

S 348

U.S. Citizenship Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Feb 22, 2021

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Feb 22, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/348>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]

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

Cosponsors (26 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE]	D · DE		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Hickenlooper, John W. [D-CO]	D · CO		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM]	D · NM		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Mar 1, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 22, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 3493	Related bill	Nov 1, 2022: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
117 HR 5517	Related bill	Nov 1, 2022: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
117 S 2954	Related bill	Oct 7, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S7001)
117 S 1514	Related bill	Apr 29, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
117 S 1515	Related bill	Apr 29, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
117 HR 1177	Identical bill	Apr 28, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

Summary (as of Feb 22, 2021)

U.S. Citizenship Act

This bill establishes a path to citizenship for certain undocumented individuals. The bill also replaces the term *alien* with *noncitizen* in the immigration statutes and addresses other related issues.

Specifically, the bill establishes a new status of *lawful prospective immigrant*. This status shall be available to an applying noncitizen who meets certain requirements, including being continually present in the United States from January 1, 2021, and passing background checks. After at least five years with this status, an eligible noncitizen may apply for and receive permanent resident status.

The bill also provides permanent resident status to certain applying noncitizens, specifically for eligible noncitizens who (1) entered the United States as a minor, (2) were eligible for temporary protected status or deferred enforced departure on January 1, 2017, or (3) worked a certain amount of agricultural labor in the five years prior to applying.

Among other things, the bill also

- redefines for immigration purposes the term *conviction* to exclude convictions that have been expunged or vacated,
- requires the Department of State to implement a strategy to advance reforms in Central America and address key factors contributing to migration from the region to the United States,
- requires the State Department to establish refugee processing centers in Central America,
- requires Customs and Border Patrol sectors and stations to have a certain number of employees with certain qualifications such as paramedic training,
- generally prohibits religious discrimination in granting or denying immigration benefits, and
- establishes grant programs for providing training and services to immigrants.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 22, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 22, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.