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ICARE Act

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Nov 23, 2003

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text of measure as introduced: CR S15648

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text of measure as introduced: CR S15648-15651) (Nov 23, 2003)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/senate-bill/1934>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Nickles, Don [R-OK]

Party: Republican • **State:** OK • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (12 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Bingaman, Jeff [D-NM]	D · NM		Nov 23, 2003
Sen. Craig, Larry E. [R-ID]	R · ID		Nov 23, 2003
Sen. Inhofe, James M. [R-OK]	R · OK		Nov 23, 2003
Sen. Landrieu, Mary L. [D-LA]	D · LA		Nov 23, 2003
Sen. Smith, Gordon H. [R-OR]	R · OR		Nov 23, 2003
Sen. Lincoln, Blanche L. [D-AR]	D · AR		Mar 22, 2004
Sen. Fitzgerald, Peter [R-IL]	R · IL		Mar 25, 2004
Sen. Coleman, Norm [R-MN]	R · MN		Mar 29, 2004
Sen. Dorgan, Byron L. [D-ND]	D · ND		Apr 8, 2004
Sen. Miller, Zell [D-GA]	D · GA		May 4, 2004
Sen. Hutchison, Kay Bailey [R-TX]	R · TX		May 12, 2004
Sen. Lieberman, Joseph I. [D-CT]	D · CT		Jun 3, 2004

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Nov 23, 2003

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
108 S 3031	Related bill	Dec 7, 2004: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text of measure as introduced: CR S11901-11905)
108 HR 3896	Identical bill	Apr 2, 2004: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims.

Summary (as of Nov 23, 2003)

Intercountry Adoption Reform Act of 2003 or ICARE Act - Establishes an Office of Intercountry Adoptions within the Department of State (DOS). Requires the President to appoint an Ambassador at Large to head the Office.

Transfers to the Office all immigration functions with respect to intercountry adoptions currently performed by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to grant automatic U.S. citizenship to internationally adopted children upon entry of a full and final adoption decree (thus dispensing with the need for such children to obtain visas).

Creates a new W nonimmigrant visa category for children traveling to the United States to be adopted by U.S. citizens.

Allows adopted children age 18 or under to claim an exception to immunization requirements for purposes of admissibility (currently limited to those age 10 or under).

Redefines the term "adoptable child."

Requires U.S. citizen adoptive parents to obtain approval of an adoption petition prior to issuance of a W visa or a full and final adoption decree. Provides that such petitions are subject to the terms applicable to orphan petitions. Directs the Ambassador to issue regulations: (1) establishing an expedited reapproval process for families whose prior approvals to adopt have expired; and (2) governing the appeal of petition denials.

Requires the Office to determine whether a child is an adoptable child, pursuant to specified procedures, as a prerequisite to the issuance of a W visa or a full and final adoption decree.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 23, 2003:** Introduced in Senate
- **Nov 23, 2003:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S15647-15648)
- **Nov 23, 2003:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text of measure as introduced: CR S15648-15651)