

HR 3319

Paperwork Reduction for Farmers and H-2A Modernization Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Jun 18, 2019

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship. (Jul 30, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/3319>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Kelly, Trent [R-MS-1]

Party: Republican • **State:** MS • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (7 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Rep. Barr, Andy [R-KY-6] | R · KY | | Jun 25, 2019 |
| Rep. Guest, Michael [R-MS-3] | R · MS | | Jun 25, 2019 |
| Rep. Abraham, Ralph Lee [R-LA-5] | R · LA | | Jun 28, 2019 |
| Rep. Steube, W. Gregory [R-FL-17] | R · FL | | Jun 28, 2019 |
| Rep. Carter, Earl L. "Buddy" [R-GA-1] | R · GA | | Jul 15, 2019 |
| Rep. Baird, James R. [R-IN-4] | R · IN | | Jul 18, 2019 |
| Rep. Wagner, Ann [R-MO-2] | R · MO | | Jul 23, 2019 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|---------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Judiciary Committee | House | Referred to | Jul 30, 2019 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|------------|----------------|--|
| 116 S 1887 | Identical bill | Jun 18, 2019: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. |

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

- **Jul 30, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
- **Jun 18, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 18, 2019:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.