

## S 1887

### Paperwork Reduction for Farmers and H-2A Modernization Act

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Immigration

**Introduced:** Jun 18, 2019

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

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Jun 18, 2019)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1887>

#### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Paul, Rand [R-KY]

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

#### Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

#### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 18, 2019

#### Subjects & Policy Tags

##### Policy Area:

Immigration

#### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 3319	Identical bill	Jul 30, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

## **Paperwork Reduction for Farmers and H-2A Modernization Act**

This bill expands the H-2A (temporary agricultural worker) visa program to cover additional types of labor, makes various changes to the program, and provides a safe harbor for errors in nonimmigrant worker visa applications in certain instances.

The bill makes H-2A visas available to an alien providing temporary labor that falls within the federal government classification categories for (1) grounds maintenance workers; (2) farming, fishing, and forestry occupations; or (3) forest, conservation, and logging workers.

The bill authorizes joint employers to file a joint petition for an H-2A alien.

The bill allows (1) employers seeking to rehire an H-2A worker to submit a simplified petition, and (2) employers seeking to hire H-2A workers for different time periods during a fiscal year to submit a single petition for such workers.

The Department of Labor shall establish an electronic filing and appeals system for H-2A petitions. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) shall communicate electronically with an H-2A employer when USCIS requests evidence from the employer, if the employer asks to do so.

An employer who uses a third-party service to apply for a nonimmigrant worker visa shall not be civilly or criminally liable for errors in the application if the employer reasonably believed that the application was accurate and complied with statutory requirements.

## **Actions Timeline**

---

- **Jun 18, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 18, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.