

S 1494

Secure and Protect Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: May 15, 2019

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 181.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 181. (Aug 16, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1494>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]

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

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. McSally, Martha [R-AZ]	R · AZ		May 16, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Reported By	Aug 16, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Secure and Protect Act of 2019

This bill makes changes to the handling of unaccompanied alien children and asylum applications.

The *Flores* settlement (a court settlement imposing conditions on the treatment of detained alien minors) shall not restrict any activities. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shall have sole discretion as to detention standards of alien minors.

Statutory provisions governing the handling of unaccompanied alien children from U.S.-bordering countries shall now govern all unaccompanied alien children. The bill provides for requirements relating to the handling of such alien children. Certain immigration officer determinations relating to unaccompanied alien children shall be unreviewable.

DHS may detain accompanied alien children pending the completion of removal proceedings (some courts have ruled that *Flores* limits the detention of certain alien children to 20 days). States may not impose licensing requirements for family detention facilities.

An unaccompanied alien child shall not be released from custody while immigration or removal proceedings are pending, with some exceptions.

The bill limits asylum eligibility to aliens entering the United States at a designated port of entry and provides for additional grounds for asylum ineligibility. A *credible fear of persecution* is redefined to mean that it is more likely than not that the alien would be able to establish eligibility for asylum.

The Department of State shall establish refugee application and processing centers in Mexico and Central America. The bill requires the hiring of additional immigration judges, support staff, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement attorneys.

Actions Timeline

- **Aug 16, 2019:** Committee on the Judiciary. Reported by Senator Graham under authority of the order of the Senate of 08/01/2019 with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Aug 16, 2019:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 181.
- **Aug 1, 2019:** Committee on the Judiciary. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Jun 11, 2019:** Committee on the Judiciary. Hearings held.
- **May 15, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 15, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.