

S 1887

GRATEFUL Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Jun 8, 2023

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Jun 8, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1887>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Jun 8, 2023
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Jul 27, 2023
Sen. Ricketts, Pete [R-NE]	R · NE		Jul 27, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 8, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 5982	Identical bill	Oct 25, 2023: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.
118 S 2226	Related bill	Jul 27, 2023: Senate ordered measure printed as passed.

Granting Recognition to Accomplished Talented Employees For Unwavering Loyalty Act or the GRATEFUL Act

This bill makes additional visas available under a program that provides special immigrant visas to eligible foreign nationals who were employed by the U.S. government abroad. The bill also modifies a provision that reduces the number of diversity immigrant visas available each fiscal year.

Generally, under this program, a foreign national (and their spouse and children) may receive a special immigrant visa if (1) the foreign national has been employed by the U.S. government abroad for at least 15 years, and (2) the Department of State has found that it is in the national interest to award the visa. There are a limited number of such visas available each fiscal year.

Specifically, this bill makes additional special immigrant visas available if no visas are immediately available. Up to 3,500 additional visas shall be made available for FY2024, and up to 3,000 shall be made available in each subsequent fiscal year.

The bill also modifies a provision related to the annual cap on diversity immigrant visas (i.e., visas awarded to nationals of countries with low rates of immigration to the United States). Current law reduces the number of such visas available each fiscal year based in part on the number of visas awarded under another program. Under this bill, the reduction in the number of diversity immigrant visas shall also take into consideration the number of special immigrant visas awarded under this bill.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 8, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 8, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.