HR 5327

RELIEF Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)
Chamber: House
Policy Area: Immigration
Introduced: Dec 5, 2019
Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship. (Jan 30, 2020)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5327

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Shalala, Donna E. [D-FL-27]
Party: Democratic • **State:** FL • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Wasserman Schultz, Debbie [D-FL-23]	D · FL		Dec 5, 2019
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]	D · IL		Mar 9, 2020
Rep. Mucarsel-Powell, Debbie [D-FL-26]	D · FL		Mar 13, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Jan 30, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 1044	Related bill	**Dec 3, 2020:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
116 S 2603	Identical bill	**Oct 16, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text: CR S5843-5845)
116 S 386	Related bill	**Feb 7, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Summary (as of Dec 5, 2019)

Resolving Extended Limbo for Immigrant Employees and Families Act or the RELIEF Act

This bill revises provisions related to family- and employment-based visas.

The bill (1) increases the per-country cap on family-based immigrant visas from 7% of the total number of such visas available that year to 15%, (2) eliminates the 7% cap for employment-based immigrant visas, and (3) removes an offset that reduced the number of visas for individuals from China. The annual cap for visas for the unmarried children of citizens is increased, and the formula for calculating the cap for the unmarried children of residents is revised.

The bill also establishes transition rules for employment-based visas from FY2020-FY2022, by reserving a percentage of EB-2 (workers with advanced degrees or exceptional ability), EB-3 (skilled and other workers), and EB-5 (investors) visas for individuals not from the two countries with the largest number of recipients of such visas. Of the unreserved visas, not more than 85% shall be allotted to immigrants from any single country.

The Department of State shall increase allocations of family- and employment-based visas by the number of beneficiaries of such applications filed before this bill's enactment, to be allocated FY2020-FY2024 to beneficiaries of applications filed before this bill's enactment who have not yet received a visa.

The minor children and spouses of permanent residents and those accompanying a qualified alien shall be treated as an immediate relative for immigration purposes. Whether an alien qualifies as a minor shall be determined according to the alien's age at the time a relevant petition is filed.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 30, 2020:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
- **Dec 5, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Dec 5, 2019:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

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