

## S. 35

### The "Western Hemisphere Travel Improvement Act of 2007"

Sponsored by Sen. Norm Coleman (R-Minn.)

- Would further delay implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) by requiring:
  - a pilot program of at least one state to be initiated and evaluated to determine if an enhanced driver's license valid only for citizenship verification for U.S. entry from Canada meets documentation requirements;
  - a study to be undertaken to determine the number of passports and passport cards that will be required to be issued; and
  - sufficient passport adjudication personnel to have been hired;
    - WHTI requires all U.S. citizens – as well as citizens of Canada, Mexico, and Bermuda – to have a passport or other accepted document that establishes his/her identity and nationality to enter or re-enter the United States from within the Western Hemisphere.
- Would direct the State Department, in the two years following DHS' publication of a final rule implementing WHTI (before which DHS would be required to do a cost-benefit analysis of implementation), to:
  - provide one facility in each of at least six designated cities or ports of entry in which a passport or passport card may be procured without an execution fee; and
  - develop at least six mobile teams along the northern and southern borders to issue passports or other identity documents without an execution fee.
- Would allow a person under 16 years old who is a U.S. or Canadian citizen to enter the United States without evidence of citizenship, and with just a birth certificate, if the person is accompanied by his legal guardian and is entering the United States from Canada or Mexico;
- Would allow a person under 18 years old to enter the United States without evidence of citizenship, and with just a birth certificate, if he is traveling under adult supervision with a public or private school group, religious group, social or cultural organization, or a youth sports team;

- Would require DHS to accept a birth certificate as proof of citizenship for any U.S. citizen who is traveling from one part of a state to a noncontiguous part of that state through Canada if: (1) the citizen cannot travel by land to such part of the state without traveling through Canada; and (2) the travel in Canada is limited to no more than two hours; and
- Would require DHS and the State Department to establish a state driver's license and identity card enrollment program to permit a U.S. citizen with a qualifying driver's license or identity card or a Canadian citizen with a qualifying comparable document to enter the United States from Canada by land or sea without providing other citizenship documentation, and would authorize expansion of this program to allow entry of nationals from other countries.