

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To modify the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 to provide a limited accreditation option for performing certain adoption services.

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 limited accreditation option for performing certain adoption services.

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 Limited Ac-
5 creditation for Adoption Services Act”.

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

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

8 (1) prospective adoptive parents should receive
9 high-quality services from experienced providers for

1 their child background studies, home studies, and
2 post-placement reports;

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

6 (3) some foreign countries, primary providers
7 and many adoptive families have a preference that
8 only accredited adoption service providers conduct
9 intercountry home studies and post-placement/post-
10 adoption reporting, if required;

11 (4) accreditation and approval helps to ensure
12 compliance with standards and requires accrediting
13 entities to provide oversight, enforcement, and data
14 and report collection for accredited and approved
15 adoption service providers; and

16 (5) United States intercountry adoption practices
17 can be enhanced by supporting an accreditation
18 system that includes a new, limited accreditation option
19 for the provision of a background study on a child, a home study on the prospective adoptive parents,
20 or a post-placement report, in addition to current, comprehensive, mandatory accreditation for
21 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 “or limited
6 accreditation” after “adoption services”;7 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (13) through
8 (17) as paragraphs (14) through (18), respectively;
9 and10 (3) by inserting after paragraph (12) the fol-
11 lowing:12 “(13) **LIMITED ACCREDITATION.**—The term
13 ‘limited accreditation’ means voluntary accreditation
14 that is limited to the provision of 1 or more of the
15 following services:16 “(A) Performing a background study on a
17 child in an outgoing case and reporting on such
18 a study.19 “(B) Performing a home study on a pro-
20spective adoptive parent in an incoming case
21 and reporting on such a study.22 “(C) Monitoring a case after a child has
23 been placed with prospective adoptive parents
24 until final adoption, including preparing post-
25 placement reports.”.26 (b) **ACCREDITATION AND APPROVAL.**—

“(1) ACCREDITATION AND APPROVAL.—Accreditation or limited accreditation of agencies, and approval of persons, to provide adoption services in the United States in cases subject to the Convention or Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–276). At the time of initial or renewal of accreditation or limited accreditation of agencies, and approval of persons, the applying entity shall indicate whether the entity seeks accreditation as—

14 “(A) an accredited agency or approved per-
15 son; or

16 “(B) an agency with a limited accredita-
17 tion.”.

22 SEC. 4. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act or the amend-
24 ments made by this Act may be construed to require that
25 intercountry adoption service providers have a limited ac-

1 creditation (as defined in section 3(13) of the Intercountry
2 Adoption Act of 2000, as amended by section 3(a)(3)),
3 to provide a home study on prospective adoptive parents
4 pursuing an intercountry adoption.

5 (b) DEFINITION OF ADOPTION SERVICE.—Nothing
6 in this Act or in the amendments made by this Act may
7 be construed to modify the definition of “adoption service”
8 under section 3 of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000
9 (42 U.S.C. 14902).

10 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

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