

INS to End Private Testing for Citizenship

The Washington Post

March 05, 1998, Thursday, Final Edition

Copyright 1998 The Washington Post

Section: A SECTION; Pg. A19; THE FEDERAL PAGE; **IN** BRIEF

Length: 155 words

Body

The Immigration and Naturalization Service announced yesterday it will **end** the **private testing** of **citizenship** applicants and take over the work itself as part of a plan to reform the naturalization process.

Five **private testing** organizations have been told they may administer the required English and civics **tests** until Aug. 30, the **INS** said.

Test certificates awarded through that date will be accepted by the agency for up to one year.

INS Commissioner Doris M. Meissner said the change is intended "to reduce fraud and to improve customer service and efficiency." The **private** groups and about 1,000 subcontractors account for about 15 percent of **citizenship testing**. The program has been subject to fraud, allowing thousands of immigrants to pass the **tests** by paying hundreds of dollars each to **private** administrators.

Compiled from reports by staff writers Eric Pianin, Terry M. Neal and William Branigin.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Subject: **CITIZENSHIP** (90%); IMMIGRATION (78%); SUBCONTRACTING (78%); NATURALIZATION (73%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (72%); CUSTOMER SERVICE (55%)

Company: **END PRIVATE** (57%); **END PRIVATE** (57%); IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (94%); IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (91%)

Organization: IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (94%); IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (91%); IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (94%); IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (91%)

Industry: **TEST** LABORATORIES (73%)

Load-Date: March 5, 1998

INS to End Private Testing for Citizenship

End of Document