

**39th LEGISLATURE
2ND REGULAR SESSION**

**S.B. NO. 39-14
IN THE SENATE**

28 JULY, 2025

INTRODUCED BY: Sen. Utu Sila Poasa, D-3

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON:

SUBJECT:

CITIZENSHIP, ALIENAGE & IMMIGRATION—GENERAL PROVISIONS—
IMMIGRATION BOARD—CREATION—MEMBERS

SUMMARY:

This bill includes representatives from both the Senate and the House of Representatives to the Immigration Board to provide legislative perspective, uphold democratic principles, and contribute meaningfully to immigration governance in American Samoa.

OWN VOTE			LEGISLATIVE VOTE		
YES	NO		YES	NO	DATE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1ST READING			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	COMMITTEE REPORT			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2ND READING			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3RD READING			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AMENDED - SEE CALENDAR DATED			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AMENDED - SEE JOURNAL DATED			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AMENDED - SEE JOURNAL DATED			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RECOMMITTED			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ORDERED TO LIE			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WITHDRAWN			

1 S.B. NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY: _____

3
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: “AN ACT INCLUDING
5 REPRESENTATIVES FROM BOTH THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
6 REPRESENTATIVES TO THE IMMIGRATION BOARD TO PROVIDE
7 LEGISLATIVE PERSPECTIVE, UPHOLD DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES, AND
8 CONTRIBUTE MEANINGFULLY TO IMMIGRATION GOVERNANCE I
9 AMERICAN SAMOA; AMENDING SECTION 41.0203 A.S.C.A.”

10
11 Preamble:

12
13 WHEREAS, the effective administration of immigration policy within American
14 Samoa requires thoughtful oversight, balanced representation, and
15 consistent alignment with both territorial interests and national
16 standards; and

17
18 WHEREAS, it is essential to incorporate legislative voices in immigration-related
19 deliberations to ensure transparency, accountability, and
20 responsiveness to the needs of our residents; and

21
22 WHEREAS, the Immigration Board serves as a key body in evaluating
23 immigration requests, advising on reforms, and ensuring that practices
24 reflect the social, cultural, and economic realities of our territory; and

25
26 WHEREAS, members of the Legislature—elected by and accountable to the
27 people—represent the voices, experiences, and aspirations of our
28 diverse communities, and their presence on the Immigration Board

1 ensures that decisions are grounded in public trust, cultural
2 understanding, and democratic legitimacy.

3
4 Now, therefore, be it enacted that representatives from both the House and the
5 Senate shall be formally appointed to the Immigration Board to provide legislative
6 perspective, uphold democratic principles, and contribute meaningfully to
7 immigration governance in American Samoa.

8
9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF AMERICAN SAMOA:

10
11 Section 1. 41.0203 is amended to read:

12 “41.0203 Immigration Board--Creation--Members.

13 (a) There is created the Immigration Board of American Samoa, consisting
14 of 7 at-large members, who are nationals or citizens of the United States of
15 American Samoan ancestry. The Speaker of the House shall appoint one member of
16 the House to serve on the Immigration Board. The President of the Senate shall
17 appoint one member of the Senate to serve on the Immigration Board. The
18 remaining members shall be appointed by the Governor with the consent and
19 approval of the Legislature. The 7 at-large members shall serve for 5 year terms, but
20 for no more than 2 consecutive terms: except the original appointees shall be
21 appointed for terms of 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 years. Members shall serve on the Board until
22 a successor is approved. The Board members shall elect their own chairman
23 annually.

24 (b) Any board member who was employed by the American Samoa
25 Government at the time of their appointment to this board—whether by contract,
26 career service, or election—will be considered to have automatically resigned from
27 the board as soon as they leave ASG employment, regardless of the reason.”

28 ----- END -----

**NOFOAIGA TOLUSEFULU-IVA
FONO TELE LONA LUA**

**PMM NU. 39-14
I LE MAOTA MAUALUGA**

28 IULAI, 2025

FA'AULUFALEINA E: Senatoa Utu Sila Poasa, Itumalo-3

TU'UINA ATU I LE KOMITI

MATA'UPU:

SITISENI, TAGATA MAI FAFO MA FEMALAGA'IGA—AIAIGA FA'ALAU TELE—
KOMITI FA'AFOE O FEMALAGA'IGA—FAUSIA—TOTINO

'OTO'OTOGA:

O lenei pili e aofia ai ni sui mai le Senate ma le Maota o Sui e fai ma totino o le Komiti Fa'afoe o Femalaga'iga ina ia maua ai se tofa fa'afaitulafono, lagolago faiga fa'avae fa'atemokarasi, ma tuuina atu se sao taua/anoa mo le fa'afoeina o Femalagaiga i Amerika Samoa.

LANA PALOTA MONI			PALOTAGA A FAIPULE		
IOE	LEAI		IOE	LEAI	ASO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FAITAUGA MUAMUA			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RIPOTI A LE KOMITI			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FAITAUGA FA'ALUA			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FAITAUGA FA'ATOLU			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SUI - VA'AI ASO I LE KALENA			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SUI - VA'AI ASO TALA 'OTO'OTO			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SUI - VA'AI ASO TALA 'OTO'OTO			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TU'U ATU LE ISI KOMITI			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FA'ATONU E FA'ATA'ATIA			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TOE TAOFI			

1 P.M.M. NU. _____

2 FA'AULUFALEINA E: _____

3
4 O SE PILI MO SE TULAFONO UA FA'AULATALAINA: "O SE TULAFONO
5 E AOFIA AI NI SUI MAI LE MAOTA MAUALUGA MA LE MAOTA O SUI I
6 LE KOMITI FA'AFOE O FEMALAGA'IGA INA IA MAUA AI SE TOFA
7 FA'AFAITULAFONO, LAGOLAGO FAIGA FA'AVAE FA'ATEMOKARASI,
8 MA AVATU AI SE SAO 'ANOA/TAUA MO LE PULEA O FEMALGA'IGA I
9 AMERIKA SAMOA; SUIA AI LE MAGA 41.0203 T.T.A.S."

10
11 Fa'atomuaga:

12
13 TALUAI, o le ato'atoa o le fa'atautaiga o faiga fa'avae o mataupu tau
14 femalaga'iga i Amerika Samoa e mo'omia ai le tofā magafagafa, o le
15 paleni o sui auai, ma le o gatusa o lona fa'atautaiga ma manaoga o
16 aiaiga masani faateritori ma le malo aoao; ma

17
18 TALUAI, e taua tele le iai o se leo fa'a-faitulafono i le talanoaina o mataupu tau
19 i femalaga'iga ina ia mautinoa ai le manino ma malamalama ma le
20 mafai ona tali atu i manaoga mo o tatou tagata; ma

21
22 TALUAI, o le Komiti Fa'afoe o Femalaga'iga ua avea o se vaega autu i le
23 iloiloaina o talosaga tau femalaga'iga, faufautua i ni suiga, ma
24 fa'amautinoa ai, o le fa'atinoaina o ia faiga, ia atagia ai tulaga o le
25 soifua lautele o tagata, o tu ma aga, ma le tulaga moni o le tamaoaiga i
26 le teritori; ma

27
28 TALUAI, o totino o le Fono Faitulafono – filifilia e tagata, ma tali atu foi i
29 tagata – e fai ma leo, o le tomai masani ma fa'amoemoega o tatou

1 tagatanu'u eseese, ma o le latou i ai i totonu o le Komiti Fa'afoe o
2 Femalaga'iga e mautinoa ai le fa'amausaliina o fa'aiuga e faavae i le
3 talitonuina e le lautele, o le tofa fa'aleaganu'u ma tu ma aga
4 fa'atemokarasi moni.

5
6 O lenei, o le mea lea, ia fa'atulafonoina ai o sui aloaia mai le Maota o Sui ma le
7 Senate mo le Komiti Fa'afoe o Femalaga'iga, e aloa'ia lo latou tofiga i le Komiti
8 Faafoe o Femalagaiga e tuuina atu se tofa fa'alefaitulafono, faatumau faiga fa'avae
9 fa'atemokarasi, ma tuuina atu se saofaga 'anoa mo le fa'afoeina o le pulea o
10 fa'afemalaga'iga i Amerika Samoa.

11
12 IA FA'ATULAFONOINA E LE FONOFAITULAFONO O AMERIKA SAMOA:

13
14 Maga 1. 41.0203 ua suia e faitauina fa'apea:

15 "41.0203 Komiti o Femalaga'iga—Faavaeina—Totino/Sui.

16 (a) Ua faavae nei le Komiti o Femalaga'iga a Amerika Samoa, e to'a 7
17 sui mai le lautele, o ni nesionale poo ni sitiseni foi o le Iunaite Setete e tupuga
18 Amerika Samoa. E filifilia e le Fofoga Fetalai se sui mai le Maota e tautua mo le
19 Komiti Fa'afoe o Femalaga'iga. O le Peresitene o le Senate na te filifilia se sui mai
20 le Maota Mauauga mo le Komiti Faafoe o Femalaga'iga. O isi totino e totoe ai e
21 tofia e le Kovana faatasi ai ma le maliliega a le Fonofaitulafono. O sui nei e to'a 7
22 mai le lautele o le a tautua mo le 5 tausaga, ae le silia i le ta'ilua a latou nofoaiga
23 sosoo: vagana ai o ē sa uluai tofia e faasolo mai le 1, 2, 3, 4 poo le 5 tausaga. O
24 totino e galulue pea seia vagana ua faamaonia se tasi e suitulaga. E tofia lava e le
25 Komiti lo latou taitaifono i tausaga taitasi.

26 (e) Soo se totino o le komiti faafoe sa faafaigaluega e le Malo o Amerika
27 Samoa i le taimi na tofia ai i lenei komiti—pe konekarate, tagata faigaluega tumau,
28 pe ala foi i se palota—o le a manatu ua otometi lava lona faamavae mai le komiti i
29 le taimi e tuua ai le galuega a le Malo, poo le a lava le mafuaaga."

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