

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2237

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the President to set a minimum annual goal for the number of refugees to be admitted, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 2021

Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. NADLER, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. COOPER, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RUSH, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. WELCH, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. YARMUTH, and Ms. TLAIB) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the President to set a minimum annual goal for the number of refugees to be admitted, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Guaranteed Refugee
3 Admission Ceiling Enhancement Act” or the “GRACE
4 Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. ADMISSION OF REFUGEES.**

6 Section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act
7 (8 U.S.C. 1157) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a)—

9 (A) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and
10 inserting the following:

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in sub-
12 section (b), the number of refugees who may be ad-
13 mitted under this section in any fiscal year shall be
14 such number as the President determines is—

15 “(A) justified by humanitarian concerns or
16 otherwise in the national interest; and

17 “(B) not fewer than 125,000.

18 “(2) ABSENCE OF DETERMINATION.—If the
19 President does not issue a determination under
20 paragraph (1) before the beginning of a fiscal year,
21 the number of refugees who may be admitted under
22 this section shall be 125,000.”;

23 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and
24 (4) as paragraphs (4) and (7), respectively;

25 (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
26 following:

1 “(3) NUMERICAL GOALS.—Each officer of the
2 Federal Government responsible for refugee admis-
3 sions or refugee resettlement shall treat as the nu-
4 merical goals for refugee admissions under this sec-
5 tion for the applicable fiscal year—

6 “(A)(i) a determination under paragraph
7 (1); or

8 “(ii) in the absence of a determination
9 under paragraph (1), the number under para-
10 graph (2); and

11 “(B) a determination under subsection
12 (b).”; and

13 (D) by inserting after paragraph (4), as
14 redesignated, the following:

15 “(5) CONSIDERATION OF RESETTLEMENT
16 NEEDS.—In making a determination under para-
17 graph (1), the President shall consider the number
18 of refugees who, during the calendar year beginning
19 immediately after the beginning of the applicable fis-
20 cal year, are in need of resettlement in a third coun-
21 try, as determined by the United Nations High
22 Commissioner for Refugees in the most recently
23 published projected global resettlement needs report.

1 “(6) REGIONAL ALLOCATIONS.—The President
2 shall determine regional allocations for admissions
3 under this subsection, which shall—

4 “(A) consider the projected needs identi-
5 fied by the United Nations High Commissioner
6 for Refugees in the projected global resettle-
7 ment needs report for the calendar year begin-
8 ning immediately after the beginning of the ap-
9 plicable fiscal year; and

10 “(B) include an unallocated reserve that
11 the Secretary of State, after notifying the Com-
12 mittee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the
13 Committee on the Judiciary of the House of
14 Representatives, may use for 1 or more regions
15 in which the need for additional refugee admis-
16 sions arises.”; and

17 (2) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(g) QUARTERLY REPORTS ON ADMISSIONS.—Not
19 later than 15 days after the last day of each quarter, the
20 President shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary
21 of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the
22 House of Representatives a report that includes the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(1) REFUGEES ADMITTED.—

1 “(A) The number of refugees admitted to
2 the United States during the preceding quarter.

3 “(B) The number of refugees admitted to
4 the United States during the preceding quarter,
5 expressed as a percentage of the number of ref-
6 ugees authorized to be admitted in accordance
7 with the determinations under subsections (a)
8 and (b) for the applicable fiscal year.

9 “(C) The cumulative number of refugees
10 admitted to the United States during the appli-
11 cable fiscal year, as of the last day of the pre-
12 ceding quarter.

13 “(D) The number of refugees to be admit-
14 ted to the United States during the remainder
15 of the applicable fiscal year so as to achieve the
16 numerical goals set forth in the determinations
17 under subsections (a) and (b) for such fiscal
18 year.

19 “(E) The number of refugees from each
20 region admitted to the United States during the
21 preceding quarter, expressed as a percentage of
22 the allocation for each region under subsection
23 (a)(6) for the applicable fiscal year.

24 “(2) ALIENS WITH SECURITY ADVISORY OPIN-
25 IONS.—

“(A) The number of aliens, by nationality, for whom a Security Advisory Opinion has been requested who were security-cleared during the preceding quarter, expressed as a percentage of all cases successfully adjudicated by the Director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in the applicable fiscal year.

“(B) The number of aliens, by nationality, for whom a Security Advisory Opinion has been requested who were admitted to the United States during the preceding quarter.

“(3) CIRCUIT RIDES.—

“(A) For the preceding quarter—

“(i) the number of Refugee Corps officers deployed on circuit rides, expressed as a percentage of the overall number of Refugee Corps officers;

“(ii) the number of individuals interviewed—

“(I) on each circuit ride; and

“(II) at each circuit ride location;

“(iii) the number of circuit rides; and

“(iv) for each circuit ride—

“(I) the duration of the circuit ride;

1 “(II) the average number of
2 interviews conducted daily on the cir-
3 cuit ride; and

4 “(III) the percentages of inter-
5 views conducted for—

6 “(aa) individuals who re-
7 quire Security Advisory Opinions;
8 and

9 “(bb) individuals who do not
10 require Security Advisory Opin-
11 ions.

12 “(B) For the subsequent quarter—

13 “(i) the number of circuit rides sched-
14 uled; and

15 “(ii) the number of circuit rides
16 planned.

17 “(4) PROCESSING.—For the preceding quar-
18 ter—

19 “(A) the average number of days be-
20 tween—

21 “(i) the date on which an individual is
22 identified by the United States Govern-
23 ment as a refugee; and

1 “(ii) the date on which such individual
2 is interviewed by the Secretary of Home-
3 land Security;

4 “(B) the average number of days be-
5 tween—

6 “(i) the date on which an individual
7 identified by the United States Govern-
8 ment as a refugee is interviewed by the
9 Secretary of Homeland Security; and

10 “(ii) the date on which such individual
11 is admitted to the United States; and

12 “(C) with respect to individuals identified
13 by the United States Government as refugees
14 who have been interviewed by the Secretary of
15 Homeland Security, the approval, denial, and
16 hold rates for the applications for admission of
17 such individuals, by nationality.

18 “(5) PLAN AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—

19 “(A) A plan that describes the procedural
20 or personnel changes necessary to ensure the
21 admission of the number of refugees authorized
22 to be admitted to the United States in accord-
23 ance with determinations under subsections (a)
24 and (b), including a projection of the number of
25 refugees to be admitted to the United States

1 each month so as to achieve the numerical goals
2 set forth in such determinations.

3 “(B) Additional information relating to the
4 pace of refugee admissions, as determined by
5 the President.

6 “(h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
7 tion may be construed—

8 “(1) to inhibit the expeditious processing of ref-
9 ugee and asylum applications; or

10 “(2) to restrict the authority of the Secretary of
11 Homeland Security to admit aliens to the United
12 States under any other Act.”.

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