

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3824

To provide assistance to Iraqi nationals who supported the United States,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 12, 2007

Mr. ISRAEL (for himself, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services and Foreign Affairs, 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

A BILL

To provide assistance to Iraqi nationals who supported the
United States, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Relocation Empower-
5 ment and Placement Assistance for Iraqi Refugees Act of
6 2007” or the “REPAIR Act of 2007”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The United States has relied on Iraqi na-
2 tionals who have risked their lives and worked dili-
3 gently side by side with United States and coalition
4 forces.

5 (2) The United States is grateful to these indi-
6 viduals for the risks they took in assisting the
7 United States and coalition forces.

8 (3) Many of these Iraqi nationals desire to
9 come to the United States to seek protection from
10 threats they face at home because of the work they
11 did for the United States.

12 (4) Special immigrant status is available in lim-
13 ited numbers to Iraqi nationals who have worked di-
14 rectly for the United States Armed Forces as trans-
15 lators.

16 (5) Special immigrant status allows translators
17 and their immediate families to gain admission to
18 the United States, apply for permanent residency,
19 and eventually acquire United States citizenship.

20 (6) Special immigrant status is not available,
21 however, to those individuals who otherwise assisted
22 United States efforts but who were not translators,
23 including cooks, drivers, guides, security personnel,
24 and mechanics.

1 (7) Currently, an individual who applies for
2 special immigrant status for service as a translator
3 is required to file form I-360 with the Nebraska
4 Service Center (NSC) of United States Citizenship
5 and Immigration Services for adjudication at a
6 United States diplomatic or consular post outside of
7 Iraq. The filing fee for the I-360 form is \$375.

8 (8) Iraqis are being forced to leave Iraq and
9 travel through potentially hostile territory to obtain
10 special immigrant status and visas.

11 (9) To apply for special immigrant status, an
12 applicant must provide a copy of the applicant's
13 passport or birth certificate showing the applicant is
14 a national of Iraq, provide proof from the United
15 States Armed Forces or United States Chief of Mis-
16 sion in Iraq that the applicant worked as a trans-
17 lator for the Armed Forces at least 12 months, pass
18 a background check and screening by the Armed
19 Forces or the Chief of Mission, provide a letter of
20 recommendation from the Chief of Mission, a gen-
21 eral, or a flag officer, and provide a copy of the
22 front and back of the applicant's Arrival Departure
23 Record (Form I-94) if the applicant applies in the
24 United States for such status.

1 **SEC. 3. STATEMENTS OF POLICY.**

2 The following shall be the policies of the United
3 States:

4 (1) To waive any filing or administrative fees in
5 connection with applications for special immigrant
6 status for those brave and committed Iraqi nationals
7 who have risked their lives to assist the United
8 States Armed Forces as translators.

9 (2) To allow Iraqis to apply for special immi-
10 grant status and visas in Iraq at the United States
11 Embassy in Baghdad and at the United States Con-
12 sulate in Irbil.

13 (3) To allow Iraqis working in any capacity
14 with the Armed Forces to apply for special immi-
15 grant status and visas for admission to the United
16 States in the same manner that Iraqi translators
17 currently can.

18 (4) To broaden domestic relocation assistance
19 to Iraqis to include housing credits, cultural coun-
20 seling, meetings with social workers, and advice on
21 how to work with schools and employment systems.

22 **SEC. 4. PROVISIONS RELATING TO SPECIAL IMMIGRANT**
23 **STATUS FOR IRAQI ALLIES OF THE UNITED**
24 **STATES.**

25 (a) **WAIVER OF FEES; PROVISION OF DOCUMENTA-**
26 **TION.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law or any

1 regulation, an alien described in subsection (b) of section
2 1059 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
3 Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 8 U.S.C. 1101 note),
4 as amended by this section, shall not be charged any filing,
5 administrative, or application fee in connection with an
6 application for, or issuance of, special immigrant status
7 and visa under such section. The Secretary of State shall
8 ensure that aliens described in such subsection who are
9 provided special immigrant status are provided with the
10 appropriate documentation to enter the United States.

11 (b) OTHER SERVICE ACCEPTABLE.—Section
12 1059(b)(1)(B) of the National Defense Authorization Act
13 for Fiscal Year 2006 is amended—

14 (1) by inserting “or with a United States con-
15 tractor,” before “as a translator”; and

16 (2) by inserting after “interpreter” the fol-
17 lowing: “or in any other capacity”.

18 (c) ADDITIONAL MILITARY OFFICERS ENTITLED TO
19 RECOMMEND NATIONALS OF IRAQ OR AFGHANISTAN FOR
20 SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS.—Section 1059(b)(1)(C) of
21 the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
22 2006 is amended by striking “a general or flag officer”
23 and inserting “an officer serving in or having the grade
24 of O–6 or higher”.

1 (d) PROCESSING FOR CERTAIN IRAQIS.—Notwith-
2 standing any other provision of law, the Secretary of State
3 shall make every effort to ensure that aliens applying for
4 special immigrant status and visas, and aliens applying
5 for refugee status and visas, may apply and interview for
6 admission to the United States as special immigrants or
7 as refugees, as the case may be, within Iraq in Baghdad
8 and in Irbil through in-country processing mechanisms,
9 including mailing applications to off-site locations.

10 (e) WAIVER OF NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—Notwith-
11 standing any other provision of law, including subsection
12 (c) of section 1059 of the National Defense Authorization
13 Act for Fiscal Year 2006, aliens provided special immi-
14 grant status and visas under such section shall not be
15 counted against any numerical limitation under sections
16 201(d), 202(a), or 203(b)(4) of the Immigration and Na-
17 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(d), 1152(a), and
18 1153(b)(4)).

19 **SEC. 5. PROGRAM AT THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
21 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
22 and the Secretary of State shall jointly establish and oper-
23 ate a program to offer employment to relocated Iraqi spe-
24 cial immigrants as translators, interpreters, and cultural

1 awareness instructors within the agencies of Federal Gov-
2 ernment.

3 (b) FUNDING.—The program established under sub-
4 section (a) shall be funded from the annual general oper-
5 ating budget of the Department of Defense.

6 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING ACCESS TO
7 CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—Nothing in this section may
8 be construed as affecting in any manner practices and pro-
9 cedures regarding the handling of or access to classified
10 information.

11 (d) INFORMATION SHARING.—The Secretary of De-
12 fense and the Secretary of State shall work with non-
13 governmental organizations to ensure that Iraqi special
14 immigrants are informed of the program established under
15 subsection (a).

16 (e) REPORT.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
18 after the date determined under subsection (a), the
19 Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State
20 shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-
21 mittees a report on the status of the program estab-
22 lished under such subsection and the number of full-
23 time employees of the Federal Government created
24 under such program.

1 (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
2 TEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “ap-
3 propriate congressional committees” means the fol-
4 lowing:

5 (A) In the House of Representatives:

6 (i) The Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7 (ii) The Committee on Homeland Se-
8 curity.

9 (iii) The Committee on the Judiciary.

10 (iv) The Committee on Appropria-
11 tions.

12 (B) In the Senate:

13 (i) The Committee on Foreign Rela-
14 tions.

15 (ii) The Committee on Homeland Se-
16 curity and Governmental Affairs.

17 (iii) The Committee on the Judiciary.

18 (iv) The Committee on Appropria-
19 tions.

20 **SEC. 6. SERVICES UPON ARRIVAL.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Aliens provided special immigrant
22 status and visas pursuant to section 4 shall be eligible for
23 the same resettlement assistance, programs, and benefits
24 as refugees admitted under section 207 of the Immigra-
25 tion and Naturalization Act (8 U.S.C. 1157). The Sec-

1 retary of of Health and Human Services, in cooperation
2 with the Secretary of State, shall work with nongovern-
3 mental organizations to provide such assistance, pro-
4 grams, and benefits and ensure that such aliens are re-
5 ferred to refugee resettlement agencies.

6 (b) **COMPUTER LITERACY AND VOCATIONAL TRAIN-**
7 **ING.**—The Secretary of State shall utilize existing pro-
8 grams of the Department of State and contracts between
9 the Department and nongovernmental organizations to
10 make available computer literacy programs and vocational
11 training programs to aliens provided special immigrant
12 status pursuant to section 4.

13 (c) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this sec-
14 tion shall be construed as requiring the cooperation of
15 nongovernmental organizations.

16 **SEC. 7. TRAINING AT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.**

17 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
18 ment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall establish
19 a program in the Department of State to provide instruc-
20 tion in English as a second language, vocational training,
21 computer training, employment services, and certain coun-
22 seling services for Iraqis admitted to the United States
23 as special immigrants.

1 **SEC. 8. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 It is the sense of Congress that the United States
3 should provide an orientation into life in the United States
4 for Iraqi special immigrants under this Act who are newly
5 admitted to the United States and should make all reason-
6 able efforts to provide temporary safe haven for aliens de-
7 scribed in section 4 who are applying for special immi-
8 grant status and visas if such aliens are in imminent dan-
9 ger in Iraq.

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