

S 653

Secure Travel and Counterterrorism Partnership Act

Congress: 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Feb 15, 2007

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Feb 15, 2007)

Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/senate-bill/653

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Voinovich, George V. [R-OH]

Party: Republican • State: OH • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (4 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|----------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Akaka, Daniel K. [D-HI] | D · HI | | Feb 15, 2007 |
| Sen. Lugar, Richard G. [R-IN] | R · IN | | Feb 15, 2007 |
| Sen. Mikulski, Barbara A. [D-MD] | D · MD | | Feb 15, 2007 |
| Sen. Stevens, Ted [R-AK] | R · AK | | Feb 15, 2007 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|---------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Judiciary Committee | Senate | Referred To | Feb 15, 2007 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|--------------|---|
| 110 HR 2006 | Related bill | May 4, 2007: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law. |
| 110 HR 1543 | Related bill | Apr 20, 2007: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law. |

Secure Travel and Counterterrorism Partnership 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 authorize 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.

Authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security to consider: (1) specified security-related issues in determining whether to waive low visa refusal requirements; and (2) 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

- **Feb 15, 2007:** Introduced in Senate
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