

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8234

To authorize the Secretary of State to designate additional persons eligible to serve as passport acceptance agents, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 2, 2024

Mr. MAST (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Ms. SALAZAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of State to designate additional persons eligible to serve as passport acceptance agents, 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. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF STATE TO DES-**  
4 **IGNATE ADDITIONAL PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO**  
5 **SERVE AS PASSPORT ACCEPTANCE AGENTS.**

6 (a) **AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE.**—The Secretary of  
7 State may designate any person described in subsection  
8 (b) that meets such other requirements as the Secretary  
9 may prescribe under regulations to serve as a passport ac-

1 ceptance agent, unless the Secretary withdraws such au-  
2 thorization on a case-by-case basis with respect to a given  
3 person.

4 (b) AUTHORIZED PERSONS.—A person described in  
5 this subsection is any of the following:

6 (1) An employee of the clerk of any Federal  
7 court.

8 (2) An employee of the clerk of any State court  
9 of record.

10 (3) A postal employee at a United States post  
11 office that has been selected to accept passport ap-  
12 plications.

13 (4) An employee of the Department of Defense  
14 at a military installation that has been authorized to  
15 accept passport applications.

16 (5) An employee of a Federal department or  
17 agency that has been selected to accept passport ap-  
18 plications.

19 (6) Any person commissioned or appointed as a  
20 notary or notary public or otherwise authorized to  
21 perform a notarization under the laws of a State or  
22 territorial government.

23 (7) Any other person specifically designated by  
24 the Secretary.

1 (c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of State shall pre-  
2 scribe or revise such regulations as may be necessary to  
3 carry out this Act.

4 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO HAND-CARRY COU-**  
5 **RIER SERVICES FOR PASSPORT APPLICA-**  
6 **TIONS AND PASSPORTS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall take  
8 such steps as may be necessary to—

9 (1) facilitate an increase in the number of com-  
10 panies certified to provide hand-carry courier serv-  
11 ices; and

12 (2) increase the daily maximum number of ap-  
13 plications for United States passports, by type, that  
14 such companies may submit to a passport agency of  
15 the Department of State (commonly referred to as  
16 “meeting slots”) as part of the hand-carry courier  
17 services of such company.

18 (b) HAND-CARRY COURIER SERVICE DEFINED.—In  
19 this section, the term “hand-carry courier service” in-  
20 cludes—

21 (1) the transport of applications for United  
22 States passports to a passport agency of the Depart-  
23 ment of State for processing; and

1           (2) the retrieval of newly issued United States  
2           passports for delivery, directly or indirectly, to the  
3           passport holder.

4 **SEC. 3. REVISION TO DATE OF EXPIRATION OF UNITED**  
5 **STATES PASSPORTS.**

6           The Secretary of State shall take such actions as may  
7           be necessary to provide for the date of expiration of each  
8           United States passport issued or renewed on or after the  
9           date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of  
10          this Act to be the same date as the date of birth of the  
11          applicant or holder of the passport.

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