

HR 3940

Protection of Children Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Jul 24, 2019

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security. (Aug 15, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/3940>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Carter, John R. [R-TX-31]

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

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred To	Jul 24, 2019
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Aug 15, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 574	Related bill	Feb 25, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
116 HR 586	Related bill	Feb 25, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

Protection of Children Act of 2019

This bill requires the removal of unaccompanied alien children in certain instances and amends related provisions.

An immigration officer must return an unaccompanied child apprehended at a land border to the child's country of nationality or last habitual residence if the child (1) is not a victim of severe trafficking, and (2) does not have a credible fear of persecution. Currently, an immigration officer may return the child only if such criteria is met and the child is from a contiguous country and able to make an independent decision to withdraw a petition for admission into the United States.

If the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has determined that an unaccompanied child is a victim of severe trafficking or has a credible fear of persecution and DHS seeks to remove that child, removal proceedings with a hearing before an immigration judge shall be held within 14 days of the determination. Such a child shall have access to counsel, to the greatest extent practicable, and at no expense to the government. (Currently, the statute does not prohibit the government from bearing the expenses for such counsel.)

The bill extends and removes certain deadlines for transferring an unaccompanied alien child to Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) custody.

HHS, before placing a child with an individual, shall provide DHS with certain information about the individual. If the individual's immigration status is unknown, DHS shall investigate and initiate removal proceedings if the individual is unlawfully present.

Actions Timeline

- **Aug 15, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
- **Jul 24, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 24, 2019:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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.

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