

## HR 2626

### Strong Visa Integrity Secures America Act

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Immigration

**Introduced:** May 24, 2017

**Current Status:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Homeland Security. H. Rept. 115-273, Part I.

**Latest Action:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Homeland Security. H. Rept. 115-273, Part I. (Aug 8, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/2626>

### Sponsor

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

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

### Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Katko, John [R-NY-24]	R · NY		May 24, 2017
Rep. McCaul, Michael T. [R-TX-10]	R · TX		May 24, 2017
Rep. Stefanik, Elise M. [R-NY-21]	R · NY		Oct 31, 2017

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 15, 2017
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 26, 2017

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Immigration

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 4760	Related bill	Jun 21, 2018: Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
115 S 2192	Related bill	Dec 6, 2017: Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 275.
115 S 1757	Related bill	Sep 5, 2017: Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 208.

## **Strong Visa Integrity Secures America Act**

This bill amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to assign, in a risk-based manner, DHS 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.

DHS shall:

- establish within U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement a visa security advisory opinion unit to respond to Department of State 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:

- 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 shall apply to nationals of a visa waiver program country.

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, (2) review the social media accounts of certain visa applicants who are citizens or residents of high-risk countries, and (3) review open-source information of visa applicants.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Aug 8, 2017:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Homeland Security. H. Rept. 115-273, Part I.
- **Jul 26, 2017:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Jul 26, 2017:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Jun 26, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security.
- **Jun 15, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security.
- **May 24, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **May 24, 2017:** 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.