

HR 4319

Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Jun 23, 2023

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Social Security.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Social Security. (Dec 17, 2024)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/4319>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-18]

Party: Democratic • State: CA • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (22 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Carbajal, Salud O. [D-CA-24]	D · CA		Jun 23, 2023
Rep. Costa, Jim [D-CA-21]	D · CA		Jun 23, 2023
Rep. Cuellar, Henry [D-TX-28]	D · TX		Jun 23, 2023
Rep. Duarte, John S. [R-CA-13]	R · CA		Jun 23, 2023
Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-12]	D · NY		Jun 23, 2023
Rep. Newhouse, Dan [R-WA-4]	R · WA		Jun 23, 2023
Rep. Panetta, Jimmy [D-CA-19]	D · CA		Jun 23, 2023
Rep. Simpson, Michael K. [R-ID-2]	R · ID		Jun 23, 2023
Rep. Valadao, David G. [R-CA-22]	R · CA		Jun 23, 2023
Rep. Correa, J. Luis [D-CA-46]	D · CA		Oct 12, 2023
Rep. Harder, Josh [D-CA-9]	D · CA		Oct 12, 2023
Rep. Schrier, Kim [D-WA-8]	D · WA		Oct 12, 2023
Rep. Slotkin, Elissa [D-MI-7]	D · MI		Oct 12, 2023
Rep. Spanberger, Abigail Davis [D-VA-7]	D · VA		Oct 12, 2023
Rep. Chavez-DeRemer, Lori [R-OR-5]	R · OR		Jan 29, 2024
Rep. McMorris Rodgers, Cathy [R-WA-5]	R · WA		Apr 12, 2024
Rep. Stanton, Greg [D-AZ-4]	D · AZ		Apr 12, 2024
Rep. Houlahan, Chrissy [D-PA-6]	D · PA		Aug 20, 2024
Rep. Casten, Sean [D-IL-6]	D · IL		Oct 25, 2024
Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-28]	D · CA		Oct 25, 2024
Rep. Larsen, Rick [D-WA-2]	D · WA		Dec 10, 2024
Rep. Craig, Angie [D-MN-2]	D · MN		Dec 16, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred To	Jun 23, 2023
Financial Services Committee	House	Referred To	Jun 23, 2023
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	Jun 23, 2023
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Dec 17, 2024

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 S 4069	Related bill	Mar 22, 2024: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
118 S 1490	Related bill	May 9, 2023: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2023

This bill addresses issues relating to visas for farmworkers, including provisions establishing a certified agricultural worker (CAW) status and changing the H-2A temporary worker program.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) may grant CAW status to an applying non-U.S. national (*alien* under federal law) who (1) performed at least 1,035 hours of agricultural labor during the two-year period prior to June 23, 2023; (2) on that date was inadmissible, deportable, or under a grant of deferred enforced departure or temporary protected status; and (3) has been continuously present in the United States from that date until receiving CAW status. The bill imposes additional crime-related inadmissibility grounds on CAW applicants and makes some other grounds inapplicable.

CAW status shall be valid for 5.5 years and may be extended. The applicant's spouse or children may receive CAW dependent status.

A CAW applicant may not be detained or removed by DHS and shall be authorized for employment until DHS makes a final decision on the application.

A CAW status recipient (and dependents) may apply for lawful permanent resident status (sometimes known as a green card) after meeting various requirements, including performing a certain amount of agricultural labor for a number of years.

The bill also makes various changes to the H-2A program, such as (1) modifying the method for calculating and making adjustments to the H-2A worker minimum wage, (2) specifying how an employer may satisfy requirements that it attempted to recruit U.S. workers, (3) requiring H-2A employers to guarantee certain minimum work hours, (4) making the program available for agricultural work that is not temporary or seasonal, and (5) reserving a visa allocation for the dairy industry.

DHS shall establish a pilot program allowing certain H-2A workers to apply for portable status, which gives the worker 60 days after leaving a position to secure new employment with a registered H-2A employer.

DHS must also establish an electronic system patterned on the E-Verify Program for employers to verify an individual's identity and employment authorization. Employers hiring individuals for agricultural employment must use the system.

This bill permanently establishes the Housing Preservation and Revitalization Program, which provides financing assistance for rural rental housing and off-farm labor housing and rental assistance for qualified tenants of such housing. It also authorizes the Department of Agriculture to provide various assistance, including funding for insuring loans and grants for new farmworker housing.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 17, 2024:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Social Security.
- **Jun 23, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 23, 2023:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and the Workforce, and Financial Services, 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.