

HR 1147

Legal Workforce Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Feb 27, 2015

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Social Security.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Social Security. (Mar 27, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1147>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Smith, Lamar [R-TX-21]

Party: Republican • **State:** TX • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (48 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Burgess, Michael C. [R-TX-26]	R · TX		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Calvert, Ken [R-CA-42]	R · CA		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Carter, John R. [R-TX-31]	R · TX		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Chabot, Steve [R-OH-1]	R · OH		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Cook, Paul [R-CA-8]	R · CA		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Farenthold, Blake [R-TX-27]	R · TX		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Forbes, J. Randy [R-VA-4]	R · VA		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Goodlatte, Bob [R-VA-6]	R · VA		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Gowdy, Trey [R-SC-4]	R · SC		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. King, Steve [R-IA-4]	R · IA		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Marino, Tom [R-PA-10]	R · PA		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]	R · NJ		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Issa, Darrell E. [R-CA-49]	R · CA		Mar 2, 2015
Rep. Loudermilk, Barry [R-GA-11]	R · GA		Mar 2, 2015
Rep. McClintock, Tom [R-CA-4]	R · CA		Mar 2, 2015
Rep. Weber, Randy K., Sr. [R-TX-14]	R · TX		Mar 2, 2015
Rep. Brooks, Mo [R-AL-5]	R · AL		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Franks, Trent [R-AZ-8]	R · AZ		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Guinta, Frank C. [R-NH-1]	R · NH		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Johnson, Sam [R-TX-3]	R · TX		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Lance, Leonard [R-NJ-7]	R · NJ		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Marchant, Kenny [R-TX-24]	R · TX		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Pittenger, Robert [R-NC-9]	R · NC		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Sessions, Pete [R-TX-32]	R · TX		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Stivers, Steve [R-OH-15]	R · OH		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Babin, Brian [R-TX-36]	R · TX		Mar 10, 2015
Rep. Heck, Joseph J. [R-NV-3]	R · NV		Mar 10, 2015
Rep. Ratcliffe, John [R-TX-4]	R · TX		Mar 10, 2015
Rep. Duncan, Jeff [R-SC-3]	R · SC		Mar 19, 2015
Rep. Knight, Stephen [R-CA-25]	R · CA		Mar 19, 2015
Rep. Duncan, John J., Jr. [R-TN-2]	R · TN		Mar 23, 2015
Rep. Fleming, John [R-LA-4]	R · LA		Mar 23, 2015
Rep. McCaul, Michael T. [R-TX-10]	R · TX		Mar 23, 2015
Rep. Salmon, Matt [R-AZ-5]	R · AZ		Apr 14, 2015
Rep. Messer, Luke [R-IN-6]	R · IN		Apr 21, 2015
Rep. Olson, Pete [R-TX-22]	R · TX		Apr 22, 2015
Rep. Roe, David P. [R-TN-1]	R · TN		Apr 22, 2015
Rep. Palazzo, Steven M. [R-MS-4]	R · MS		Apr 28, 2015
Rep. Brat, Dave [R-VA-7]	R · VA		Jul 14, 2015
Rep. Fortenberry, Jeff [R-NE-1]	R · NE		Aug 4, 2015
Rep. Hensarling, Jeb [R-TX-5]	R · TX		Aug 4, 2015

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Schweikert, David [R-AZ-6]	R · AZ		Jan 7, 2016
Rep. Zeldin, Lee M. [R-NY-1]	R · NY		Jan 11, 2016
Rep. Buchanan, Vern [R-FL-16]	R · FL		Feb 8, 2016
Rep. Jones, Walter B., Jr. [R-NC-3]	R · NC		Feb 29, 2016
Rep. Gosar, Paul A. [R-AZ-4]	R · AZ		Jul 5, 2016
Rep. Royce, Edward R. [R-CA-39]	R · CA		Sep 28, 2016
Rep. Davidson, Warren [R-OH-8]	R · OH		Dec 1, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred To	Feb 27, 2015
Judiciary Committee	House	Discharged from	Mar 3, 2015
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 27, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 5398	Related bill	Aug 19, 2016: Referred to the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security.

Legal Workforce Act

Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) to establish an employment eligibility verification system (EEVS), patterned after the E-Verify system. (Eliminates the current paper-based I-9 system.)

Requires an employer to attest, during the verification period and under penalty of perjury, that the employer has verified that an individual is not an unauthorized alien by: (1) obtaining and recording the individual's social security account number, and (2) examining specified documents that establish such individual's identity and employment authorization.

Requires an individual to attest that he or she is a U.S. citizen or national, a lawful permanent resident, or an alien authorized to work in the United States.

Establishes a phased-in EEVS participation deadline (six months to two years) for different categories of employers, including agricultural employers.

Requires reverification of the following workers who have not been verified under E-verify: (1) federal, state, or local government employees; (2) certain employees who require a federal security clearance; and (3) certain employees assigned to work in the United States under a federal or state contract.

Authorizes an employer to voluntarily reverify employees. (Requires any such reverification to be applied to all individuals so employed).

Includes employment recruitment and referral within the scope of EEVS. Requires EEVS use by union halls and nonprofit employment agencies.

Requires EEVS to provide employers with: (1) temporary verification or nonverification within 3 working days of an inquiry; and (2) in the case of nonverification, a final verification or nonverification within 10 working days.

Sets forth provisions regarding: (1) an employer utilizing a good faith defense, (2) preemption of state or local law, (3) employer penalties, and (4) worker remedies for EEVS errors.

Provides for the establishment of programs to: (1) block the use of misused social security numbers, and (2) suspend or limit the use of Social Security numbers of victims of identity fraud.

Requires an employer who uses the photo matching tool as part of the E-Verify system to match the photo tool photograph to both the photograph on the identity or employment eligibility document provided by the employee and to the face of the employee submitting the document.

Directs the Secretary to: (1) establish a program under which parents or legal guardians may suspend or limit the use of the social security account number or other identifying information of a minor for the purposes of the employment eligibility verification system, and (2) establish an Identity Authentication Employment Eligibility Verification pilot program to provide employers with identity authentication and employment verification of enrolled new employees.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 27, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Social Security.
- **Mar 3, 2015:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Mar 3, 2015:** Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security Discharged.
- **Mar 3, 2015:** Ordered to be Reported by the Yeas and Nays: 20 - 13.
- **Mar 2, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security.
- **Feb 27, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 27, 2015:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce, 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.