

S 495

Prioritizing Help to Businesses Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Mar 1, 2021

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text: CR S956)

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text: CR S956) (Mar 1, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/495>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]

Party: Republican • **State:** SD • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|--------------------------|---------------|------|-------------|
| Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD] | R · SD | | Mar 3, 2021 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|---------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|
| Judiciary Committee | Senate | Referred To | Mar 1, 2021 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Mar 1, 2021)

Prioritizing Help to Businesses Act

This bill authorizes additional H-2B visas for temporary nonagricultural workers in states with relatively low unemployment. Currently, such visas are capped nationally at 66,000 a year.

For positions in states that had a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3.5% or lower in at least three of the six most recent Bureau of Labor Statistics monthly reports issued in the previous fiscal half year, a certain number of H-2B visas may be issued that do not count against the 66,000 per year cap. For such exempted H-2B visas, a state may receive each year no more than 125% of the number of visas for aliens working in the state in the last completed fiscal year or 2,500, whichever is less.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 1, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 1, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text: CR S956)