S 1085

Reuniting Families Act

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)
Chamber: Senate
Policy Area: Immigration
Introduced: May 20, 2009
Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (May 20, 2009)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/1085

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]
Party: Democratic • **State:** NJ • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		May 20, 2009
Sen. Kennedy, Edward M. [D-MA]	D · MA		May 20, 2009
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		May 20, 2009
Sen. Inouye, Daniel K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Jul 27, 2009
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Sep 29, 2009

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 20, 2009

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 HR 2709	Related bill	**Aug 19, 2009:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law.
111 S 1247	Related bill	**Jun 11, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Summary (as of May 20, 2009)

Reuniting Families Act - Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to establish the fiscal year worldwide level of employment-based immigrants at 140,000 plus: (1) the previous year's unused visas; and (2) the number of unused visas from FY1992-FY2007.

Establishes the fiscal year worldwide level of family-sponsored immigrants at 480,000 plus: (1) the previous year's unused visas; and (2) the number of unused visas from FY1992-FY2007.

Revises the definition of "immediate relative" to: (1) mean a child, spouse, or parent of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident (and for each family member of a citizen or resident, such individual's accompanying spouse or child), except that in the case of parents such citizens shall be at least 21 years old; (2) permit a widow or widower of a U.S. citizen or resident to seek permanent resident status if married at least two years at the time of the citizen's or resident's death or, if married less than two years, by showing through a preponderance of the evidence that the marriage was entered into in good faith and not solely to obtain an immigration benefit; and (3) include an alien who was the child or parent of a U.S. citizen or resident at the time of the citizen's or resident's death if the alien files a petition within two years after such date or prior to reaching 21 years old.

Increases immigration visas for: (1) unmarried sons and daughters of U.S. citizens; and (2) brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens.

Provides a 60,000 visa allocation for the unmarried sons and daughters of permanent resident aliens.

Increases annual per country (10% of annual total) and dependent area (5% of annual total) limits for employment-based and family-sponsored immigrant visas.

Expands specified family-unity exceptions to unlawful presence-based inadmissibility.

Provides specified relief for orphans and spouses regarding: (1) petitions for immediate relative status; (2) parole eligibility; (3) permanent resident status adjustment; and (4) processing of immigrant visas.

Exempts children of naturalized Filipino World War II veterans from worldwide or numerical immigrant limitations.

Makes a minor child of an alien fiancee/fiance or of an alien spouse of a U.S. citizen eligible for derivative K-visa status provided that the child's age is determined using such child's age at the date that the petition to classify such child's parent as a K-visa alien is filed with the Secretary of Homeland Security.
Authorizes the Secretary or the Attorney General to adjust the status of a finacee/fiance or alien spouse and any minor children (K-visa) to conditional permanent resident status if such alien marries the petitioner within three months after U.S. admission.

Redefines "child" for purposes of titles I and II of the Act to include a stepchild under 21 years old. (Current law includes a stepchild who has not reached 18 years old at the time the marriage creating the status of stepchild occurred.)

Actions Timeline

- **May 20, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 20, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.