

S 1651

Refugee Crisis in Iraq Act

Congress: 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Jun 19, 2007

Current Status: Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S9768-9771)

Latest Action: Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S9768-9771) (Jul 23, 2007)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/senate-bill/1651>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Kennedy, Edward M. [D-MA]

Party: Democratic • **State:** MA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (14 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Biden, Joseph R., Jr. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jun 19, 2007
Sen. Hagel, Chuck [R-NE]	R · NE		Jun 19, 2007
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Jun 19, 2007
Sen. Levin, Carl [D-MI]	D · MI		Jun 19, 2007
Sen. Lieberman, Joseph I. [ID-CT]	ID · CT		Jun 19, 2007
Sen. Smith, Gordon H. [R-OR]	R · OR		Jun 19, 2007
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Jul 9, 2007
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Jul 9, 2007
Sen. Voinovich, George V. [R-OH]	R · OH		Jul 26, 2007
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Jul 30, 2007
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Aug 3, 2007
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Sep 5, 2007
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Sep 19, 2007
Sen. Snowe, Olympia J. [R-ME]	R · ME		Sep 26, 2007

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 19, 2007

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Jun 19, 2007)

Refugee Crisis in Iraq Act - Directs the Secretary of State (Secretary) to establish processing facilities in Iraq and in countries in the region for eligible Iraqis to apply and interview for U.S. admission as refugees or as special immigrants.

Includes among refugees of special humanitarian concern: (1) Iraqis who were employed by, or worked for or directly with the U.S. government in Iraq; (2) Iraqis who were employed in Iraq by a U.S.-based media or nongovernmental organization or an organization that has received a grant from, or entered into a cooperative agreement or contract with the U.S. government; (3) spouses, children, sons, daughters, siblings, and parents of Iraqis who worked for the U.S. government or who are special immigrants; and (4) Iraqis who are members of a religious or minority community and have close family members in the United States. Authorizes the Secretary to identify other priority groups in Iraq.

Authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide special immigrant status to an otherwise admissible Iraqi national (and spouse and children) who was employed by, or worked for or directly with the U.S. government in Iraq for at least one year in or after 2003.

Directs the Secretary to: (1) establish in the U.S. embassy in Baghdad, Iraq, a Minister Counselor for Iraqi Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons; and (2) designate in the U.S. embassies in Cairo, Egypt; Amman, Jordan; Damascus, Syria; and Beirut, Lebanon a Minister Counselor to oversee U.S. resettlement of persons considered refugees of special humanitarian concern.

Directs the Secretary, with respect to each country with a significant population of displaced Iraqis, including Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Turkey, and Lebanon, to: (1) consult with other countries regarding resettlement of the most vulnerable members of such refugee populations; and (2) develop mechanisms in and provide assistance to countries with a significant population of displaced Iraqis to ensure their well-being and safety in their host environments.

Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit a qualifying Iraqi applicant for asylum or withholding of removal whose claim was denied on the basis of changed country conditions to file for reopening of his or her claim.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 23, 2007:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S9768-9771)
- **Jun 19, 2007:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 19, 2007:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S7892-7895)
- **Jun 19, 2007:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.