

HR 1543

Visa Waiver Modernization Act

Congress: 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Mar 15, 2007

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law. (Apr 20, 2007)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/house-bill/1543>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Emanuel, Rahm [D-IL-5]

Party: Democratic • State: IL • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (14 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Berkley, Shelley [D-NV-1]	D · NV		Mar 15, 2007
Rep. Shimkus, John [R-IL-19]	R · IL		Mar 15, 2007
Rep. Wexler, Robert [D-FL-19]	D · FL		Mar 15, 2007
Rep. Manzullo, Donald A. [R-IL-16]	R · IL		Mar 21, 2007
Rep. Holden, Tim [D-PA-17]	D · PA		Mar 26, 2007
Rep. Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana [R-FL-18]	R · FL		Mar 26, 2007
Rep. English, Phil [R-PA-3]	R · PA		Mar 29, 2007
Rep. McCotter, Thaddeus G. [R-MI-11]	R · MI		Apr 18, 2007
Rep. Abercrombie, Neil [D-HI-1]	D · HI		Apr 24, 2007
Rep. Lipinski, Daniel [D-IL-3]	D · IL		Apr 24, 2007
Rep. Diaz-Balart, Lincoln [R-FL-21]	R · FL		May 3, 2007
Rep. Diaz-Balart, Mario [R-FL-25]	R · FL		May 3, 2007
Rep. Fortenberry, Jeff [R-NE-1]	R · NE		May 23, 2007
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]	D · OR		Jun 27, 2007

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 19, 2007
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 20, 2007

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
110 HR 2006	Related bill	<b>May 4, 2007:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law.
110 S 653	Related bill	<b>Feb 15, 2007:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## Summary (as of Mar 15, 2007)

Visa Waiver Modernization Act - Expresses the sense of Congress that: (1) the United States should modernize the visa waiver program by enhancing program security requirements and extending visa-free travel privileges to nationals of foreign countries that are allies in the war on terrorism; and (2) such expansion will have positive security, economic, and bilateral effects.

Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the visa waiver program to provide that the Secretary of Homeland Security shall certify to Congress that an air exit system is in place when such system can verify the departure of at least 97% of foreign nationals exiting through U.S. airports.

Authorizes, upon such certification, waiver of low visa refusal rate requirements for a country that meets security and counterterrorism cooperation requirements and has a sustained reduction in visa refusal rates.

Requires the Secretary to: (1) consider specified security-related issues in determining whether to waive low visa refusal requirements; and (2) consider visa overstay rates in determining program eligibility.

Provides for the following program security enhancements: (1) implementation of an electronic travel authorization system which shall provide biographical information; (2) participant country reporting of lost and stolen passports to the U.S. government; (3) participant country acceptance of its citizens or nationals removed from the United States; and (4) security-related information exchange about a country's citizens or nationals traveling to the United States.

Requires the Secretary to establish an exit system that records the departure on a flight leaving the United States of every alien program participant. Requires that such system: (1) match an alien's biometric information against watch lists and immigration information; and (2) compare such biometric information against air carrier manifests to confirm departures.

## Actions Timeline

- **Apr 20, 2007:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law.
- **Mar 19, 2007:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Border, Maritime, and Global Counterterrorism.
- **Mar 15, 2007:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 15, 2007:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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.