

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 3535

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 17, 2025

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KIM, and Mr. SCHIFF) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and 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 the sum of—

11 “(A) such number as the President deter-  
12 mines is justified by humanitarian concerns or  
13 otherwise in the national interest, which shall  
14 be not fewer than 125,000; and

15 “(B) such number as the President deter-  
16 mines shall be admitted to the United States  
17 through community or private sponsorship, by  
18 which community groups and private sponsors  
19 provide to a refugee and the immediate relatives  
20 or beneficiaries of the refugee initial reception  
21 and placement services similar to services pro-  
22 vided by domestic resettlement agencies and  
23 local affiliates, in lieu of services typically pro-  
24 vided by domestic resettlement agencies and  
25 local affiliates.

1           “(2) ABSENCE OF DETERMINATION.—If the  
 2       President does not issue a determination under  
 3       paragraph (1) before the beginning of a fiscal year,  
 4       the number of refugees who may be admitted in that  
 5       fiscal year under this section shall be 125,000.”;

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

8           (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the  
 9       following:

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

15               “(A)(i) a determination under paragraph  
 16       (1); or

17               “(ii) in the absence of a determination  
 18       under paragraph (1), the number under para-  
 19       graph (2); and

20               “(B) a determination under subsection  
 21       (b).”; and

22           (D) by inserting after paragraph (4), as  
 23       redesignated, the following:

24          “(5) CONSIDERATION OF RESETTLEMENT  
 25       NEEDS.—In making a determination under para-

graph (1), the President shall consider the number of refugees who are in need of resettlement in a third country, as determined by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the most recently published projected global resettlement needs report.

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

“(A)(i) reflect the projected needs identified by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the projected global resettlement needs report for the calendar year beginning immediately after the beginning of the applicable fiscal year; or

“(ii) include an assessment by the Secretary of State detailing the humanitarian and national interest justifications for prioritizing refugee admissions from 1 or more regions; and

“(B) include an unallocated reserve that the Secretary of State, after notifying the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, may use for 1 or more regions

1           in which the need for additional refugee admis-  
2           sions arises.”; and

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

4           “(g) QUARTERLY PUBLIC REPORTS ON ADMIS-  
5           SIONS.—Not later than 15 days after the last day of each  
6           quarter, the President shall submit to the Committee on  
7           the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Ju-  
8           diciary of the House of Representatives, and publish on  
9           a publicly accessible website, a report that includes the  
10          following:

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

13           “(2) The number of refugees admitted to the  
14          United States during the preceding quarter, ex-  
15          pressed as a percentage of the number of refugees  
16          authorized to be admitted in accordance with the de-  
17          terminations under subsections (a) and (b) for the  
18          applicable fiscal year.

19           “(3) The cumulative number of refugees admit-  
20          ted to the United States during the applicable fiscal  
21          year, as of the last day of the preceding quarter.

22           “(4) The number of refugees to be admitted to  
23          the United States during the remainder of the appli-  
24          cable fiscal year so as to achieve the numerical goals

1 set forth in the determinations under subsections (a)  
2 and (b) for such fiscal year.

3 “(5) The number of refugees from each region  
4 admitted to the United States during the preceding  
5 quarter, expressed as a percentage of the allocation  
6 for each region under subsection (a)(6) for the appli-  
7 cable fiscal year.

8 “(h) QUARTERLY REPORTS ON PROCESSING.—Not  
9 later than 15 days after the last day of each quarter, the  
10 President shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary  
11 of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
12 House of Representatives a report that includes the fol-  
13 lowing:

14 “(1) ALIENS WITH ENHANCED SECURITY  
15 CHECKS.—

16 “(A) The number of aliens, by nationality,  
17 for whom an enhanced security check has been  
18 requested who were security-cleared during the  
19 preceding quarter, expressed as a percentage of  
20 all cases successfully adjudicated, approved, and  
21 security-cleared by the Director of the U.S.  
22 Citizenship and Immigration Services in the ap-  
23 plicable fiscal year.

24 “(B) The number of aliens, by nationality,  
25 for whom an enhanced security check has been

1 requested who were admitted to the United  
2 States during the preceding quarter.

3 “(2) CIRCUIT RIDES.—

4 “(A) For the preceding quarter—

5 “(i) the number of Refugee Corps of-  
6 ficers deployed on circuit rides, expressed  
7 as a percentage of the overall number of  
8 Refugee Corps officers;

9 “(ii) the number of individuals inter-  
10 viewed—

11 “(I) on each circuit ride; and

12 “(II) at each circuit ride location;

13 “(iii) the number of circuit rides;

14 “(iv) for each circuit ride—

15 “(I) the duration of the circuit  
16 ride;

17 “(II) the average number of  
18 interviews conducted daily on the cir-  
19 cuit ride; and

20 “(III) the percentages of inter-  
21 views conducted for—

22 “(aa) individuals who re-  
23 quire an enhanced security check;  
24 and

1 “(bb) individuals who do not  
 2 require an enhanced security  
 3 check; and

4 “(v) the number of interviews com-  
 5 pleted by video teleconferencing.

6 “(B) For the subsequent quarter—

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

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

11 “(3) PROCESSING.—For the preceding quar-  
 12 ter—

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

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

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

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

23 “(i) the date on which an individual  
 24 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                  “(4) PLAN AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—If  
12                  the number of refugees admitted during the pre-  
13                  ceding quarter is less than 25 percent of the number  
14                  of refugees authorized to be admitted in accordance  
15                  with the determinations under subsections (a) and  
16                  (b) for the applicable fiscal year, the President shall  
17                  submit—

18                  “(A) an assessment of country conditions  
19                  and emergency humanitarian circumstances  
20                  that contributed to the number of refugees ad-  
21                  mitted;

22                  “(B) a plan that describes the procedural  
23                  or personnel changes necessary to ensure the  
24                  admission of the number of refugees authorized  
25                  to be admitted to the United States in accord-

1           ance with determinations under subsections (a)  
2           and (b), including a projection of the number of  
3           refugees to be admitted to the United States  
4           each month so as to achieve the numerical goals  
5           set forth in such determinations; and

6           “(C) any additional information relating to  
7           the pace of refugee admissions, as determined  
8           by the President.

9           “(5) ENHANCED SECURITY CHECK DEFINED.—

10          In this subsection, the term ‘enhanced security  
11          check’ means any evaluation process to investigate  
12          national security concerns, including terrorism, espi-  
13          onage, sabotage, or the illegal transfer of goods,  
14          technology, or sensitive information, including—

15               “(A) any process within U.S. Citizenship  
16               and Immigration Services for handling cases  
17               with national security concerns;

18               “(B) any interagency check requested by  
19               U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services dur-  
20               ing the adjudication process to investigate na-  
21               tional security concerns;

22               “(C) any additional vetting or review of  
23               applicants from a country that is a state spon-  
24               sor of terrorism or a country with full or partial

1 suspension of entry into the United States  
2 under this Act; and

3 “(D) any process to screen applicant data  
4 against publicly available social media for na-  
5 tional security purposes.

6 “(i) 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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