

HR 6610

Passport System Reform and Backlog Prevention Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Dec 6, 2023

Current Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (Mar 20, 2024)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/6610>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Issa, Darrell E. [R-CA-48]

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

Cosponsors (34 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Salazar, Maria Elvira [R-FL-27]	R · FL		Dec 6, 2023
Rep. Costa, Jim [D-CA-21]	D · CA		Jan 12, 2024
Rep. Davidson, Warren [R-OH-8]	R · OH		Jan 12, 2024
Rep. Lawler, Michael [R-NY-17]	R · NY		Jan 12, 2024
Rep. Williams, Nikema [D-GA-5]	D · GA		Jan 12, 2024
Rep. Adams, Alma S. [D-NC-12]	D · NC		Jan 30, 2024
Rep. Collins, Mike [R-GA-10]	R · GA		Jan 30, 2024
Rep. Porter, Katie [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Jan 30, 2024
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Jan 30, 2024
Rep. Schneider, Bradley Scott [D-IL-10]	D · IL		Jan 30, 2024
Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1]	D · NV		Jan 30, 2024
Rep. Van Orden, Derrick [R-WI-3]	R · WI		Jan 30, 2024
Rep. Williams, Brandon [R-NY-22]	R · NY		Jan 30, 2024
Rescom. González-Colón, Jenniffer [R-PR-At Large]	R · PR		Jan 30, 2024
Rep. Garcia, Jesus G. "Chuy" [D-IL-4]	D · IL		Feb 5, 2024
Rep. Hudson, Richard [R-NC-9]	R · NC		Feb 5, 2024
Rep. Jayapal, Pramila [D-WA-7]	D · WA		Feb 5, 2024
Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6]	D · NY		Feb 5, 2024
Rep. Scholten, Hillary J. [D-MI-3]	D · MI		Feb 5, 2024
Rep. Williams, Roger [R-TX-25]	R · TX		Feb 5, 2024
Rep. Higgins, Clay [R-LA-3]	R · LA		Feb 13, 2024
Rep. Smucker, Lloyd [R-PA-11]	R · PA		Feb 13, 2024
Rep. Chavez-DeRemer, Lori [R-OR-5]	R · OR		Feb 23, 2024
Rep. Ciscomani, Juan [R-AZ-6]	R · AZ		Feb 23, 2024
Rep. Gottheimer, Josh [D-NJ-5]	D · NJ		Feb 23, 2024
Rep. Allred, Colin Z. [D-TX-32]	D · TX		Feb 28, 2024
Rep. Kamlager-Dove, Sydney [D-CA-37]	D · CA		Feb 28, 2024
Rep. Kean, Thomas H. [R-NJ-7]	R · NJ		Feb 29, 2024
Rep. Turner, Michael R. [R-OH-10]	R · OH		Mar 1, 2024
Rep. Castro, Joaquin [D-TX-20]	D · TX		Mar 13, 2024
Rep. Houlahan, Chrissy [D-PA-6]	D · PA		Mar 15, 2024
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Mar 19, 2024
Rep. Blunt Rochester, Lisa [D-DE-At Large]	D · DE		Mar 19, 2024
Rep. LaLota, Nick [R-NY-1]	R · NY		Mar 19, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Markup By	Dec 13, 2023
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 20, 2024

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Dec 6, 2023)

Passport System Reform and Backlog Prevention Act

This bill addresses issues related to the passport issuance process, including by providing the Department of State with emergency hiring authorities.

Under this bill, the State Department may hire additional personal services contractors to meet the exigent needs of the Bureau of Consular Affairs from FY2024 through FY2026. The State Department may have up to 100 such positions at any given time, and such positions may not be for longer than two years.

Furthermore, the bureau must award or expand contracts to implement certain information technology (IT) programs. Specifically, these contracts shall be to (1) provide a digital dashboard to congressional offices to track individual passport applications; (2) establish a program to provide automated messages and notifications to passport applicants, such as notifications of application errors; (3) establish a mobile application to allow passport applicants to communicate with the State Department and submit documents; (4) expand the online passport renewal system to also accommodate routine first-time adult passport applications; and (5) provide rules-based tools to screen online passport renewal applications with no changed biographical information against commercial databases.

The bureau must also solicit the private sector for proposals about commercially available technologies that may improve the passport issuance process.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) must report to Congress a comprehensive review of the passport issuance process, including opportunities to enhance the process. The bureau must periodically report to Congress on its progress in implementing the GAO's recommendations.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 20, 2024:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
- **Mar 19, 2024:** Mrs. Wagner moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Mar 19, 2024:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H1198-1201)
- **Mar 19, 2024:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 6610.
- **Mar 19, 2024:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H1198-1200)
- **Mar 19, 2024:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H1198-1200)
- **Mar 19, 2024:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Dec 13, 2023:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held
- **Dec 13, 2023:** Ordered to be Reported in the Nature of a Substitute (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 46 - 0.
- **Dec 6, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Dec 6, 2023:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.