

S 153

I-Squared Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Jan 13, 2015

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Jan 13, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/153>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Hatch, Orrin G. [R-UT]

Party: Republican • **State:** UT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (13 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jan 13, 2015
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jan 13, 2015
Sen. Flake, Jeff [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Jan 13, 2015
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Jan 13, 2015
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		Jan 13, 2015
Sen. Heller, Dean [R-NV]	R · NV		Jan 16, 2015
Sen. Ayotte, Kelly [R-NH]	R · NH		Feb 25, 2015
Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Feb 25, 2015
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		Feb 26, 2015
Sen. Gardner, Cory [R-CO]	R · CO		Mar 9, 2015
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Mar 17, 2015
Sen. Lee, Mike [R-UT]	R · UT		Apr 30, 2015
Sen. Kirk, Mark Steven [R-IL]	R · IL		May 14, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 13, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Immigration Innovation Act of 2015 or the I-Squared Act of 2015

Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to establish an annual cap on H-1B nonimmigrant visas (specialty occupations) at between 115,000 and 195,000 visas depending upon market conditions and existing demand. (The current annual H-1B cap is 65,000.)

Sets forth allocation provisions.

Directs the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) to: (1) authorize the accompanying spouse of an H-1B alien to work in the United States, and (2) provide such spouse with an appropriate work permit.

Prohibits the Secretary of DHS or the Secretary of State from denying a subsequent petition or application for a previously approved visa petition or admission application to extend the status of an H-1B or L-visa (intra-company transferee) nonimmigrant involving the same alien and petitioner unless:

- there was a material error in the previous petition approval,
- a substantial change in circumstances has taken place that renders the nonimmigrant ineligible for such status, or
- new information has been discovered that adversely impacts the eligibility of the employer or the nonimmigrant.

Deems an H-1B nonimmigrant whose employment relationship ends (voluntarily or involuntarily) before the expiration of his or her period of authorized admission to have retained such legal status for 60 days if an employer files a petition to extend, change, or adjust the person's status during such period.

Directs the Secretary of State to authorize a qualifying alien admitted under an E-visa (treaty traders and investors), H-visa (temporary workers), L-visa (intra-company transferees), O-visa (extraordinary ability in the sciences, education, business, athletics, or the arts or films or television), or P-visa (athletes, artists, and entertainers) to renew his or her nonimmigrant visa in the United States.

Eliminates the foreign student visa requirement that an individual has no intention of abandoning his or her foreign residence.

Eliminates the per country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants and increases the per country family category limit. Applies such provisions beginning with FY2016.

Amends the Chinese Student Protection Act of 1992 to eliminate the provision requiring the reduction of annual Chinese immigrant visas to offset status adjustments under such Act.

Provides for the recapture of unused employment-based immigrant visas. Directs the Secretary of State to ensure that all authorized immigrant visas are issued to qualified applicants.

Excludes from employment based immigrant limitations aliens: (1) who are the spouse or child of an employment-based immigrant; (2) who have a master's or higher degree in a STEM field (science, technology, engineering, and math) from a school qualified under the Higher Education Act of 1965; and (3) for whom a priority worker petition for an employment-based immigrant visa has been approved.

Increases H-1B employer fees and establishes a fee on employment-based visa petitions. Provides that such fees shall

be used for STEM education and training.

Establishes in the Treasury the Promoting American Ingenuity Account to enhance U.S. economic competitiveness by: (1) strengthening STEM education and ensuring that schools have access to well-trained STEM teachers; (2) strengthening the elementary and secondary curriculum, including efforts to increase computer science course availability; and (3) helping colleges and universities produce more graduates in fields needed by American employers.

Allocates 3% of Account deposits for grants to establish American Dream Accounts.

Sets forth provisions regarding: (1) fund allocations, (2) state grant applications, and (3) approved grant activities.

States that nothing in such STEM funding provisions shall be construed to permit the Secretary of Education or any other federal official to approve the content or academic achievement standards of a state.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 13, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
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