

## S 4595

A bill to temporarily extend the period of validity of J-1 visas issued to employees and contractors of the United States Agency for Global Media and its broadcasting networks.

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Immigration

**Introduced:** Sep 16, 2020

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

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sep 16, 2020)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4595>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]

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

### Cosponsors

*No cosponsors are listed for this bill.*

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Sep 16, 2020

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Immigration

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

### Summary (as of Sep 16, 2020)

This bill provides an automatic extension for certain J-1 (exchange visitor) visas if the visa holder has a contract or employment agreement with the U.S. Agency for Global Media, the agency that operates U.S. government media outlets such as Voice of America and Radio Free Asia.

Specifically, if such a J-1 visa expires during the two-month period before this bill's enactment or the 90-day period after, the visa shall remain valid until the end of the 90-day period. The Department of Homeland Security may deny an extension on a case-by-case basis if it (1) determines that extending a particular visa would pose a national security risk, and (2) explains the reasons for the determination to Congress.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Sep 16, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
- **Sep 16, 2020:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.