

HR 78

Legal Workforce Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Jan 4, 2021

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship. (Mar 1, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/78>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Calvert, Ken [R-CA-42]

Party: Republican • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (23 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Allen, Rick W. [R-GA-12]	R · GA		Jan 4, 2021
Rep. Babin, Brian [R-TX-36]	R · TX		Jan 4, 2021
Rep. Brooks, Mo [R-AL-5]	R · AL		Jan 4, 2021
Rep. Chabot, Steve [R-OH-1]	R · OH		Jan 4, 2021
Rep. Duncan, Jeff [R-SC-3]	R · SC		Jan 4, 2021
Rep. Lesko, Debbie [R-AZ-8]	R · AZ		Jan 4, 2021
Rep. Bucshon, Larry [R-IN-8]	R · IN		Jan 28, 2021
Rep. Burgess, Michael C. [R-TX-26]	R · TX		Jan 28, 2021
Rep. Hice, Jody B. [R-GA-10]	R · GA		Jan 28, 2021
Rep. Norman, Ralph [R-SC-5]	R · SC		Jan 28, 2021
Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]	R · NJ		Jan 28, 2021
Rep. Carter, John R. [R-TX-31]	R · TX		Mar 2, 2021
Rep. Good, Bob [R-VA-5]	R · VA		Mar 8, 2021
Rep. Nehls, Troy E. [R-TX-22]	R · TX		Mar 8, 2021
Rep. Rice, Tom [R-SC-7]	R · SC		Mar 8, 2021
Rep. Miller-Meeks, Mariannette [R-IA-2]	R · IA		Mar 18, 2022
Rep. Obernolte, Jay [R-CA-8]	R · CA		Mar 18, 2022
Rep. Rutherford, John H. [R-FL-4]	R · FL		Mar 18, 2022
Rep. Gosar, Paul A. [R-AZ-4]	R · AZ		Mar 30, 2022
Rep. Hartzler, Vicky [R-MO-4]	R · MO		May 31, 2022
Rep. Womack, Steve [R-AR-3]	R · AR		Jul 12, 2022
Rep. Miller, Mary E. [R-IL-15]	R · IL		Aug 30, 2022
Rep. Harris, Andy [R-MD-1]	R · MD		Oct 7, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred To	Jan 4, 2021
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 1, 2021
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Jan 4, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 6637	Related bill	Nov 1, 2022: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

Summary (as of Jan 4, 2021)

Legal Workforce Act

This bill directs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to create an electronic employment eligibility confirmation system modeled after and to replace the E-Verify system, which allows employers and recruiters to verify the immigration status of individuals. The bill also mandates the use of such a system, where currently only some employers, such as those with federal contracts, are required to use E-Verify.

The bill specifies documents that can establish an individual's identity and employment authorization. During the period starting when a job offer is made until three business days after hiring, the individual must attest to his or her employment authorization, and the employer or recruiter must attest that it has examined the individual's required documents.

Employers shall reverify certain types of employees who were not previously verified using E-verify.

The Social Security Administration shall notify employees if their Social Security number has been used multiple times in an unusual manner. DHS shall establish programs for blocking and suspending misused numbers.

Employers that are required to use the verification system shall not be liable for any employment-related action based on a good-faith reliance on the information from the system.

The bill establishes a phased-in participation deadline for different categories of employers, including agricultural employers.

The bill increases civil penalties related to hiring individuals without work authorization. It also preempts state laws relating to hiring and employment eligibility verification, but states may use their authority of business licensing to penalize employers for failing to comply with the bill's provisions.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 1, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
- **Jan 4, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 4, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Social Security.
- **Jan 4, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, 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.