

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1653

To make minor modifications to the procedures relating to the issuance of visas.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 4, 2011

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. HELLER, and Mr. BEGICH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To make minor modifications to the procedures relating to the issuance of visas.

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 “International Tourism
5 Facilitation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FEE RETENTION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Department of State and Re-
8 lated Agency Appropriations Act, 2005 (title IV of division
9 B of Public Law 108–447) is amended, in the fourth para-
10 graph under the heading “Diplomatic and Consular Pro-

1 grams”, by striking the second proviso and inserting “*Pro-*
 2 *vided further*, That the Secretary of State is authorized
 3 to charge fees for consular services, which may be depos-
 4 ited in the appropriate Department of State account to
 5 the extent that the amount of such fees collected during
 6 a fiscal year, excluding any fees for consular services re-
 7 tained by the Department of State pursuant to any other
 8 authority, is greater than the amount of fees for consular
 9 services deposited in the Treasury during fiscal year
 10 2011.”.

11 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

12 (1) PASSPORT ACT.—Section 1(a) of the Pass-
 13 port Act of June 4, 1920 (22 U.S.C. 214(a)) is
 14 amended—

15 (A) by striking “and paid into the Treas-
 16 ury of the United States”; and

17 (B) by striking “except that the Secretary”
 18 and inserting “. The Secretary”.

19 (2) AUTHORITY TO AMEND SURCHARGES.—Sec-
 20 tion 6 of the Department of State Authorities Act
 21 of 2006 (Public Law 109–472) is repealed.

22 **SEC. 3. VISA EXTENSION INTERVIEW WAIVER.**

23 Section 222(h)(1)(B) of the Immigration and Nation-
 24 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1202(h)(1)(B)) is amended—

1 (1) in clause (i), by striking “12 months” and
2 inserting “4 years”;

3 (2) by striking clause (ii); and

4 (3) by redesignating clauses (iii) and (iv) as
5 clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively.

6 **SEC. 4. VISA SYSTEM PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT.**

7 The Secretary of State shall submit a report to the
8 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the
9 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representa-
10 tives that includes—

11 (1) an annual forecast of demand through 2020
12 for nonimmigrant visas in the key high-growth mar-
13 kets of Brazil, China, and India, including a descrip-
14 tion of the methodology used to make such forecasts
15 that—

16 (A) describes the internal and external
17 studies utilized to prepare such forecasts; and

18 (B) indicates whether such methodology
19 utilizes the Department of Commerce’s analysis
20 of visitor arrival projections;

21 (2) a comparison of the Department of State’s
22 nonimmigrant visa demand projections and the De-
23 partment of Commerce’s yearly visitor arrival projec-
24 tions for Brazil, China, and India through 2020, in-
25 cluding details on whether the Department of

1 State's workload projections for each such country
2 align with the Department of Commerce's yearly vis-
3 itor arrival projections;

4 (3) a description of the practices and proce-
5 dures currently used by each United States diplo-
6 matic and consular mission in Brazil, China, and
7 India to manage nonimmigrant visa workload;

8 (4) information on short- and long-term plans
9 developed to meet the forecasted demand for non-
10 immigrant visas through 2020 in Brazil, China, and
11 India, including facility expansion needs; and

12 (5) information on the strategies that will be
13 used by the Department of State to maximize exist-
14 ing consular and embassy space to accommodate
15 new limited non-career appointment consular offi-
16 cers.

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