

HR 6707

Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative Improvement Act of 2018

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Sep 5, 2018

Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. (Sep 5, 2018)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/6707>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Gonzalez, Vicente [D-TX-15]

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

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Espaillat, Adriano [D-NY-13]	D · NY		Sep 5, 2018
Rep. Gomez, Jimmy [D-CA-34]	D · CA		Sep 5, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred To	Sep 5, 2018

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative Improvement Act of 2018

This bill establishes certain standards for U.S. passport applications.

The Department of State shall adjudicate U.S. passport applications in an individualized, evidence-based manner based on an assessment of individual circumstances and evidence. An applicant's race, ethnicity, or ancestry may not be considered in such adjudicatory process.

The bill requires that:

- an applicant establish U.S. citizenship or nationality by a preponderance of the evidence, and
- a determination that an applicant has not met such evidentiary burden state in writing the reasons for the determination and be provided to the applicant in a timely manner.

A birth certificate signed by a person authorized under state law to sign such a document, or a previously-issued U.S. passport, shall constitute *prima facie* evidence of U.S. citizenship or nationality and, absent individualized evidence that a birth did not take place in the United States, shall satisfy the preponderance of the evidence standard.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 5, 2018:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 5, 2018:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.