

Robert Wicker S.L.C.

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To modify the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 to provide a specialized accreditation option for performing a background study on a child or a home study on prospective adoptive parents, and reporting on such a study.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WICKER (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To modify the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 to provide a specialized accreditation option for performing a background study on a child or a home study on prospective adoptive parents, and reporting on such a study.

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 "Voluntary Specialized
5 Accreditation for Background and Home Studies Act".

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) prospective adoptive parents should receive
2 high-quality services from experienced providers for
3 their child background studies and home studies;

4 (2) the number of accredited adoption service
5 providers is declining in the United States, leading
6 to fewer options of accredited service providers;

7 (3) some foreign countries, primary providers
8 and many adoptive families have a preference that
9 only accredited adoption service providers conduct
10 intercountry home studies and post adoption report-
11 ing;

12 (4) accreditation and approval ensures compli-
13 ance with standards and requires accrediting entities
14 to provide oversight, enforcement, and data and re-
15 port collection for accredited and approved adoption
16 service providers; and

17 (5) United States intercountry adoption prac-
18 tices can be enhanced by supporting an accreditation
19 system that includes a new, limited accreditation op-
20 tion for the provision of a background study on a
21 child or a home study on a prospective adoptive par-
22 ent, in addition to current, comprehensive, manda-
23 tory accreditation for primary providers.

1 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION**
2 **ACT OF 2000.**

3 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 3 of the Intercountry
4 Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14902) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “specialized
6 accreditation” after “adoption services”;

7 (2) by redesignating paragraph (17) as para-
8 graph (18); and

9 (3) by inserting after paragraph (16) the fol-
10 lowing

11 “(17) **SPECIALIZED ACCREDITATION.**—The
12 term ‘specialized accreditation’ means voluntary ac-
13 creditation that is limited to the provision of 1 or
14 more of the following services:

15 “(A) Performing a background study on a
16 child in an outgoing case and reporting on such
17 a study;

18 “(B) Performing a home study on a pro-
19 spective adoptive parent in an incoming case
20 and reporting on such a study.”.

21 (b) **ACCREDITATION AND APPROVAL.**—

22 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 202(b)(1) of the
23 Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C.
24 14922(b)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

25 “(1) **ACCREDITATION AND APPROVAL.**—Accred-
26 itation of agencies, and approval of persons, to pro-

1 vide adoption services or other specialized services in
2 the United States in cases subject to the Convention
3 or Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation
4 Act of 2021 (Public Law 112–276). At the time of
5 initial or renewal of accreditation of agencies, and
6 approval of persons, the applying entity shall indi-
7 cate whether the entity seeks accreditation as—

8 “(A) an accredited agency or approved per-
9 son; or

10 “(B) an agency with a limited home study
11 or child background study.”.

12 (2) EXEMPTION FROM PAPERWORK REDUCTION
13 ACT.—Section 503(c) of the Intercountry Adoption
14 Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14953(c)) is amended by in-
15 serting “202(b)(1),” after “104.”.

16 **SEC. 4. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act or the amend-
18 ments made by this Act may be construed to require that
19 intercountry adoption service providers have a specialized
20 accreditation (as defined in section 3(17) of the Inter-
21 country Adoption Act of 2000, as amended by section
22 3(a)(3)), to provide a home study on prospective adoptive
23 parents pursuing an intercountry adoption.

24 (b) DEFINITION OF ADOPTION SERVICE.—Nothing
25 in this Act or in the amendments made by this Act may

1 be construed to modify the definition of “adoption service”
2 under section 3 of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000
3 (42 U.S.C. 14902).

4 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

5 This Act shall take effect on the date that is 90 days
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act.