

HR 2006

Secure Visa Waiver Travel Act

Congress: 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Apr 23, 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. (May 4, 2007)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/house-bill/2006>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [D-MS-2]

Party: Democratic • State: MS • Chamber: House

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security Committee	House	Referred To	Apr 23, 2007
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	May 4, 2007

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
110 HR 1543	Related bill	Apr 20, 2007: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law.
110 S 653	Related bill	Feb 15, 2007: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Secure Visa Waiver and Preventing Terrorist Travel Partnership Act or Secure Visa Waiver Travel Act - Expresses the sense of Congress that: (1) the United States should improve homeland security by strengthening the security of the visa waiver program by enhancing program security requirements and extending visa-free travel privileges to eligible nationals of foreign countries that are actively cooperating with the United States to prevent terrorist travel; and (2) such improvements will expand counterterrorism, economic, and bilateral relationships.

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

- **May 4, 2007:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law.
- **Apr 23, 2007:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 23, 2007:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E823-824)
- **Apr 23, 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.