

FOR THE RELIEF OF MRS. ELIZABETH EKA BASSEY, EM-
MANUEL O. PAUL BASSEY, AND MARY IDONGESIT PAUL
BASSEY

OCTOBER 11, 2000.—Referred to the Private Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. SMITH of Texas, from the Committee on the Judiciary,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 1078]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1078) for the relief of Mrs. Elizabeth Eka Bassey, Emmanuel O. Paul Bassey, and Mary Idongesit Paul Bassey, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Purpose and Summary	1
Background and Need for the Legislation	1
Committee Consideration	2
Committee Oversight Findings	2
Committee on Government Reform Findings	2
New Budget Authority and Tax Expenditures	2
Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate	3
Constitutional Authority Statement	3
Agency Views	3

PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

S. 1078 would allow Mrs. Elizabeth Eks Bassey, Emmanuel O. Paul Bassey and Mary Idongesit Paul Bassey to adjust to permanent resident status.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE LEGISLATION

Paul Bassey and his wife Elizabeth were career employees with the U.S. Department of State. Mr. Bassey was a Nigerian citizen

employed with the U.S. government since 1961. In 1991 Mr. Bassey received special immigrant status from the State Department in recognition of his service to the U.S. Government. He was approved for an employment 4th preference visa petition as a result of his special immigrant status. During that same year, Zaire erupted into a civil war and the American Embassy began evacuating Americans and employees of the embassy. Due to the emergency circumstances, the Embassy was working on a skeleton staff and was desperate for help. Embassy officials asked Mr. Bassey to delay his retirement for another year to help them through the crisis. Despite the grave danger and hardship for him and his family, Mr. Bassey agreed. In May 1992, Mr. Bassey died of a heart attack prior to immigrating to the US under his approved special immigrant status. Mrs. Bassey and the children were advised that they were ineligible for special immigrant status, although all would have qualified had they been accompanying Mr. Bassey to the U.S. The only available remedy is private legislation.

The beneficiary, Mrs. Bassey, is a native and citizen of Nigeria. Mrs. Bassey and her daughter Mary (age 17) were paroled into the US on December 18, 1993, for humanitarian reasons and they have remained in the US since that date. Mrs. Bassey's parole was extended until August 9, 2000. She is currently living in Raleigh, NC with Mary and Jacob. Jacob Bassey (age 26) entered the US on August 14, 1991 with a F-1 student visa and has remained in the US since that date. Emmanuel Bassey (age 29) entered the US on January 8, 1989, on a F-1 student visa and lives alone in Chapel Hill, NC. Elizabeth was a career employee with the US Government having served the American Embassy in Zaire for 12 years in the Joint Administrative Office (JAO) and received a distinguished honor award for her work at the American Embassy.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

On October 11, 2000, the Committee on the Judiciary met in open session and ordered reported favorably the bill S. 1078 without amendment by voice vote, a quorum being present.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

In compliance with clause 2(1)(3)(A) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee reports that the findings and recommendations of the committee, based on oversight activities under clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, are incorporated in the descriptive portions of this report.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM FINDINGS

No findings or recommendations of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight were received as referred to in clause 2(1)(3)(D) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY AND TAX EXPENDITURES

Clause 2(1)(3)(B) of House Rule XI is inapplicable because this legislation does not provide new budgetary authority or increased tax expenditures.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

In compliance with clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee believes that the bill would have no significant impact on the Federal budget. This is based on the Congressional Budget Office cost estimate on S. 1078. That Congressional Budget Office cost estimate follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, October 11, 2000.

Hon. HENRY J. HYDE, *Chairman,*
Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has reviewed 11 private relief acts, which were ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on October 11, 2000. CBO estimates that their enactment would have no significant impact on the federal budget. These acts could have a very small effect on fees collected by the Immigration and Naturalization Service and on benefits paid under certain federal entitlement programs. Because these fees and expenditures are classified as direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. The act reviewed is:

- S. 1078, an act for the relief of Mrs. Elizabeth Eka Bassey, Emmanuel O. Paul Bassey, and Mary Idongesit Paul Bassey;

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Mark Grabowicz, who can be reached at 226-2860. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

Sincerely,

DAN L. CRIPPEN, *Director.*

cc: Honorable John Conyers Jr.
Ranking Democratic Member

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to rule XI, clause 2(1)(4) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee finds the authority for this legislation in article 1, section 8, clause 4 of the Constitution.

AGENCY VIEWS

The comments of the Immigration and Naturalization Service on S. 1078 are as follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE,
Washington, DC, September 30, 1999.

Hon. ORRIN HATCH, *Chairman,*
Committee on the Judiciary,
United States Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in reference to your request for a report relative to S. 1078, for the relief of Elizabeth Bassey and her children, Emmanuel, Jacob, and Mary.

The bill would grant the beneficiaries having been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence as of the date of the enactment of the Immigration and Nationality Act upon payment of the required visa fees. The bill would also direct the proper visa number deduction.

Sincerely,

ALLEN ERENBAUM, *Director,*
Congressional Relations.

Enclosure

cc: Department of State, Visa Office
District Director—Atlanta, GA

MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION FROM IMMIGRATION AND
NATURALIZATION SERVICE FILES RE: S. 1078

The beneficiary, Elizabeth Eka Bassey, is a native and citizen of Nigeria. Ms. Bassey was born in Uyo, Nigeria, now called Buea, Cameroon, on June 28, 1952. She currently resides at 3907 Charleston Park Drive, Raleigh, North Carolina with her daughter, Mary Idongesit Bassey, and her son, Jacob Paul Bassey, also beneficiaries of S. 1078. Ms. Bassey is currently employed by Forest Glen Health Care Center in Garner, North Carolina as a Nurse Assistant, with an income of about \$38,000 a year. The beneficiary was paroled into the United States on December 18, 1993, at New York, New York for humanitarian reasons and has remained in the United States since that date. Her parole was extended until August 9, 2000 at Charlotte, North Carolina on August 10, 1999. Assets and liabilities include a home in Raleigh, North Carolina, \$125,000; a 1998 Nissan, \$19,000; a home in Nigeria, \$100,000; personal property, \$60,000; and other debts (credit cards), \$8,000.

The beneficiary, Mary Idongesit Bassey, is a native of Zaire and citizen of Nigeria. Mary was born in Kinshasa, Zaire on January 14, 1983. She currently resides with her mother and brother in Raleigh, North Carolina. Mary is currently attending Millbrook High School in Raleigh, North Carolina. The beneficiary was paroled into the United States on December 18, 1993, at New York, New York for humanitarian reasons and has remained in the United States since that date.

The beneficiary, Jacob Paul Bassey, is a native of Cameroon and citizen on Nigeria. Jacob was born in Yaounde, Cameroon on June 5, 1973. He currently resides with his mother and sister in Raleigh, North Carolina. Jacob is currently employed as an Account Executive at Security Education Institute, Inc. in Durham, North Carolina with an income of about \$27,000 a year. The beneficiary entered the United States at New York, New York on August 14, 1991 as a student (F-1 visa) and has remained in the United States since that date. Assets and liabilities include a 1995 Pontiac, \$9,000; and personal property, \$20,000.

The beneficiary, Emmanuel Paul Bassey, is a native and citizen on Nigeria. Emmanuel was born in Uyo, Nigeria, now called Buea, Cameroon, on July 20, 1970. He currently resides by himself at 102 B Weatherstone Drive, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Emmanuel is currently employed as an Account Manager at ChildCare Services Association in Chapel Hill, North Carolina with an income of about \$39,000 a year. The beneficiary entered the United States at New

York, New York on January 8, 1989, as a student (F-1 visa) under the name Emmanuel Okon Paul, and has remained in the United States since that date. Assets and liabilities include a 1998 Toyota, \$33,000; personal property, \$10,000; and credit card debts, \$2,500.

All family members are beneficiaries of S. 1078. The beneficiaries have no criminal history in the National Crime Information Center system, and at this time, investigative inquiries from the CIA and FBI are still pending. If positive information indicated, a copy of the response will be forwarded for review.

