

# S 1392

Citizenship for Essential Workers Act

**Congress:** 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Immigration

**Introduced:** May 1, 2023

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure:

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S1442-1443) (May 1, 2023)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1392>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]

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

## Cosponsors (13 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		May 1, 2023
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		May 1, 2023
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		May 1, 2023
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		May 1, 2023
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		May 1, 2023
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		May 1, 2023
Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM]	D · NM		May 1, 2023
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		May 1, 2023
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		May 1, 2023
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		May 1, 2023
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		May 1, 2023
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		May 1, 2023
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		May 3, 2023

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 1, 2023

## Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Immigration

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 3043	Identical bill	<b>May 2, 2023:</b> Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.
118 HR 3050	Related bill	<b>May 2, 2023:</b> Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.
118 S 1343	Related bill	<b>Apr 27, 2023:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S1421)

## Summary (as of May 1, 2023)

### Citizenship for Essential Workers Act

This bill establishes a mechanism for eligible non-U.S. nationals (*aliens* under federal law) who worked as essential workers during the declared COVID-19 public health emergency to apply for and obtain lawful permanent resident status (sometimes referred to as a green card). The bill also narrows certain grounds for deportability and inadmissibility.

To be eligible for a green card under this bill, an individual must have earned income at any point during the COVID-19 emergency period doing work deemed essential by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) or a state or local government. An individual may also be eligible if that individual is a parent, spouse, or child of (1) an eligible individual who died from COVID-19, or (2) a member of the Armed Forces. Certain individuals shall be ineligible, such as an individual who was a refugee on January 1, 2023.

To obtain a green card under this bill, an applying individual must satisfy additional requirements, including by passing a background check.

Furthermore, the bill repeals provisions providing for three-year bars and permanent bars to admission into the United States. (Generally, these bars apply to individuals who were previously removed or unlawfully present.)

The bill also narrows the scope of certain crime-based grounds for inadmissibility or deportability, such as by redefining the term *conviction* to exclude expunged convictions.

The Department of Justice or DHS may waive certain grounds of inadmissibility or deportability (1) for humanitarian purposes, (2) to ensure family unity, or (3) for the public interest.

### Actions Timeline

- **May 1, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 1, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S1442-1443)