

HR 5253

Strong Visa Integrity Secures America Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: May 16, 2016

Current Status: Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Homeland Security. H. Rept. 114-850, Part I.

Latest Action: Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Homeland Security. H. Rept. 114-850, Part I. (Dec 8, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/5253>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Hurd, Will [R-TX-23]

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

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Katko, John [R-NY-24]	R · NY		May 16, 2016
Rep. King, Peter T. [R-NY-2]	R · NY		May 16, 2016
Rep. McCaul, Michael T. [R-TX-10]	R · TX		May 16, 2016
Rep. McSally, Martha [R-AZ-2]	R · AZ		May 16, 2016
Rep. Miller, Candice S. [R-MI-10]	R · MI		May 16, 2016
Rep. Farenthold, Blake [R-TX-27]	R · TX		May 31, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security Committee	House	Referred to	May 20, 2016
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	May 20, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 6381	Related bill	Dec 16, 2016: Referred to the Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research.

Strong Visa Integrity Secures America Act

This bill amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of State to assign, in a risk-based manner, State Department employees to at least 50 visa-issuing diplomatic and consular posts based upon the following criteria:

- the number of nationals of a country in which such posts are located who were identified in U.S. terrorist databases,
- such a country's counterterrorism cooperation with the United States,
- the adequacy of border and immigration control of such country,
- terrorist organization activity in such country, and
- the number of negative security advisory opinions regarding nationals of such country.

Such employees shall, in addition to other duties, screen admissions applications against federal criminal, national security, and terrorism databases.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shall:

- establish within U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement a visa security advisory opinion unit to respond to State Department requests for visa security reviews; and
- provide, in a risk-based manner, for remote pre-adjudicated visa security assistance at at least 50 posts that are not assigned such employees.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) shall, within one year after enactment of this bill:

- screen electronic passports at U.S. entry airports by reading each passport's embedded chip, and
- utilize facial recognition or other biometric technology to screen travelers at such airports.

Electronic passport screening shall apply to U.S. citizens, nationals of a visa waiver program country, and nationals of any other foreign country that issues electronic passports.

Facial recognition or other biometric technology screening shall apply to nationals of a visa waiver program country.

The CBP shall, in a risk-based manner, continuously screen individuals issued any visa and individuals who are visa waiver program nationals against criminal, national security, and terrorism databases.

The annual visa overstay report is revised.

DHS shall: (1) ensure that certain foreign student information is available at each U.S. port of entry to CBP officers who conduct primary inspections of aliens seeking U.S. admission; (2) review the social media accounts of visa applicants who are citizens of, or who reside in, high-risk countries; and (3) review open source information of visa applicants.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 8, 2016:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Homeland Security. H. Rept. 114-850, Part I.
- **Jun 8, 2016:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Jun 8, 2016:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **May 20, 2016:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security.
- **May 20, 2016:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security.
- **May 16, 2016:** Introduced in House
- **May 16, 2016:** 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.