

HR 6595

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

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Apr 22, 2020

Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. (Apr 22, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/6595>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Castro, Joaquin [D-TX-20]

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

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred To	Apr 22, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 S 4026	Identical bill	Jun 22, 2020: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

- **Apr 22, 2020:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 22, 2020:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.