

***Diaspora Liberians under the banner The All-Liberian Conference on Dual Citizenship (ALCOD), which includes the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas (ULAA), European Federation of Liberian Associations (EFLA), Liberian Advocacy for Change (LAC), Federation of Liberia Communities in Australia (FLCA), United Liberian Association of Ghana (ULAG), Liberian Association of Canada, Conference of Liberian Organizations in Southwestern United States of America (CLOSUSA), have again commenced to push their cause for dual citizenship for natural-born Liberians, who are citizens of other countries. ALCOD began its push for dual citizenship since the former administration of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who didn't make much effort in furthering their agenda. It's only H.E. Dr. George Manneh Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia, who is now helping ALCOD to champion the cause. To further their cause, below is a draft bill that they have submitted to members of the Legislature to amend Aliens and Nationality Law of the Liberia:***

**The All-Liberian Conference on Dual Citizenship (ALCOD)**

**Proposed:**

**“An Act to Amend Part III, Chapter 20, Section 20.1; Chapter 21, Sections 21.30, 21.31, 21.51 and 21.52; and Chapter 22, Sections 22.1, 22.2 & 22.4. of the Aliens and Nationality Law of the Liberian Codes of Law Revised, Vol. II”**

**This Act (Document) was created/developed by Diaspora Liberians in consultations with Cllr. Archibald F. Bernard  
Legal Advisor to President Weah**

**Respectfully submitted:**

**Eminent Emmanuel S. Wetee  
Chairman – The All-Liberian Conference on Dual Citizenship (ALCOD)**

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## **REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**

“An Act to Amend Part III, Chapter 20, Section 20.1; Chapter 21, Sections 21.30, 21.31, 21.51 and 21.52; and Chapter 22, Sections 22.1, 22.2 & 22.4 of the Aliens and Nationality Law of the Liberian Codes of Law Revised, Vol. II”

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of Liberia which came into effect in 1986, subsequent to the enactment of the Aliens and Nationality Law, rendered Part III, chapter 22, sections 22.1 and 22.2, and other provisions of the Aliens and Nationality Law repugnant to and inconsistent with certain Articles of the Constitution, particularly Articles 11(b) & (c), 27, & 28 relating to citizenship and equal protection; and

**WHEREAS**, realizing those inconsistencies, the framers of the 1986 Constitution requested the Legislature to prescribe other standards, criteria and procedures by which Liberian citizenship may be obtained.

### **NOW THEREFORE,**

It is enacted by the \_\_\_\_\_Senate and the \_\_\_\_\_House of Representatives of the Legislature of the Republic of Liberia, in Legislature Assembled:

Immediately upon the passage of this Act, Part III, Chapter 20, Section 20.1; Chapter 21, Sections 21.30, 21.31, 21.51 and 21.52; and Chapter 22, Sections 22.1, 22.2 & 22.4, of the Aliens and Nationality Law are hereby amended and/or repealed as follows:

#### **Article 1: Citizenship by birth:**

**Part III Chapter 20, section 20.1 of the Aliens and Nationality Law relating to citizenship by birth is hereby amended to read as follows.**

The following persons if otherwise qualified under the Constitution of Liberia to be a citizen of Liberia shall as of their birth be citizens of the Republic of Liberia:

(a) A person born in Liberia, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof at birth; or

(b) A person born outside of the Republic of Liberia to parents both of whom at the time of such person’s birth are citizens of Liberia; or

(c) Any person born to one Liberian parent at the time birth, provided that if such person acquires the citizenship of his/her foreign parent at the time of birth, he/she shall comply with the requirement of Article 28 of the Constitution upon reaching the age of maturity.

**Article 2: Citizenship by Adoption:**

A person under the age of 17 years whose parents are not citizens of Liberia who is adopted by a citizen of Liberia, shall be a citizen of Liberia by virtue of such adoption, if such person is otherwise qualified under Article 27(b) of the Constitution to be a citizen of Liberia.

**Article 3: Acquisition of Liberian citizenship by marriage:**

**Part III, Chapter 21, Section 21.30 of the Aliens and Nationality Law relating to the acquisition of citizenship through marriage is hereby amended to be read as follows:**

Any person who, otherwise qualified under Article 27(b) of the Constitution to be citizen of Liberia, marries a Liberian citizen shall be eligible to become a citizen of Liberia by virtue of such marriage. Such person must comply with the requirements for naturalization as provided under Chapter 21 of the Aliens and Nationality Law, and comply with other regulations of the Liberian Immigration Services (LIS).

**Article 4: Children born outside of the Republic of Liberia to naturalized Liberian parent(s)**

**Part III, Chapter 21, Subchapter B, Section 21.31 relating to children born outside Liberia of alien parents or to a citizen mother and alien father is hereby amended to read as follows:**

1. Derivation of citizenship through naturalization of either or both parents. A child born outside Liberia to parents either or both of whom are naturalized Liberians shall become a citizen of Liberia through naturalization of the parents or parent if:

(a) such naturalization takes place while such child is under the age of 21 years; or

(b) such child appears before a Liberian consul in his/her country of residence upon attaining the age of 21, but not later than the age of 25, and takes an oath of allegiance to Liberia, or appears before a circuit court judge in Liberia and takes an oath of allegiance to Liberia. A certificate of confirmation shall be issued by the circuit court in Liberia or the Liberian Consul to such person after taking the oath of allegiance.

**Article 5: Right to reside outside Liberia:**

**Part III, Chapter 21, Section 21.51 relative to foreign residence as prima facie evidence of misrepresentation is hereby amended to be read as follows:**

Any person who obtains Liberian citizenship through adoption or naturalization, in common with all other Liberian citizens, is free to travel and reside in any country including the person's country of birth and for any length of time without losing thereby his or her Liberian citizenship; and residing in a foreign country including the country of person's birth shall not affect such person's Liberian citizenship.

**Article 6: Reports on naturalized citizens residing in foreign country:**

Part III, Chapter 21, section 21.52 hereby repealed in its entirety.

**Article 7: Acquisition of other Citizenship:**

**Part III, Chapter 22, 22.1 relating to actions causing loss of citizenship is hereby amended to read as follows:**

1. A citizen of Liberia may acquire another citizenship in addition to his/her Liberian citizenship.

2. Any person who acquires another citizenship in addition to his/her Liberian citizenship shall not be deemed to have relinquished his/her Liberian citizenship except such person:

(a) Deliberately and intentionally appears before a court of competent jurisdiction in the Republic of Liberia and in writing voluntarily renounces his/her Liberian citizenship; or

(b) Deliberately and intentionally appears before a Liberian consular officer abroad and in writing voluntarily makes an oath of renunciation of his/her Liberian citizenship.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This Act shall take effect immediately upon publication into handbills.

ANY LAW TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING