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U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS
425 Eye Street N.W.
ULLB, 3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20536



Public Copy

File: EAC 98 022 54271 Office: Vermont Service Center Date: MAY 30 2001

IN RE: Petitioner: [Redacted]
Beneficiary: [Redacted]

Petition: Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker Pursuant to Section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b)

IN BEHALF OF PETITIONER [Redacted]

Identifying data deleted to prevent clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision in your case. All documents have been returned to the office which originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or the analysis used in reaching the decision was inconsistent with the information provided or with precedent decisions, you may file a motion to reconsider. Such a motion must state the reasons for reconsideration and be supported by any pertinent precedent decisions. Any motion to reconsider must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider, as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.5(a)(1)(i).

If you have new or additional information which you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reopen. Such a motion must state the new facts to be proved at the reopened proceeding and be supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. Any motion to reopen must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reopen, except that failure to file before this period expires may be excused in the discretion of the Service where it is demonstrated that the delay was reasonable and beyond the control of the applicant or petitioner. Id.

Any motion must be filed with the office which originally decided your case along with a fee of \$110 as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.7.

FOR THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER,
EXAMINATIONS

Robert P. Wiemann, Acting Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The nonimmigrant visa petition was denied by the director. A subsequent appeal was dismissed by the Associate Commissioner for Examinations. The matter is now before the Associate Commissioner on a motion to reconsider. The motion will be granted and the previous decisions of the director and the Associate Commissioner will be affirmed.

The petitioner seeks to employ the beneficiary as a substitute teacher on a permanent basis. The director determined the petitioner had not established that the offered position is a specialty occupation. The Associate Commissioner concurred in this determination and also found that the petition could not be approved because the beneficiary was offered a position with no specified termination date.

On motion, counsel argues that teaching is a profession and therefore, a specialty occupation. Counsel further states that the State of Virginia indicated that the beneficiary is eligible for a license. Counsel also argues that the proffered position is clearly temporary.

Section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b), provides in part for nonimmigrant classification to qualified aliens who are coming temporarily to the United States to perform services in a specialty occupation. Section 214(i)(1) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1184(i)(1), defines a "specialty occupation" as an occupation that requires theoretical and practical application of a body of highly specialized knowledge, and attainment of a bachelor's or higher degree in the specific specialty (or its equivalent) as a minimum for entry into the occupation in the United States.

Pursuant to section 214(i)(2) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1184(i)(2), to qualify as an alien coming to perform services in a specialty occupation the beneficiary must hold full state licensure to practice in the occupation, if such licensure is required to practice in the occupation. In addition, the beneficiary must have completed the degree required for the occupation, or have experience in the specialty equivalent to the completion of such degree and recognition of expertise in the specialty through progressively responsible positions relating to the specialty.

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(B), the petitioner shall submit the following with an H-1B petition involving a specialty occupation:

1. A certification from the Secretary of Labor that the petitioner has filed a labor condition application with the Secretary,

2. A statement that it will comply with the terms of the labor condition application for the duration of the alien's authorized period of stay, and

3. Evidence that the alien qualifies to perform services in the specialty occupation.

The petitioner has provided a certified labor condition application and a statement that it will comply with the terms of the labor condition application.

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(C), to qualify to perform services in a specialty occupation, the alien must meet one of the following criteria:

1. Hold a United States baccalaureate or higher degree required by the specialty occupation from an accredited college or university;

2. Hold a foreign degree determined to be equivalent to a United States baccalaureate or higher degree required by the specialty occupation from an accredited college or university;

3. Hold an unrestricted State license, registration, or certification which authorizes him or her to fully practice the specialty occupation and be immediately engaged in that specialty in the state of intended employment; or

4. Have education, specialized training, and/or progressively responsible experience that is equivalent to completion of a United States baccalaureate or higher degree in the specialty occupation and have recognition of expertise in the specialty through progressively responsible positions directly related to the specialty.

The beneficiary attained a Bachelor of Arts degree in French in 1997 from the University of the District of Columbia and is eligible for licensure in the state of Virginia.

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(A), to qualify as a specialty occupation, the position must meet one of the following criteria:

1. A baccalaureate or higher degree or its equivalent is normally the minimum requirement for entry into the particular position;

2. The degree requirement is common to the industry in parallel positions among similar organizations or, in the alternative, an employer may show that its particular

position is so complex or unique that it can be performed only by an individual with a degree;

3. The employer normally requires a degree or its equivalent for the position; or

4. The nature of the specific duties is so specialized and complex that knowledge required to perform the duties is usually associated with the attainment of a baccalaureate or higher degree.

The duties of the offered position are described as follows:

[The beneficiary] will be responsible for providing quality instruction in the absence of regular teachers.

The proffered position appears to be that of an elementary or secondary school teacher. The Department of Labor's Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2000-2001 edition, at page 195 indicates that the usual requirement for employment as a teacher is licensure as a teacher. Eligibility for such licensure is established through attainment of a baccalaureate degree and completion of a teacher training course. In view of the foregoing, it is concluded that the proffered position is a specialty occupation within the meaning of the regulations.

It is noted that the petitioner's Substitute Handbook indicates that some substitute teachers without a bachelor's degree are hired for short-term assignments. However, the petitioner's substitute coordinator has stated that he does not hire anyone for a substitute position who does not have a bachelor's degree.

Nevertheless, the petition may not be approved. Matter of Lee, 18 I&N Dec. 96 (Reg. Comm. 1981), found a beneficiary who has been offered a position for an indefinite period with no specified termination date has not been offered a temporary position and does not qualify for nonimmigrant classification pursuant to section 101(a)(15)(H)(i). The beneficiary has been offered a position for an indefinite period with no specified termination date. As such, he is ineligible for the nonimmigrant classification sought.

Counsel argues that the position is temporary. However, there is still no specified termination date. The petitioner describes the position as "permanent substitute teacher." The dates of intended employment indicates are 9/97 to permanent.

The burden of proof in these proceedings rests solely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Act. 8 U.S.C. 1361. The petitioner has not sustained that burden. Accordingly, the decisions of the director and the Associate Commissioner will not be disturbed.

ORDER: The order of September 23, 1998 dismissing this appeal is affirmed.