

S 281

Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Feb 2, 2017

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Feb 2, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/281>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Lee, Mike [R-UT]

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

Cosponsors (20 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Flake, Jeff [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Jul 12, 2017
Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]	R · MO		Sep 26, 2017
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Mar 19, 2018
Sen. Paul, Rand [R-KY]	R · KY		Mar 22, 2018
Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]	D · CA		Jun 19, 2018
Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]	R · KS		Jun 21, 2018
Sen. Heitkamp, Heidi [D-ND]	D · ND		Jul 23, 2018
Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE]	D · DE		Aug 16, 2018
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Aug 16, 2018
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Aug 16, 2018
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Sep 4, 2018
Sen. Gardner, Cory [R-CO]	R · CO		Sep 17, 2018
Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]	R · OH		Sep 17, 2018
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Sep 17, 2018
Sen. Cotton, Tom [R-AR]	R · AR		Sep 24, 2018
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Sep 25, 2018
Sen. Lankford, James [R-OK]	R · OK		Oct 1, 2018
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Nov 27, 2018
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Nov 27, 2018
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Nov 29, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 2, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 S 1877	Related bill	Sep 27, 2017: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
115 HR 392	Related bill	Jul 11, 2017: ASSUMING FIRST SPONSORSHIP - Mr. Yoder asked unanimous consent that he may hereafter be considered as the first sponsor of H.R. 392, a bill originally introduced by Representative Chaffetz, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII. Agreed to without objection.

Summary (as of Feb 2, 2017)

Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act of 2017

This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to: (1) eliminate the per country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, and (2) increase the per country numerical limitation for family based immigrants from 7% to 15% of the total number of family-sponsored visas.

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

The bill establishes the following transition period for employment-based second and third preference (EB-2 and EB-3) immigrant visas:

- for FY2017, 15% of such visas allotted to natives of countries other than the two countries with the largest aggregate numbers of natives obtaining such visas in FY2011;
- for FY2018, 10% of such visas allotted in each category to natives of countries other than the two with the largest aggregate numbers of natives obtaining such visas in FY2012; and
- for FY2019, 10% of such visas allotted in each category to natives of countries other than the two with the largest aggregate numbers of natives obtaining such visas in FY2015.

The bill sets forth the following per country distribution rules: (1) for transition period visas, not more than 25% of the total number of EB-2 and EB-3 visas for natives of a single country; and (2) for non-transition period visas, not more than 85% of EB-2 and EB-3 visas for natives of a single country.

Amendments made by this bill shall take place as if enacted on September 30, 2016, and shall apply beginning in FY2017.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 2, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 2, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.