ceremony in lieu of an in-person public  
22 ceremony;

23 “(3) individuals who completed the naturaliza-  
24 tion process by participating in a remote oath cere-  
25 mony; and

1           “(4) remote oath ceremonies that were con-  
2           ducted in the previous year.

3           “(f) FUNDING.—In addition to any funds appro-  
4           priated to carry out this section, the Secretary of Home-  
5           land Security may use funds from the Immigration Ex-  
6           aminations Fee Account under section 286(m) to carry  
7           out this section.”.

○