

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7173

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.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 31, 2024

Ms. LOFGREN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## 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 paragraphs (1) and (2) and  
6 inserting the following:

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

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

13 “(B) not fewer than 125,000.

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

19 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and  
20 (4) as paragraphs (4) and (7), respectively;

21 (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the  
22 following:

23 “(3) NUMERICAL GOALS.—Each officer of the  
24 Federal Government responsible for refugee admis-  
25 sions or refugee resettlement shall treat as the nu-

1       merical goals for refugee admissions under this sec-  
2       tion for the applicable fiscal year—

3               “(A)(i) a determination under paragraph  
4               (1); or

5               “(ii) in the absence of a determination  
6               under paragraph (1), the number under para-  
7               graph (2); and

8               “(B) a determination under subsection  
9               (b).”; and

10              (D) by inserting after paragraph (4), as  
11              redesignated, the following:

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

21              “(6) REGIONAL ALLOCATIONS.—The President  
22              shall determine regional allocations for admissions  
23              under this subsection, which shall—

24                      “(A) consider the projected needs identi-  
25                      fied by the United Nations High Commissioner

1 for Refugees in the projected global resettle-  
2 ment needs report for the calendar year begin-  
3 ning immediately after the beginning of the ap-  
4 plicable fiscal year; and

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

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

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

19 “(1) REFUGEES ADMITTED.—

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

22 “(B) The number of refugees admitted to  
23 the United States during the preceding quarter,  
24 expressed as a percentage of the number of ref-  
25 ugees authorized to be admitted in accordance

1 with the determinations under subsections (a)  
2 and (b) for the applicable fiscal year.

3 “(C) The cumulative number of refugees  
4 admitted to the United States during the appli-  
5 cable fiscal year, as of the last day of the pre-  
6 ceding quarter.

7 “(D) The number of refugees to be admit-  
8 ted to the United States during the remainder  
9 of the applicable fiscal year so as to achieve the  
10 numerical goals set forth in the determinations  
11 under subsections (a) and (b) for such fiscal  
12 year.

13 “(E) The number of refugees from each  
14 region admitted to the United States during the  
15 preceding quarter, expressed as a percentage of  
16 the allocation for each region under subsection  
17 (a)(6) for the applicable fiscal year.

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

20 “(A) The number of aliens, by nationality,  
21 for whom a Security Advisory Opinion has been  
22 requested who were security-cleared during the  
23 preceding quarter, expressed as a percentage of  
24 all cases successfully adjudicated by the Direc-

1           tor of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration  
2           Services in the applicable fiscal year.

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

7           “(3) CIRCUIT RIDES.—

8           “(A) For the preceding quarter—

9           “(i) the number of Refugee Corps of-  
10          ficers deployed on circuit rides, expressed  
11          as a percentage of the overall number of  
12          Refugee Corps officers;

13          “(ii) the number of individuals inter-  
14          viewed—

15                  “(I) on each circuit ride; and

16                  “(II) at each circuit ride location;

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

18                  “(iv) for each circuit ride—

19                          “(I) the duration of the circuit  
20                          ride;

21                          “(II) the average number of  
22                          interviews conducted daily on the cir-  
23                          cuit ride; and

24                          “(III) the percentages of inter-  
25                          views conducted for—

1                   “(aa) individuals who re-  
2                   quire Security Advisory Opinions;  
3                   and

4                   “(bb) individuals who do not  
5                   require Security Advisory Opin-  
6                   ions.

7                   “(B) For the subsequent quarter—

8                   “(i) the number of circuit rides sched-  
9                   uled; and

10                  “(ii) the number of circuit rides  
11                  planned.

12                  “(4) PROCESSING.—For the preceding quar-  
13                  ter—

14                  “(A) the average number of days be-  
15                  tween—

16                  “(i) the date on which an individual is  
17                  identified by the United States Govern-  
18                  ment as a refugee; and

19                  “(ii) the date on which such individual  
20                  is interviewed by the Secretary of Home-  
21                  land Security;

22                  “(B) the average number of days be-  
23                  tween—

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

1           ment as a refugee is interviewed by the  
2           Secretary of Homeland Security; and

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

5           “(C) with respect to individuals identified  
6           by the United States Government as refugees  
7           who have been interviewed by the Secretary of  
8           Homeland Security, the approval, denial, and  
9           hold rates for the applications for admission of  
10          such individuals, by nationality.

11          “(5) PLAN AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—

12           “(A) A plan that describes the procedural  
13           or personnel changes necessary to ensure the  
14           admission of the number of refugees authorized  
15           to be admitted to the United States in accord-  
16           ance with determinations under subsections (a)  
17           and (b), including a projection of the number of  
18           refugees to be admitted to the United States  
19           each month so as to achieve the numerical goals  
20           set forth in such determinations.

21           “(B) Additional information relating to the  
22           pace of refugee admissions, as determined by  
23           the President.

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



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

3           “(2) to restrict the authority of the Secretary of  
4           Homeland Security to admit aliens to the United  
5           States under any other Act.”.

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