

HR 3740

AGRI Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Jul 12, 2019

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

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship. (Aug 6, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/3740>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Crawford, Eric A. "Rick" [R-AR-1]

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

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Carter, Earl L. "Buddy" [R-GA-1]	R · GA		Sep 10, 2019
Rep. Scott, Austin [R-GA-8]	R · GA		Sep 17, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred To	Jul 12, 2019
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 15, 2019
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Aug 6, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Agricultural Guest Worker Reform Initiative Act of 2019 or the AGRI Act of 2019

This bill revises provisions related to H-2A (temporary agricultural worker) visas, including to eliminate certain requirements to hire U.S. workers, expand the program to include dairy and ranch workers, and shift administrative responsibilities from the Department of Labor to the Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The bill establishes a trust fund to be used to (1) administer and enforce the program, (2) collect a portion of guest worker wages to be paid upon a worker's return to the worker's country of origin, and (3) provide emergency medical services for guest workers.

The bill eliminates a requirement that, during the first half of the time period of a guest worker contract, certain employers must hire any qualified U.S. employee who applies to perform the job the guest worker was hired to perform.

Furthermore, an employer shall not be required to pay a guest worker a wage higher than the highest of federal, state, or local minimum wage rates.

The bill places limitations on when guest workers may receive civil legal assistance for low-income individuals.

Employer-provided housing shall be governed generally by USDA regulations, where currently such housing must meet applicable federal, state, or local standards. Employers shall not have to provide housing to workers who can reasonably return to their permanent residence within the same day.

An employer may file a civil action to recover transportation costs from a guest worker who absconds from a contract.

Actions Timeline

- **Aug 6, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
- **Jul 15, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce.
- **Jul 12, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 12, 2019:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.