

Bill Fact Sheet – December 5, 2025 https://legilist.com Bill page: https://legilist.com/bill/108/hr/2655

HR 2655

To amend and extend the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998.

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Immigration **Introduced:** Jun 26, 2003

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 108-449.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 108-449. (Dec 10, 2004)

Law: 108-449 (Enacted Dec 10, 2004)

Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/house-bill/2655

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Walsh, James T. [R-NY-25]

Party: Republican • State: NY • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (27 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State Role | Date Joined |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Rep. Ackerman, Gary L. [D-NY-5] | $D \cdot NY$ | Jun 26, 2003 |
| Rep. Crowley, Joseph [D-NY-7] | $D \cdot NY$ | Jun 26, 2003 |
| Rep. Doyle, Michael F. [D-PA-14] | D · PA | Jun 26, 2003 |
| Rep. Duncan, John J., Jr. [R-TN-2] | $R \cdot TN$ | Jun 26, 2003 |
| Rep. Engel, Eliot L. [D-NY-17] | $D \cdot NY$ | Jun 26, 2003 |
| Rep. Frost, Martin [D-TX-24] | $D \cdot TX$ | Jun 26, 2003 |
| Rep. Holden, Tim [D-PA-17] | D · PA | Jun 26, 2003 |
| Rep. King, Peter T. [R-NY-3] | $R \cdot NY$ | Jun 26, 2003 |
| Rep. McCarthy, Carolyn [D-NY-4] | $D \cdot NY$ | Jun 26, 2003 |
| Rep. McDermott, Jim [D-WA-7] | D · WA | Jun 26, 2003 |
| Rep. McNulty, Michael R. [D-NY-21] | $D \cdot NY$ | Jun 26, 2003 |
| Rep. Mollohan, Alan B. [D-WV-1] | D · WV | Jun 26, 2003 |
| Rep. Neal, Richard E. [D-MA-2] | D · MA | Jun 26, 2003 |
| Rep. Payne, Donald M. [D-NJ-10] | D · NJ | Jun 26, 2003 |
| Rep. Quinn, Jack [R-NY-27] | $R \cdot NY$ | Jun 26, 2003 |
| Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4] | $R \cdot NJ$ | Jun 26, 2003 |
| Rep. Sweeney, John E. [R-NY-20] | $R \cdot NY$ | Jun 26, 2003 |
| Rep. Lynch, Stephen F. [D-MA-9] | D · MA | Jul 8, 2003 |
| Rep. Fossella, Vito [R-NY-13] | $R \cdot NY$ | Jul 10, 2003 |
| Rep. Lowey, Nita M. [D-NY-18] | $D \cdot NY$ | Jul 10, 2003 |
| Rep. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA-7] | D · MA | Jul 10, 2003 |
| Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-3] | D · MA | Jul 10, 2003 |
| Rep. Kelly, Sue W. [R-NY-19] | $R \cdot NY$ | Jul 17, 2003 |
| Rep. McHugh, John M. [R-NY-23] | $R \cdot NY$ | Jul 17, 2003 |
| Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-8] | D · NY | Jul 25, 2003 |
| Rep. Frank, Barney [D-MA-4] | D · MA | Sep 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Murphy, Tim [R-PA-18] | R · PA | Sep 3, 2003 |
| | | |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------|--------------|
| Foreign Affairs Committee | House | Discharged From | Sep 4, 2003 |
| Foreign Relations Committee | Senate | Discharged From | Nov 20, 2004 |
| Judiciary Committee | House | Discharged from | Jul 21, 2003 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|------------|--------------|--|
| 108 S 1479 | Related bill | Jul 29, 2003: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. |

(This measure has not been amended since it was passed by the Senate on November 19, 2004. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

Amends the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998 (IPPCTPA) and the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) to revise the nonimmigrant alien eligibility qualifications for participants in the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program. Sets a minimum age of 21 (retaining the current age 35 maximum) and requires that the individual: (1) be a citizen of the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland; (2) have been unemployed continuously for at least 12 months; (3) have resided continuously for at least 18 months in Northern Ireland or one of designated border counties of the Republic of Ireland; and (4) not have a degree from an institution of higher education.

Requires the Department of Homeland Security to report to Congress each program year (currently, the third program year and the four subsequent years) on the number of aliens admitted under the program who have overstayed their visas.

Extends the authority of the IPPCTPA through FY 2008.

Requires the Secretary of State to verify that the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland continue to pay a reasonable share of costs for administration of IPPCTPA programs.

Amends the INA to reduce from 36 to 24 months the temporary period of the visit to the United States for participation in the program.

Denies any such person eligibility to apply for nonimmigrant status, an immigrant visa, or permanent residence until he or she has resided and been physically present in the country of nationality or last residence for an aggregate of a least two years following departure from the United States. Authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security to waive this requirement if: (1) departure from the United States would impose exceptional hardship upon the alien's spouse or child (if such spouse or child is a U.S. citizen or a lawfully resident alien); or (2) the admission of the alien is in the U.S. public or national interest.

Actions Timeline

- Dec 10, 2004: Signed by President.
- Dec 10, 2004: Signed by President.
- Dec 10, 2004: Became Public Law No: 108-449.
- Dec 10, 2004: Became Public Law No: 108-449.
- Nov 30, 2004: Presented to President.
- Nov 30, 2004: Presented to President.
- Nov 20, 2004: Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- Nov 20, 2004: Mr. Sensenbrenner asked unanimous consent that the House agree to the Senate amendment. (consideration: CR H10218; text as House agreed to Senate amendment: CR H10218)
- Nov 20, 2004: Resolving differences -- House actions: On motion that the House agree to the Senate amendment Agreed to without objection.
- Nov 20, 2004: On motion that the House agree to the Senate amendment Agreed to without objection.
- Nov 20, 2004: Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- Nov 19, 2004: Senate Committee on Foreign Relations discharged by Unanimous Consent.
- Nov 19, 2004: Senate Committee on Foreign Relations discharged by Unanimous Consent.
- Nov 19, 2004: Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR 11/20/2004 S11661-11662)
- Nov 19, 2004: Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- Nov 19, 2004: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- Oct 14, 2003: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
- Oct 7, 2003: Mr. Sensenbrenner moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- Oct 7, 2003: Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H9228-9231)
- Oct 7, 2003: DEBATE The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 2655.
- Oct 7, 2003: Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H9228)
- Oct 7, 2003: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H9228)
- Oct 7, 2003: Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- Sep 4, 2003: Reported by the Committee on Judiciary. H. Rept. 108-260, Part I.
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- Sep 4, 2003: House Committee on International Relations Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than Sept. 4, 2003.
- Sep 4, 2003: Committee on International Relations discharged.
- Sep 4, 2003: Committee on International Relations discharged.
- Sep 4, 2003: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 149.
- Jul 25, 2003: Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- Jul 25, 2003: Ordered to be Reported by Voice Vote.
- Jul 21, 2003: Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims Discharged.
- Jul 8, 2003: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims.
- Jun 26, 2003: Introduced in House
- Jun 26, 2003: Introduced in House
- Jun 26, 2003: Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on International Relations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
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