

S 1550

Foreign Service Families Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: May 11, 2021

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (May 11, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1550>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]

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

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		May 11, 2021
Sen. Sullivan, Dan [R-AK]	R · AK		May 11, 2021
Sen. Young, Todd [R-IN]	R · IN		May 11, 2021
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jul 21, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 11, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 4306	Related bill	Jul 1, 2021: Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Reform, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

Foreign Service Families Act of 2021

This bill increases access to career and educational opportunities for eligible family members of foreign service employees.

Specifically, the Department of State must use additional hiring preferences and apply appropriate hiring standards to eligible family members seeking employment in certain civil service positions overseas. Additionally, the State Department may take other steps to improve job portability and otherwise support employment of eligible family members who work in the federal civil service or private sector jobs. The State Department must also report on the implementation of the Foreign Service Family Reserve Corps, a program that expedites hiring and onboarding processes for family members who are eligible for appointment to positions overseas.

Furthermore, each federal agency must include in its telework policy the circumstances under which an employee may temporarily work from an approved location overseas.

The bill also makes foreign service employees (or their spouses and dependent children) who are domiciled or assigned to a duty station in a given state eligible for in-state tuition at public institutions of higher education in that state. Such individuals retain their eligibility for in-state tuition provided they maintain continuous enrollment even if their domicile or duty station changes. Additionally, the bill entitles members of the Foreign Service who are posted abroad to terminate residential and motor vehicle leases and telephone service contracts without being subject to early termination fees.

Actions Timeline

- **May 11, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
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