S 2936

Refugee Protection Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)
Chamber: Senate
Policy Area: Immigration
Introduced: Nov 21, 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. (Nov 21, 2019)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2936

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]
Party: Democratic • **State:** VT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (17 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Nov 21, 2019
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Nov 21, 2019
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Nov 21, 2019
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Nov 21, 2019
Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]	D · CA		Nov 21, 2019
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Nov 21, 2019
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Nov 21, 2019
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Nov 21, 2019
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Nov 21, 2019
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Nov 21, 2019
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Nov 21, 2019
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Nov 21, 2019
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Nov 21, 2019
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Nov 21, 2019
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Nov 21, 2019
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Jan 16, 2020
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Sep 16, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Nov 21, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 5210	Identical bill	**Dec 19, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
116 HR 4873	Related bill	**Dec 18, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
116 S 3048	Related bill	**Dec 12, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S7030)
116 HR 2146	Related bill	**May 15, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
116 S 1088	Related bill	**Apr 9, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Summary (as of Nov 21, 2019)

Refugee Protection Act of 2019

This bill provides protections for aliens such as asylum seekers and contains other provisions.

The bill's provisions include

- eliminating the general requirement that an asylum seeker apply for asylum within one year of arriving in the United States;
- prohibiting requiring an asylum seeker to provide corroborating evidence of persecution if such evidence is not reasonably obtainable;
- waiving certain grounds of inadmissibility or deportability for qualifying refugees seeking permanent resident status;
- requiring the Department of Justice to appoint counsel to a child or particularly vulnerable individual in certain immigration proceedings;
- increasing the annual cap on principal nonimmigrant U visas (victims of crimes) from 10,000 to 20,000;
- prohibiting the removal of an alien with certain pending immigration applications, such as a U visa application;
- imposing limits on when an alien may be removed from the United States in a proceeding without the alien present;
- establishing a presumption that the least restrictive conditions necessary should be imposed in custody proceedings for asylum seekers, including release if appropriate;
- establishing that the maximum number of refugees admitted each fiscal year shall be no less than 95,000;
- directing the Department of State to help other governments increase their capacity to care for and accept refugees;
- directing the State Department to establish refugee processing centers in other countries in North and Central America; and
- authorizing the Department of Homeland Security to provide special immigrant status to qualified aliens who assisted U.S. efforts in Syria and admit up to 5,000 such aliens each fiscal year for five years.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 21, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Nov 21, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.