

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1088

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 9, 2019

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. DURBIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

1 **SEC. 2. ADMISSION OF REFUGEES.**

2 Section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act
3 (8 U.S.C. 1157) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) by striking paragraph (1);

6 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and
7 (4) as paragraphs (1) and (6), respectively;

8 (C) in paragraph (1), as redesignated—

9 (i) by striking “after fiscal year
10 1982”; and

11 (ii) by striking “is justified” and all
12 that follows through “interest.” and insert-
13 ing “is—

14 “(A) justified by humanitarian concerns or oth-
15 erwise in the national interest; and

16 “(B) not less than 95,000.

17 “(2) Each officer of the Federal Government respon-
18 sible for refugee admissions or refugee resettlement shall
19 treat a determination under paragraph (1) and subsection
20 (b) as the numerical goals for refugee admissions under
21 this section for the applicable fiscal year.”; and

22 (D) by inserting after paragraph (3) the
23 following:

24 “(4) In making a determination under paragraph (1),
25 the President shall consider the number of refugees who,
26 during the calendar year beginning immediately after the

1 beginning of the applicable fiscal year, are in need of reset-
 2 tlement in a third country, as determined by the United
 3 Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the most re-
 4 cently published projected global resettlement needs re-
 5 port.

6 “(5) The President shall determine regional alloca-
 7 tions for admissions under this subsection, which shall—

8 “(A) consider the projected needs identified by
 9 the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
 10 in the projected global resettlement needs report for
 11 the calendar year beginning immediately after the
 12 beginning of the applicable fiscal year; and

13 “(B) include an unallocated reserve that the
 14 Secretary of State, after notifying the Committee on
 15 the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on
 16 the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, may
 17 use for 1 or more regions in which the need for ad-
 18 ditional refugee admissions arises.”; and

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

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

1 “(1) REFUGEES ADMITTED.—

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

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

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

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

20 “(E) The number of refugees from each
21 region admitted to the United States during the
22 preceding quarter, expressed as a percentage of
23 the allocation for each region under subsection
24 (a)(5) for the applicable fiscal year.

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

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

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

14 “(3) CIRCUIT RIDES.—

15 “(A) For the preceding quarter—

16 “(i) the number of Refugee Corps of-
17 ficers deployed on circuit rides, expressed
18 as a percentage of the overall number of
19 Refugee Corps officers;

20 “(ii) the number of individuals inter-
21 viewed—

22 “(I) on each circuit ride; and

23 “(II) at each circuit ride location;

24 “(iii) the number of circuit rides; and

25 “(iv) for each circuit ride—

1 “(I) the duration of the circuit
2 ride;

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

6 “(III) the percentages of inter-
7 views conducted for—

8 “(aa) individuals who re-
9 quire Security Advisory Opinions;
10 and

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

14 “(B) For the subsequent quarter—

15 “(i) the number of circuit rides sched-
16 uled; and

17 “(ii) the number of circuit rides
18 planned.

19 “(4) PROCESSING.—For the preceding quar-
20 ter—

21 “(A) the average number of days be-
22 tween—

23 “(i) the date on which an individual is
24 identified by the United States Govern-
25 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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