

In acting on applications under this paragraph, the Attorney General shall consider any credible evidence relevant to the application. The determination of what evidence is credible and the weight to be given that evidence shall be within the sole discretion of the Attorney General.”

Subsec. (b)(4). Pub. L. 106-386, § 1504(b), added par. (4).  
 Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 106-386, § 1506(b)(1), substituted “(A) except in the case of an alien who applies for cancellation of removal under subsection (b)(2) of this section, when the alien is served a notice to appear under section 1229(a) of this title, or (B)” for “when the alien is served a notice to appear under section 1229(a) of this title or”.

1997—Subsec. (b)(1), (2). Pub. L. 105-100, § 204(b), in introductory provisions, substituted “may cancel removal of, and adjust to the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, an alien” for “may cancel removal in the case of an alien”.

Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 105-100, § 204(c), amended heading and text of par. (3) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The Attorney General may adjust to the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence any alien who the Attorney General determines meets the requirements of paragraph (1) or (2). The number of adjustments under this paragraph shall not exceed 4,000 for any fiscal year. The Attorney General shall record the alien’s lawful admission for permanent residence as of the date the Attorney General’s cancellation of removal under paragraph (1) or (2) or determination under this paragraph.”

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 105-100, § 204(a), amended heading and text of subsec. (e) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The Attorney General may not cancel the removal and adjust the status under this section, nor suspend the deportation and adjust the status under section 1254(a) of this title (as in effect before September 30, 1996), of a total of more than 4,000 aliens in any fiscal year. The previous sentence shall apply regardless of when an alien applied for such cancellation and adjustment and whether such an alien had previously applied for suspension of deportation under such section 1254(a) of this title.”

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 106-386, div. B, title V, § 1504(c), Oct. 28, 2000, 114 Stat. 1524, provided that: “Any individual who becomes eligible for relief by reason of the enactment of the amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) [amending this section], shall be eligible to file a motion to reopen pursuant to section 240(c)(6)(C)(iv) [now 8 U.S.C. 1229a(c)(7)(C)(iv)]. The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of section 304 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-208; 110 Stat. 587 [3009-587]). Such portions of the amendments made by subsection (b) that relate to section 244(a)(3) [8 U.S.C. 1254(a)(3)] (as in effect before the title III-A effective date in section 309 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996) shall take effect as if included in subtitle G [§ 40701 et seq.] of title IV of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-322; 108 Stat. 1953 et seq.) [see Tables for classification].”

Pub. L. 106-386, div. B, title V, § 1506(b)(2), Oct. 28, 2000, 114 Stat. 1527, provided that: “The amendment made by paragraph (1) [amending this section] shall take effect as if included in the enactment of section 304 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-208; 110 Stat. 587 [3009-587]).”

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1997 AMENDMENT

Section 204(e) of Pub. L. 105-100 provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section and provisions set out as a note under section 1101 of this title] shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immi-

grant Responsibility Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-208; 110 Stat. 3009-546).”

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective on the first day of the first month beginning more than 180 days after Sept. 30, 1996, with certain transitional provisions including provision that subsec. (d)(1), (2) of this section be applicable to notices to appear issued before, on, or after Sept. 30, 1996, see section 309 of Pub. L. 104-208, set out as an Effective Date of 1996 Amendments note under section 1101 of this title.

#### ABOLITION OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AND TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For abolition of Immigration and Naturalization Service, transfer of functions, and treatment of related references, see note set out under section 1551 of this title.

#### DISCRETION TO CONSENT TO AN ALIEN’S REAPPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Pub. L. 109-162, title VIII, § 813(b), Jan. 5, 2006, 119 Stat. 3058, provided that:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State shall continue to have discretion to consent to an alien’s reapplication for admission after a previous order of removal, deportation, or exclusion.

“(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the officials described in paragraph (1) should particularly consider exercising this authority in cases under the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 [Pub. L. 103-322, title IV, see Tables for classification], cases involving nonimmigrants described in subparagraph (T) or (U) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)), and relief under section 240A(b)(2) [8 U.S.C. 1229b(b)(2)] or 244(a)(3) [8 U.S.C. 1254(a)(3)] of such Act (as in effect on March 31, 1997) pursuant to regulations under section 212.2 of title 8, Code of Federal Regulations.”

#### DEFINITIONS

For definition of the term “removable” used in subsec. (d)(1), see section 1229a(e) of this title.

### § 1229c. Voluntary departure

#### (a) Certain conditions

##### (1) In general

The Attorney General may permit an alien voluntarily to depart the United States at the alien’s own expense under this subsection, in lieu of being subject to proceedings under section 1229a of this title or prior to the completion of such proceedings, if the alien is not deportable under section 1227(a)(2)(A)(iii) or section 1227(a)(4)(B) of this title.

##### (2) Period

##### (A) In general

Subject to subparagraph (B), permission to depart voluntarily under this subsection shall not be valid for a period exceeding 120 days.

##### (B) Three-year pilot program waiver

During the period October 1, 2000, through September 30, 2003, and subject to subparagraphs (C) and (D)(ii), the Attorney General may, in the discretion of the Attorney General for humanitarian purposes, waive application of subparagraph (A) in the case of an alien—

(i) who was admitted to the United States as a nonimmigrant visitor (de-

scribed in section 1101(a)(15)(B) of this title) under the provisions of the visa waiver pilot program established pursuant to section 1187 of this title, seeks the waiver for the purpose of continuing to receive medical treatment in the United States from a physician associated with a health care facility, and submits to the Attorney General—

(I) a detailed diagnosis statement from the physician, which includes the treatment being sought and the expected time period the alien will be required to remain in the United States;

(II) a statement from the health care facility containing an assurance that the alien's treatment is not being paid through any Federal or State public health assistance, that the alien's account has no outstanding balance, and that such facility will notify the Service when the alien is released or treatment is terminated; and

(III) evidence of financial ability to support the alien's day-to-day expenses while in the United States (including the expenses of any family member described in clause (ii)) and evidence that any such alien or family member is not receiving any form of public assistance; or

(ii) who—

(I) is a spouse, parent, brother, sister, son, daughter, or other family member of a principal alien described in clause (i); and

(II) entered the United States accompanying, and with the same status as, such principal alien.

**(C) Waiver limitations**

(i) Waivers under subparagraph (B) may be granted only upon a request submitted by a Service district office to Service headquarters.

(ii) Not more than 300 waivers may be granted for any fiscal year for a principal alien under subparagraph (B)(i).

(iii)(I) Except as provided in subclause (II), in the case of each principal alien described in subparagraph (B)(i) not more than one adult may be granted a waiver under subparagraph (B)(ii).

(II) Not more than two adults may be granted a waiver under subparagraph (B)(ii) in a case in which—

(aa) the principal alien described in subparagraph (B)(i) is a dependent under the age of 18; or

(bb) one such adult is age 55 or older or is physically handicapped.

**(D) Report to Congress; suspension of waiver authority**

(i) Not later than March 30 of each year, the Commissioner shall submit to the Congress an annual report regarding all waivers granted under subparagraph (B) during the preceding fiscal year.

(ii) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the authority of the Attorney General under subparagraph (B) shall be suspended

during any period in which an annual report under clause (i) is past due and has not been submitted.

**(3) Bond**

The Attorney General may require an alien permitted to depart voluntarily under this subsection to post a voluntary departure bond, to be surrendered upon proof that the alien has departed the United States within the time specified.

**(4) Treatment of aliens arriving in the United States**

In the case of an alien who is arriving in the United States and with respect to whom proceedings under section 1229a of this title are (or would otherwise be) initiated at the time of such alien's arrival, paragraph (1) shall not apply. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as preventing such an alien from withdrawing the application for admission in accordance with section 1225(a)(4) of this title.

**(b) At conclusion of proceedings**

**(1) In general**

The Attorney General may permit an alien voluntarily to depart the United States at the alien's own expense if, at the conclusion of a proceeding under section 1229a of this title, the immigration judge enters an order granting voluntary departure in lieu of removal and finds that—

(A) the alien has been physically present in the United States for a period of at least one year immediately preceding the date the notice to appear was served under section 1229(a) of this title;

(B) the alien is, and has been, a person of good moral character for at least 5 years immediately preceding the alien's application for voluntary departure;

(C) the alien is not deportable under section 1227(a)(2)(A)(iii) or section 1227(a)(4) of this title; and

(D) the alien has established by clear and convincing evidence that the alien has the means to depart the United States and intends to do so.

**(2) Period**

Permission to depart voluntarily under this subsection shall not be valid for a period exceeding 60 days.

**(3) Bond**

An alien permitted to depart voluntarily under this subsection shall be required to post a voluntary departure bond, in an amount necessary to ensure that the alien will depart, to be surrendered upon proof that the alien has departed the United States within the time specified.

**(c) Aliens not eligible**

The Attorney General shall not permit an alien to depart voluntarily under this section if the alien was previously permitted to so depart after having been found inadmissible under section 1182(a)(6)(A) of this title.

**(d) Civil penalty for failure to depart**

**(1) In general**

Subject to paragraph (2), if an alien is permitted to depart voluntarily under this sec-

tion and voluntarily fails to depart the United States within the time period specified, the alien—

(A) shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$5,000; and

(B) shall be ineligible, for a period of 10 years, to receive any further relief under this section and sections 1229b, 1255, 1258, and 1259 of this title.

**(2) Application of VAWA protections**

The restrictions on relief under paragraph (1) shall not apply to relief under section 1229b or 1255 of this title on the basis of a petition filed by a VAWA self-petitioner, or a petition filed under section 1229b(b)(2) of this title, or under section 1254(a)(3) of this title (as in effect prior to March 31, 1997), if the extreme cruelty or battery was at least one central reason for the alien's overstaying the grant of voluntary departure.

**(3) Notice of penalties**

The order permitting an alien to depart voluntarily shall inform the alien of the penalties under this subsection.

**(e) Additional conditions**

The Attorney General may by regulation limit eligibility for voluntary departure under this section for any class or classes of aliens. No court may review any regulation issued under this subsection.

**(f) Judicial review**

No court shall have jurisdiction over an appeal from denial of a request for an order of voluntary departure under subsection (b) of this section, nor shall any court order a stay of an alien's removal pending consideration of any claim with respect to voluntary departure.

(June 27, 1952, ch. 477, title II, ch. 4, §240B, as added Pub. L. 104-208, div. C, title III, §304(a)(3), Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-596; amended Pub. L. 106-406, §2, Nov. 1, 2000, 114 Stat. 1755; Pub. L. 109-162, title VIII, §812, Jan. 5, 2006, 119 Stat. 3057.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 1254 of this title, referred to in subsec. (d)(2), was repealed by Pub. L. 104-208, div. C, title III, §308(b)(7), Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-615.

AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 109-162 reenacted heading without change and amended text generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: "If an alien is permitted to depart voluntarily under this section and fails voluntarily to depart the United States within the time period specified, the alien shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$5,000, and be ineligible for a period of 10 years for any further relief under this section and sections 1229b, 1255, 1258, and 1259 of this title. The order permitting the alien to depart voluntarily shall inform the alien of the penalties under this subsection."

2000—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 106-406 amended heading and text of par. (2) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: "Permission to depart voluntarily under this subsection shall not be valid for a period exceeding 120 days."

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective, with certain transitional provisions, on the first day of the first month beginning

more than 180 days after Sept. 30, 1996, see section 309 of Pub. L. 104-208, set out as an Effective Date of 1996 Amendments note under section 1101 of this title.

ABOLITION OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AND TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For abolition of Immigration and Naturalization Service, transfer of functions, and treatment of related references, see note set out under section 1551 of this title.

**§ 1230. Records of admission**

(a) The Attorney General shall cause to be filed, as a record of admission of each immigrant, the immigrant visa required by section 1201(e) of this title to be surrendered at the port of entry by the arriving alien to an immigration officer.

(b) The Attorney General shall cause to be filed such record of the admission into the United States of each immigrant admitted under section 1181(b) of this title and of each nonimmigrant as the Attorney General deems necessary for the enforcement of the immigration laws.

(June 27, 1952, ch. 477, title II, ch. 4, §240C, formerly §240, 66 Stat. 204; renumbered §240C and amended Pub. L. 104-208, div. C, title III, §§304(a)(2), 308(f)(1)(K), Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-587, 3009-621.)

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 104-208, §308(f)(1)(K), substituted "admission" for "entry".

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-208 effective, with certain transitional provisions, on the first day of the first month beginning more than 180 days after Sept. 30, 1996, see section 309 of Pub. L. 104-208, set out as a note under section 1101 of this title.

ABOLITION OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AND TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For abolition of Immigration and Naturalization Service, transfer of functions, and treatment of related references, see note set out under section 1551 of this title.

**§ 1231. Detention and removal of aliens ordered removed**

**(a) Detention, release, and removal of aliens ordered removed**

**(1) Removal period**

**(A) In general**

Except as otherwise provided in this section, when an alien is ordered removed, the Attorney General shall remove the alien from the United States within a period of 90 days (in this section referred to as the "removal period").

**(B) Beginning of period**

The removal period begins on the latest of the following:

(i) The date the order of removal becomes administratively final.

(ii) If the removal order is judicially reviewed and if a court orders a stay of the removal of the alien, the date of the court's final order.