

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6742

To amend the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to prescribe certain qualifications to be eligible to serve as an ambassador.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Ms. WATSON, and Ms. LEE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to prescribe certain qualifications to be eligible to serve as an ambassador.

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 “Ambassadors Quali-  
5 fication Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. QUALIFICATIONS TO BE ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AS AN**  
7 **AMBASSADOR.**

8 Section 301(a) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980  
9 (22 U.S.C. 3942(a)) is amended—

1           (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “The Presi-  
2           dent may” and inserting “(A) Subject to the re-  
3           quirements specified in subparagraph (B), the Presi-  
4           dent may”; and

5           (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
6           paragraph:

7           “(B) To be eligible to be appointed as an ambassador  
8           or as an ambassador at large under subparagraph (A),  
9           an individual shall satisfy the following requirements:

10           “(i) Unquestioned integrity, personal discretion,  
11           and self-discipline.

12           “(ii) Demonstrated interest, understanding, and  
13           experience in foreign affairs and foreign cultures of  
14           the assigned region.

15           “(iii) Thorough knowledge of United States his-  
16           tory and thorough knowledge of and commitment to  
17           United States values and economic, commercial, and  
18           political purposes.

19           “(iv) Appreciation of the dynamics of United  
20           States politics, including the role and limitations of  
21           Congress and the executive branch.

22           “(v) Intellect, perception, and interpersonal  
23           skills required to communicate effectively with the  
24           host country, including the ability to explain persua-  
25           sively to foreign governments and publics the United

1 States' position on a particular issue, and with the  
2 American people, and to recommend appropriate  
3 policies to the President and Secretary of State.

4 “(vi) Demonstrated efficiency as a leader, man-  
5 ager, and executive, and demonstrated sound judg-  
6 ment and strength of character to lead United  
7 States diplomatic and consular missions abroad and  
8 to command attention and respect in the United  
9 States.”.

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