

## S 4026

### Expanding Vital American Citizen Services Overseas (EVACS) Act of 2020

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** International Affairs

**Introduced:** Jun 22, 2020

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

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (Jun 22, 2020)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4026>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** MA • **Chamber:** Senate

## Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jun 22, 2020
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Jun 22, 2020

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 22, 2020

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

International Affairs

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 6595	Identical bill	Apr 22, 2020: Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

## **Expanding Vital American Citizen Services Overseas (EVACS) Act of 2020**

This bill establishes requirements for the Department of State to expand American Citizen Services at U.S. embassies, consulates, and missions worldwide during the COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) pandemic.

American Citizen Services are the range of services provided by the State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs, such as emergency passports, consular reports of birth abroad, emergency financial assistance, and repatriation.

The State Department must petition the government of any country that closes borders and airspace or establishes travel restrictions due to COVID-19 to make provisions with the appropriate U.S. consular service in that country to ensure U.S. citizens, nationals, lawful permanent residents, or the immediate family members of such persons can travel to U.S. government evacuation points or access commercial travel. The State Department must also waive or reimburse certain repatriation travel expenses incurred due to COVID-19.

Further, the State Department must

- provide U.S. embassies, consulates, and other diplomatic missions with explicit guidance to protect American lives abroad during the COVID-19 pandemic,
- increase certain consular affairs staffing,
- develop a comprehensive plan for COVID-19 infection risk mitigation procedures for all persons under chief of mission authority at overseas posts,
- regularly report on the Bureau of Consular Affairs' response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and
- prioritize regular and continued hiring of Foreign Service officers and specialists.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jun 22, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 22, 2020:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.