

## HR 8954

### Seasonal Worker Solidarity Act of 2020

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Immigration

**Introduced:** Dec 14, 2020

**Current Status:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. (Dec 14, 2020)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/8954>

## Sponsor

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

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

## Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Bass, Karen [D-CA-37]	D · CA		Dec 14, 2020
Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]	D · CA		Dec 14, 2020
Rep. DeLauro, Rosa L. [D-CT-3]	D · CT		Dec 14, 2020
Rep. Jayapal, Pramila [D-WA-7]	D · WA		Dec 14, 2020
Rep. Levin, Andy [D-MI-9]	D · MI		Dec 14, 2020
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Dec 14, 2020
Rep. Sánchez, Linda T. [D-CA-38]	D · CA		Dec 14, 2020

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	Dec 14, 2020

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Immigration

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 5225	Related bill	Dec 19, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
116 S 2929	Related bill	Nov 21, 2019: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## **Seasonal Worker Solidarity Act of 2020**

This bill modifies the H-2B (temporary nonagricultural workers) visa program and expands protections for aliens who report workplace violations.

Changes to the H-2B program include

- requiring the Department of Labor to establish a centralized national electronic platform for U.S. workers to find and apply for positions that employers are seeking to fill with H-2B workers;
- requiring employers to recruit U.S. workers nationwide, including by posting the openings on the platform, before applying for H-2B visas;
- requiring employers to guarantee at least 40 hours of paid work per week for each H-2B worker (currently employers may guarantee less paid hours in certain instances);
- requiring employers to pay for housing for H-2B workers and transportation to and from the work site (currently employers are allowed to deduct fees for lodgings from an H-2B worker's pay);
- modifying the requirements for determining the minimum wage for H-2B workers; and
- prioritizing H-2B visas for certain employers, such as those that pay higher wages.

Furthermore, an alien who has worked a certain amount of time as an H-2B worker may obtain permanent resident status, subject to various requirements.

In addition, an alien who is likely helpful in an investigation of a workplace claim (i.e., an alleged violation of law or workplace-related injury) may qualify for a U visa for victims of criminal activity. The bill also removes statutory numerical limitations on U visas.

The bill also provides protections for certain aliens who file or assist in the investigation of workplace claims.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Dec 14, 2020:** Introduced in House
- **Dec 14, 2020:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.