S. 1563

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to establish a 24-month pilot program permitting certain aliens to be admitted into the United States to provide temporary or seasonal agricultural services pursuant to a labor condition attestation.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

November 13, 1997

Mr. Smith of Oregon (for himself, Mr. Craig, Mr. Gorton, Mr. Roberts, and Mr. Grams) 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 establish a 24-month pilot program permitting certain aliens to be admitted into the United States to provide temporary or seasonal agricultural services pursuant to a labor condition attestation.

- 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 "Temporary Agricul-
- 5 tural Worker Act of 1997".

1	SEC. 2. NEW NONIMMIGRANT CATEGORY FOR PILOT PRO-						
2	GRAM TEMPORARY AND SEASONAL AGRICUL						
3	TURAL WORKERS.						
4	(a) Establishment of New Classification.—						
5	Section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii) of the Immigration and Nation-						
6	ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)) is amended—						
7	(1) by striking "or (b)" and inserting "(b)";						
8	and						
9	(2) by adding at the end the following:						
10	" or (c) having a residence in a foreign country						
11	which he has no intention of abandoning who is						
12	coming temporarily to the United States pursuant to						
13	section 218A to perform such agricultural labor or						
14	services of a temporary or seasonal nature;".						
15	(b) No Family Members Permitted.—Section						
16	101(a)(15)(H) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8						
17	U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)) is amended by striking "specified						
18	in this paragraph" and inserting "specified in this sub-						
19	paragraph (other than in clause (ii)(c))".						
20	SEC. 3. PILOT PROGRAM FOR ALTERNATIVE AGRICUL-						
21	TURAL TEMPORARY WORKER PROCESS						
22	USING ATTESTATION.						
23	(a) In General.—The Immigration and Nationality						
24	Act is amended by inserting after section 218 the follow-						
25	ing:						

1	"ALTERNATIVE AGRICULTURAL TEMPORARY WORKER
2	PROGRAM
3	"Sec. 218A. (a) Condition for Employment of
4	PILOT PROGRAM ALIENS.—
5	"(1) Establishment of Pilot Program; re-
6	STRICTION OF ADMISSIONS TO PILOT PROGRAM PE-
7	RIOD.—
8	"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General
9	shall establish a pilot program for the admis-
10	sion of aliens classified as a nonimmigrant
11	under section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(c) to perform
12	temporary or seasonal agricultural services pur-
13	suant to a labor condition attestation filed by
14	an employer or an association for the occupa-
15	tion in which the alien will be employed. No
16	alien may be admitted or provided status as a
17	pilot program alien under this section after the
18	last day of the pilot program period specified in
19	subparagraph (B).
20	"(B) PILOT PROGRAM PERIOD.—The pilot
21	program period under this subparagraph is the
22	24-month period beginning 6 months after the
23	date of the enactment of the Temporary Agri-
24	cultural Worker Act of 1997.

1	"(2) Admission of Aliens.—No alien may be
2	admitted to the United States or provided status as
3	a pilot program alien (as defined in subsection
4	(n)(4)) unless—
5	"(A) the employment of the alien is cov-
6	ered by a currently valid labor condition attes-
7	tation which—
8	"(i) is filed by the employer, or by an
9	association on behalf of the employer, for
10	the occupation in which the alien will be
11	employed;
12	"(ii) has been accepted by the State
13	employment security agency having juris-
14	diction over the area of intended employ-
15	ment; and
16	"(iii) states each of the items de-
17	scribed in paragraph (2) and includes in-
18	formation identifying the employer or asso-
19	ciation and agricultural job opportunities
20	involved;
21	"(B) the employer is not disqualified from
22	employing pilot program aliens pursuant to sub-
23	section (h); and
24	"(C) the employer has not, during the pilot
25	program period, been found by the Attorney

1	General to have employed any aliens in violation
2	of section 274A(a) or this section.
3	"(3) Contents of Labor condition attes-

TATION.—Each labor condition attestation filed by or on behalf of, an employer shall state the following:

- "(A) Wage rate.—The employer will pay pilot program aliens and all other workers in the occupation not less than the prevailing wage for similarly employed workers in the area of employment, and not less than the applicable Federal, State or local statutory minimum wage.
- "(B) Working conditions.—The employment of pilot program aliens will not adversely affect the working conditions of similarly employed workers in the area of employment.
- "(C) Limitation on employment.—A pilot program alien will not be employed in any job opportunity which is not temporary or seasonal, and will not be employed by the employer in any job opportunity for more than 10 months in any 12-consecutive-month period.

- "(D) NO LABOR DISPUTE.—No pilot program alien will be employed in any job opportunity which is vacant because its former occupant is involved in a strike, lockout or work stoppage in the course of a labor dispute in the occupation at the place of employment.
 - "(E) Notice.—The employer, at the time of filing the attestation, has provided notice of the attestation to its workers employed in the occupation in which, and at the place of employment where, pilot program aliens will be employed.
 - "(F) JOB ORDERS.—The employer will file one or more job orders for the occupation (or occupations) covered by the attestation with the State employment security agency no later than the day on which the employer first employs any pilot program aliens in the occupation.
 - "(G) PREFERENCE TO DOMESTIC WORK-ERS.—The employer will give preference to able, willing and qualified United States workers who apply to the employer and are available at the time and place needed, for the first 25 days after the filing of the job order in an occupation or until 5 days before the date employ-

1	ment of workers in the occupation begins,					
2	whichever occurs later.					
3	"(4) Limitation on number of visas.—In no					
4	case may the number of aliens who are admitted or					
5	provided status as a pilot program alien in a fiscal					
6	year exceed 25,000.					
7	"(5) Operation of Program in Not less					
8	THAN 5 AREAS.—Alien admissions under this section					
9	shall be allocated equally to employers in not less					
10	than 5 geographically and agriculturally diverse					
11	areas designated by the Secretary of Agriculture.					
12	The entire United States shall be encompassed with-					
13	in such areas.					
14	"(6) General accounting office report.—					
15	"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller Gen-					
16	eral of the United States shall, concurrently					
17	with the operation of the pilot program estab-					
18	lished by this section, review the implementa-					
19	tion and enforcement of the pilot program for					
20	the purpose of determining if—					
21	"(i) the program has ensured an ade-					
22	quate and timely supply of qualified, eligi-					
23	ble workers at the time and place needed					
24	for employers;					

1	"(ii) the program has ensured that
2	pilot program aliens are employed only in
3	authorized employment and that they time-
4	ly depart the United States when their au-
5	thorized stay ends;
6	"(iii) the program has ensured that
7	implementation of the program is not dis-
8	placing United States agricultural workers
9	or diminishing the terms and conditions of
10	employment of United States agricultural
11	workers; and
12	"(iv) an unnecessary regulatory bur-
13	den has been created for employers hiring
14	workers admitted under this section.
15	"(B) Report.—Not later than 90 days
16	after the termination of the pilot program es-
17	tablished by this section, the Comptroller Gen-
18	eral of the United States shall submit a report
19	to Congress setting forth the conclusions of the
20	Comptroller General from the review conducted
21	under subparagraph (A).
22	"(b) FILING A LABOR CONDITION ATTESTATION.—
23	"(1) FILING BY EMPLOYERS—Any employer in
24	the United States is eligible to file a labor condition
25	attestation.

"(2) FILING BY ASSOCIATIONS ON BEHALF OF EMPLOYER MEMBERS.—An agricultural association may file a labor condition attestation as an agent on behalf of its members. Such an attestation filed by an agricultural association acting as an agent for its members, when accepted, shall apply to those employer members of the association that the association certifies to the State employment security agency are members of the association and have agreed in writing to comply with the requirements of this section.

- "(3) Period of validity.—A labor condition attestation is valid from the date on which it is accepted by the State employment security agency for the period of time requested by the employer, but not to exceed 12 months.
- "(4) Where to file.—A labor condition attestation shall be filed with the State employment security agency having jurisdiction over the area of intended employment of the workers covered by the attestation. If an employer, or the members of an association of employers, will be employing workers in an area or areas covered by more than one such agency, the attestation shall be filed with each such

- agency having jurisdiction over an area where the
 workers will be employed.
 - "(5) DEADLINE FOR FILING.—A labor condition attestation may be filed at any time up to 12 months prior to the date of the employer's anticipated need for workers in the occupation (or occupations) covered by the attestation.
 - "(6) FILING FOR MULTIPLE OCCUPATIONS.—A labor condition attestation may be filed for one or more occupations and cover one or more periods of employment.
- 12 "(7) Maintaining required documenta-13 Tion.—

"(A) By employers.—Each employer covered by an accepted labor condition attestation must maintain a file of the documentation required in subsection (c) for each occupation included in an accepted attestation covering the employer. The documentation shall be retained for a period of one year following the expiration of an accepted attestation. The employer shall make the documentation available to representatives of the Secretary during normal business hours.

"(B) By Associations.—In complying with subparagraph (A), documentation maintained by an association filing a labor condition attestation on behalf of an employer shall be deemed to be maintained by the employer.

"(8) WITHDRAWAL.—

"(A) Compliance with attestation ob-Ligations.—An employer covered by an accepted labor condition attestation for an occupation shall comply with the terms and conditions of the attestation from the date the attestation is accepted and continuing throughout the period any persons are employed in an occupation covered by such an accepted attestation, whether or not pilot program aliens are employed in the occupation, unless the attestation is withdrawn.

"(B) TERMINATION OF OBLIGATIONS.—An employer may withdraw a labor condition attestation in total, or with respect to a particular occupation covered by the attestation. An association may withdraw such an attestation with respect to one or more of its members. To withdraw an attestation the employer or association must notify in writing the State employment se-

curity agency office with which the attestation was filed of the withdrawal of the attestation. An employer who withdraws an attestation, or on whose behalf an attestation is withdrawn by an association, is relieved of the obligations undertaken in the attestation with respect to the occupation (or occupations) with respect to which the attestation was withdrawn, upon acknowledgement by the appropriate State employment security agency of receipt of the withdrawn with respect to any occupation while any pilot program alien covered by that attestation is employed in the occupation.

"(C) Obligation under other statutes.—Any obligation incurred by the employer under any other law or regulation as a result of recruitment of United States workers under an offer of terms and conditions of employment required by the pilot program under this section is unaffected by withdrawal of a labor condition attestation.

"(c) Employer Responsibilities and Require Ments for Employing Pilot Program Aliens.—

1	"(1)	REQUIREMENT	ТО	PAY	THE	PREVAILING
2	WAGE.—					

"(A) EFFECT OF THE ATTESTATION.—
Employers shall pay each worker in an occupation covered by an accepted labor condition attestation at least the prevailing wage in the occupation in the area of intended employment.

The preceding sentence does not require employers to pay all workers in the occupation the same wage. The employer may, in the sole discretion of the employer, maintain pay differentials based on experience, tenure with the employer, skill, or any other work-related factor, if the differential is not based on a criterion for which discrimination is prohibited by the law and all workers in the covered occupation receive at least the prevailing wage.

"(B) PAYMENT OF STATE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY AGENCY DETERMINED WAGE SUFFICIENT.—The employer may request and obtain a prevailing wage determination from the State employment security agency. If the employer requests such a determination, and pays the wage determined, such payment shall be considered

1	sufficient to meet the requirement of this para-
2	graph if the pilot program aliens—
3	"(i) are employed in the occupation
4	for which the employer possesses an ac-
5	cepted labor condition attestation, and for
6	which the employer or association pos-
7	sesses a prevailing wage determination by
8	the State employment security agency, and
9	"(ii) are being paid at least the pre-
10	vailing wage so determined.
11	"(C) Reliance on wage survey.—In
12	lieu of the procedures of subparagraph (B), an
13	employer may rely on other information, such
14	as an employer generated prevailing wage sur-
15	vey and determination, which meets criteria
16	specified by the Secretary by regulation. In the
17	event of a complaint that the employer has
18	failed to pay the required wage, the Secretary
19	shall investigate to determine if the information
20	upon which the employer relied complied with
21	the criteria for prevailing wage determinations.
22	"(D) ALTERNATE METHODS OF PAYMENT
23	PERMITTED.—
24	"(i) In general.—A prevailing wage
25	may be expressed as an hourly wage, a

1 piece rate, a task rate (described in clause 2 (ii)), or other incentive pay system, includ-3 ing a group rate (described in clause (iii)). The requirement to pay at least the prevailing wage in the occupation and area of 6 intended employment does not require an 7 employer to pay by the method of pay in 8 which the prevailing rate is expressed. 9 However, if the employer adopts a method 10 of pay other than the prevailing rate, the 11 burden of proof is on the employer to dem-12 onstrate that the employer's method of pay 13 is designed to produce earnings equivalent 14 to the earnings that would result from pay-15 ment of the prevailing rate. 16 "(ii) Task rate.—For purposes of 17 18 19

this subparagraph, a task rate is an incentive payment based on a unit of work performed such that the incentive rate varies with the level of effort required to perform individual units of work.

"(iii) Group rate.—For purposes of this subparagraph, a group rate is an incentive payment system in which the pay-

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1 ment is shared among a group of workers 2 working together to perform the task.

"(E) REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION.—The employer or association shall document compliance with this paragraph by retaining on file the employer or association's request for a determination by a State employment security agency and the prevailing wage determination received from such agency or other information upon which the employer or association relied to assure compliance with the prevailing wage requirement.

"(2) Requirement to provide housing and transportation.—

"(A) Effect of the attestation.—The employment of pilot program aliens shall not adversely affect the working conditions of United States workers similarly employed in the area of intended employment. The employer's obligation not to adversely affect working conditions shall continue for the duration of the period of employment by the employer of any pilot program aliens in the occupation and area of intended employment. An employer will be deemed to be in compliance with this attesta-

tion if the employer offers at least the benefits required by subparagraphs (B) through (D). The previous sentence does not require an employer to offer more than such benefits.

"(B) Housing required.—

"(i) Housing offer.—The employer must offer to pilot program aliens and United States workers recruited from beyond normal recruiting distance housing, or a housing allowance, if it is prevailing practice in the occupation and area of intended employment to offer housing or a housing allowance to workers who are recruited from beyond normal commuting distance.

"(ii) Housing standards.—If the employer offers housing to such workers, the housing shall meet (at the option of the employer) applicable Federal farm labor housing standards or applicable local or State standards for rental, public accommodation, or other substantially similar class of habitation.

"(iii) Charges for Housing.—An employer who offers housing to such work-

ers may charge an amount equal to the
fair market value (but not greater than the
employer's actual cost) for utilities and
maintenance, or such lesser amount as permitted by law.

"(iv) Housing allowance as alternative.—In lieu of offering housing to such workers, at the employer's sole discretion on an individual basis, the employer may provide a reasonable housing allowance. An employer who offers a housing allowance to such a worker under this subparagraph shall not be deemed to be a housing provider under section 203 of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (29 U.S.C. 1823) merely by virtue of providing such housing allowance.

"(v) Security deposit.—The requirement, if any, to offer housing to such a worker under this subparagraph shall not preclude an employer from requiring a reasonable deposit to protect against gross negligence or willful destruction of property, as a condition for providing such housing.

"(vi) Damages.—An employer who offers housing to such a worker shall not be precluded from requiring a worker found to have been responsible for damage to such housing which is not the result of normal wear and tear related to habitation to reimburse the employer for the reasonable cost of repair of such damage.

"(C) Transportation.—If the employer provides transportation arrangements or assistance to pilot program aliens, the employer must offer to provide the same transportation arrangements or assistance (generally comparable in expense and scope) for other individuals employed by the employer in the occupation at the place of employment who were recruited from beyond normal commuting distance.

"(D) Workers' compensation.—If the employment covered by a labor condition attestation is not covered by the State workers' compensation law, the employer must provide, at no cost to the worker, insurance covering injury and disease arising out of and in the course of the workers' employment which will provide benefits at least equal to those provided under

1	the State workers' compensation law for com-
2	parable employment.
3	"(E) REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION.—
4	"(i) Housing and transpor-
5	TATION.—No specific documentation is re-
6	quired to be maintained to evidence com-
7	pliance with the requirements of subpara-
8	graphs (B) and (C). In the event of a com-
9	plaint alleging a failure to comply with
10	such a requirement, the burden of proof
11	shall be on the employer to show that the
12	employer offered the required benefit to
13	the complainant, or that the employer was
14	not required by the terms of this para-
15	graph to offer such benefit to the com-
16	plainant.
17	"(ii) Workers' compensation.—
18	The employer shall maintain copies of cer-
19	tificates of insurance evidencing compli-
20	ance with subparagraph (D) throughout
21	the period of validity of the labor condition
22	attestation.
23	"(3) Requirement to employ aliens in
24	TEMPORARY OR SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL JOB OP-
25	PORTUNITIES.—

1	"(A) Limitations.—
2	"(i) IN GENERAL.—The employer may
3	employ pilot program aliens only in agri-
4	cultural employment which is temporary or
5	seasonal.
6	"(ii) Seasonal basis.—For purposes
7	of this section, labor is performed on a sea-
8	sonal basis where, ordinarily, the employ-
9	ment pertains to or is of the kind exclu-
10	sively performed at certain seasons or peri-
11	ods of the year and which, from its nature,
12	may not be continuous or carried on
13	throughout the year.
14	"(iii) Temporary basis.—For pur-
15	poses of this section, a worker is employed
16	on a temporary basis where the employ-
17	ment is intended not to exceed 10 months.
18	"(B) Required documentation.—No
19	specific documentation is required to dem-
20	onstrate compliance with the requirement of
21	subparagraph (A). In the event of a complaint,
22	the burden of proof shall fall on the employer
23	to show that the employment meets such re-
24	quirement.

1	"(4) Requirement not to employ aliens in
2	JOB OPPORTUNITIES VACANT BECAUSE OF A LABOR
3	DISPUTE.—
4	"(A) In general.—No pilot program
5	alien may be employed in any job opportunity
6	which is vacant because its former occupant is
7	involved in a strike, lockout, or work stoppage
8	in the course of a labor dispute in the occupa-
9	tion at the place of employment.
10	"(B) REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION.—No
11	specific documentation is required to dem-
12	onstrate compliance with the requirement of
13	subparagraph (A). In the event of a complaint,
14	the burden of proof shall fall on the employer
15	to show that the job opportunity in which the
16	pilot program alien was employed was not va-
17	cant because the former occupant was on strike,
18	locked out, or participating in a work stoppage
19	in the course of a labor dispute in the occupa-
20	tion at the place of employment.
21	"(5) Notice of filing of labor condition
22	ATTESTATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION.—
23	"(A) In general.—The employer shall—
24	"(i) provide notice of the filing of a
25	labor condition attestation to the appro-

priate certified bargaining agent (if any)
which represents workers of the employer
in the occupation (or occupations) at the
place of employment covered by the attestation; or

- "(ii) in the case where no such bargaining agent exists, post notice of the filing of such an attestation in at least two conspicuous locations where applications for employment are accepted.
- "(B) PERIOD FOR POSTING.—The requirement for a posting under subparagraph (A)(ii) begins on the day the attestation is filed, and continues through the period during which the employer's job order is required to remain active pursuant to paragraph (6)(A).
- "(C) REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION.—The employer shall maintain a copy of the notice provided to the bargaining agent (if any), together with evidence that the notice was provided (such as a signed receipt of evidence of attempt to send the notice by certified or registered mail). In the case where no certified bargaining agent described in subparagraph (A)(i) exists, the employer shall retain a copy of

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the posted notice, together with information as to the dates and locations where the notice was displayed.

"(6) Requirement to file a job order.—

"(A) EFFECT OF THE ATTESTATION.—The employer, or an association acting as agent for its members, shall file the information necessary to complete a local job order for each occupation covered by an accepted labor condition attestation with the appropriate local office of the State employment security agency having jurisdiction over the area of intended employment, or with the State office of such an agency if workers will be employed in an area within the jurisdiction of more than one local office of such an agency. The job orders shall remain on file for 25 calendar days or until 5 calendar days before the anticipated date of need for workers in the occupation covered by the job order, whichever occurs later. The job order shall provide at least the minimum terms and conditions of employment required for participation in the pilot program.

"(B) DEADLINE FOR FILING.—A job order shall be filed under subparagraph (A) no later

than the date on which the employer files a petition with the Attorney General for admission or extension of stay for aliens to be employed in the occupation for which the order is filed.

"(C) Required documentation.—The office of the State employment security agency which the employer or association provides with information necessary to file a local job order shall provide the employer with evidence that the information was provided in a timely manner as required by this paragraph, and the employer or association shall retain such evidence for each occupation in which pilot program aliens are employed.

"(7) REQUIREMENT TO GIVE PREFERENCE TO QUALIFIED UNITED STATES WORKERS.—

"(A) FILING 30 DAYS OR MORE BEFORE DATE OF NEED.—If a job order is filed 30 days or more before the anticipated date of need for workers in an occupation covered by a labor condition attestation and for which the job order has been filed, the employer shall offer to employ able, willing, and qualified United States workers who apply to the employer and who will be available at the time and place

needed for the job opportunities covered by the attestation until 5 calendar days before the anticipated date of need for workers in the occupation, or until the employer's job opportunities in the occupation are filled with qualified United States workers, if that occurs more than 5 days before the anticipated date of need for workers in the occupation.

"(B) FILING FEWER THAN 30 DAYS BEFORE DATE OF NEED.—If a job order is filed
fewer than 30 days before the anticipated date
of need for workers in an occupation covered by
such an attestation and for which a job order
has been filed, the employer shall offer to employ able, willing, and qualified United States
workers who are or will be available at the time
and place needed during the first 25 days after
the job order is filed or until the employer's job
opportunities in the occupation are filled with
United States workers, regardless of whether
any of the job opportunities may already be occupied by pilot program aliens.

"(C) FILING VACANCIES.—An employer may fill a job opportunity in an occupation covered by an accepted labor condition attestation

which remains or becomes vacant after expiration of the required preference period specified in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (6) without regard to such preference.

- "(D) Job-Related Required to initially employ a worker who fails to meet lawful job-related employment criteria, nor to continue the employment of a worker who fails to meet lawful job-related standards of conduct and performance, including failure to meet minimum productivity standards after a 3-day break-in period.
- "(E) REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION.—No specific documentation is required to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this paragraph. In the event of a complaint, the burden of proof shall be on the complainant to show that the complainant applied for the job and was available at the time and place needed. If the complainant makes such a showing, the burden of proof shall be on the employer to show that the complainant was not qualified or that the preference period had expired.
- 24 "(d) Requirements of Notice of Certain 25 Breaks in Employment.—

- 1 "(1) In general.—The employer (or the asso-
- 2 ciation acting as agent for the employer) shall notify
- 3 the Attorney General within 7 days if a pilot pro-
- 4 gram alien prematurely abandons the alien's employ-
- 5 ment.
- 6 "(2) OUT-OF-STATUS.—A pilot program alien
- 7 who abandons the alien's employment shall be con-
- 8 sidered to have failed to maintain nonimmigrant sta-
- 9 tus as an alien described in section
- 10 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(c) and shall leave the United
- 11 States or be subject to removal under section
- 12 237(a)(1)(C)(i).
- 13 "(e) Acceptance by State Employment Secu-
- 14 RITY AGENCY.—The State employment security agency
- 15 shall review labor condition attestations submitted by em-
- 16 ployers or associations pursuant to this section only for
- 17 completeness and obvious inaccuracies. Unless such an
- 18 agency finds that the application is incomplete or obvi-
- 19 ously inaccurate, the agency shall accept the attestation
- 20 within 7 days of the date of filing of the attestation, and
- 21 return a copy to the applicant marked 'accepted'.
- 22 "(f) Public Registry.—The Secretary shall main-
- 23 tain a registry of all accepted labor condition attestations
- 24 and make such registry available for public inspection.

1	"(g) Responsibilities of	F THE	STATE	EMPLOY-
2	MENT SECURITY AGENCIES.—			

"(1) Dissemination of Labor Market Information.—The Secretary shall direct State employment security agencies to disseminate non-employer-specific information about potential labor needs based on accepted attestations filed by employers. Such dissemination shall be separate from the clearance of job orders through the Interstate and Intrastate Clearance Systems, and shall create no obligations for employers except as provided in this section.

"(2) Referral of workers on state employment security agency job orders.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Such agencies holding job orders filed by employers covered by approved labor condition attestations shall be authorized to refer any able, willing, and qualified eligible job applicant who will be available at the time and place needed and who is authorized to work in the United States, including pilot program aliens who are seeking additional work in the United States and whose eligibility to remain in the United States pursuant to sub-

section (i) has not expired, on job orders filed by holders of accepted attestations.

"(B) PROCEDURES.—A State employment agency that refers any individuals for employment pursuant to subsection (g)(2)(A) shall comply with the procedures specified in subsection (b) of section 274A. For purposes of the attestation requirement in subsection (b)(1), the agency employee who is primarily involved in the referral of the individual shall make the attestation on behalf of the agency. The agency shall retain the completed forms and make them available for inspection as required in subsection (b)(3) of section 274A.

"(C) Employment verification.—For purposes of complying with subsection (b) of section 274A with respect to an individual referred by a State employment agency, a pilot program employer may, at the employer's option, fulfill the requirements of subsection (b) of this section in lieu of retaining the documentation described in section 274A(a)(5).

"(h) Enforcement and Penalties.—

"(1) Enforcement authority.—

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"(A) Investigation of complaints.— The Secretary shall establish a process for the receipt, investigation, and disposition of complaints respecting an employer's failure to meet a condition specified in subsection (a) or an employer's misrepresentation of material facts in such an application. Complaints may be filed by any aggrieved person or organizations (including bargaining representatives). No investigation or hearing shall be conducted on a complaint concerning such a failure or misrepresentation unless the complaint was filed not later than 2 years after the date of the failure or misrepresentation, respectively. The Secretary shall conduct an investigation under this subparagraph if there is reasonable cause to believe that such a failure or misrepresentation has occurred.

"(B) WRITTEN NOTICE OF FINDINGS AND OPPORTUNITY FOR APPEAL.—After an investigation has been conducted, the Secretary shall issue a written determination as to whether or not any violation described in subparagraph (A) has been committed. The Secretary's determination shall be served on the complainant

and the employer, and shall provide an opportunity for an appeal of the Secretary's decision to an administrative law judge, who may conduct a de novo hearing.

"(2) Remedies.—

"(A) Back wages.—Upon a final determination that the employer has failed to pay wages as required under this section, the Secretary may assess payment of back wages due to any United States worker or pilot program alien employed by the employer in the specific employment in question. The back wages shall be equal to the difference between the amount that should have been paid and the amount that actually was paid to such worker.

"(B) Failure to pay wages.—Upon a final determination that the employer has failed to pay the wages required under this section, the Secretary may assess a civil money penalty up to \$1,000 for each failure, and may recommend to the Attorney General the disqualification of the employer from the employment of pilot program aliens for a period of time determined by the Secretary not to exceed 1 year.

1	"(C) OTHER VIOLATIONS.—If the Sec-
2	retary, as a result of an investigation pursuant
3	to a complaint, determines that an employer
4	covered by an accepted labor condition attesta-
5	tion has—
6	"(i) filed an attestation which mis-
7	represents a material fact; or
8	"(ii) failed to meet a condition speci-
9	fied in subsection (a),
10	the Secretary may assess a civil money penalty
11	not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation. In de-
12	termining the amount of civil money penalty to
13	be assessed, the Secretary shall consider the se-
14	riousness of the violation, the good faith of the
15	employer, the size of the business of the em-
16	ployer being charged, the history of previous
17	violations by the employer, whether the em-
18	ployer obtained a financial gain from the viola-
19	tion, whether the violation was willful, and
20	other relevant factors.
21	"(D) Program disqualification.—Upon
22	a second final determination that an employer
23	has failed to pay the wages required under this
24	section, the Secretary shall report such deter-

mination to the Attorney General and the At-

torney General shall disqualify the employer from any subsequent employment of pilot program aliens.

"(3) Role of associations.—

"(A) VIOLATION BY AN ASSOCIATION.—An employer on whose behalf a labor condition attestation is filed by an association acting as its agent is fully responsible for such attestation, and for complying with the terms and conditions of this section, as though the employer had filed the attestation itself. If such an employer is determined to have violated a requirement of this section, the penalty for such violation shall be assessed against the employer who committed the violation and not against the association or other members of the association.

"(B) VIOLATION BY AN ASSOCIATION ACT-ING AS AN EMPLOYER.—If an association filing a labor condition attestation on its own behalf as an employer is determined to have committed a violation under this subsection which results in disqualification from the program under paragraph (2)(D), no individual member of such association may be the beneficiary of the services of a pilot program alien in an occupation in which such alien was employed by the association during the period such disqualification is in effect, unless such member files a labor condition attestation as an individual em-ployer or such an attestation is filed on the em-ployer's behalf by an association with which the employer has an agreement that the employer will comply with the requirements of this sec-tion.

10 "(i) Procedure for Admission or Extension of11 Pilot Program Aliens.—

12 "(1) Aliens who are outside the united 13 states.—

"(A) Petitioning for admission.—An employer or an association acting as agent for its members who seeks the admission into the United States of pilot program aliens may file a petition with the District Director of the Immigration and Naturalization Service having jurisdiction over the location where the aliens will be employed. The petition shall be accompanied by an accepted and currently valid labor condition attestation covering the petitioner. The petition may be for named or unnamed individual or multiple beneficiaries.

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"(B) Expedited adjudication by dis-TRICT DIRECTOR.—If an employer's petition for admission of pilot program aliens is correctly filled out, and the employer is not ineligible to employ pilot program aliens, the District Director (or the Director's designee) shall approve the petition within 3 working days of receipt of the petition and accepted labor condition attestation and immediately (by fax, cable, or other means assuring expedited delivery) transmit a copy of the approved petition to the petitioner and to the appropriate immigration officer at the port of entry or United States consulate (as the case may be) where the petitioner has indicated that the alien beneficiary (or beneficiaries) will apply for a visa or admission to the United States.

"(C) Unnamed beneficiaries selected by petitioner.—The petitioning employer or association or its representative shall approve the issuance of visas to beneficiaries who are unnamed on a petition for admission granted to the employer or association.

"(D) Criteria for admissibility.—

1	"(i) In general.—An alien shall be
2	admissible under this section if the alien is
3	otherwise admissible under this Act and
4	the alien is not debarred pursuant to the
5	provisions of clause (ii).
6	"(ii) DISQUALIFICATION.—An alien
7	shall be debarred from admission or being
8	provided status as a pilot program alien
9	under this section if the alien has, at any
10	time during the past 5 years—
11	"(I) violated a material provision
12	of this section, including the require-
13	ment to promptly depart the United
14	States when the alien's authorized pe-
15	riod of admission under this section
16	has expired; or
17	"(II) otherwise violated a term or
18	condition of admission to the United
19	States as a nonimmigrant, including
20	overstaying the period of authorized
21	admission as such a nonimmigrant.
22	"(E) Period of Admission.—The alien
23	shall be admitted for the period requested by
24	the petitioner not to exceed 10 months, or the
25	remaining validity period of the petitioner's ap-

proved labor condition attestation, whichever is less, plus an additional period of 14 days, during which the alien shall seek authorized employment in the United States. During the 14-day period following the expiration of the alien's work authorization, the alien is not authorized to be employed unless the original petitioner or a subsequent petitioner has filed an extension of stay on behalf of the alien pursuant to paragraph (2).

"(F) Issuance of identification and employment eligibility document.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall cause to be issued to each pilot program alien a card in a form which is resistant to counterfeiting and tampering for the purpose of providing proof of identity and employment eligibility under section 274A.

"(ii) DESIGN OF CARD.—Each card issued pursuant to clause (i) shall be designed in such a manner and contain a photograph and other identifying information (such as date of birth, sex, and distinguishing marks) that would allow an em-

1	ployer to determine with reasonable cer-
2	tainty that the bearer is not claiming the
3	identity of another individual, and shall—
4	"(I) contain a fingerprint or
5	other biometric identifying data (or
6	both);
7	"(II) specify the date of the
8	alien's authorization as a pilot pro-
9	gram alien;
10	"(III) specify the expiration date
11	of the alien's work authorization; and
12	"(IV) specify the alien's admis-
13	sion number or alien file number.
14	"(2) Extension of stay.—
15	"(A) APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION OF
16	STAY.—If a petitioner seeks to employ a pilot
17	program alien already in the United States, the
18	petitioner shall file with the Attorney General
19	an application for an extension of the alien's
20	stay. The application for extension of stay shall
21	be accompanied by a currently valid labor con-
22	dition attestation.
23	"(B) Limitation on filing an applica-
24	TION FOR EXTENSION OF STAY.—An applica-
25	tion may not be filed for an extension of an

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alien's stay for a period of more than 10 months, or later than a date which is 2 years from the date of the alien's last admission to the United States as a pilot program alien, whichever occurs first. An application for extension of stay may not be filed during the pendency of an alien's previous authorized period of employment, nor after the alien's authorized stay in the United States has expired.

"(C) Work authorization upon filing AN APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION OF STAY.— An employer may begin employing an alien already in the United States in pilot program alien status on the day the employer files its application for extension of stay. For the purpose of this requirement, the term 'filing' means sending the application by certified mail via the United States Postal Service, return receipt requested, or delivered by guaranteed commercial delivery which will provide the employer with a documented acknowledgment of the date of sending and receipt of the application. The employer shall provide a copy of the employer's application for extension of stay to the alien, who shall keep the application with

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the alien's identification and employment eligibility document as evidence that the extension has been filed and that the alien is authorized to work in the United States. Upon approval of an application for extension of stay, the Attorney General shall provide a new or updated employment eligibility document to the alien indicating the new validity date, after which the alien is not required to retain a copy of the application for extension of stay.

"(D) LIMITATION ON EMPLOYMENT AU-THORIZATION OF PILOT **PROGRAM** ALIENS WITHOUT VALID IDENTIFICATION AND EMPLOY-MENT ELIGIBILITY CARD.—An expired identification and employment eligibility document, together with a copy of an application for extension of stay, shall constitute a valid work authorization document for a period of not more than 60 days from the date of application for the extension of stay, after which time only a currently valid identification and employment eligibility document shall be acceptable.

"(3) LIMITATION ON AN INDIVIDUAL'S STAY IN PILOT PROGRAM STATUS.—An alien having status as a pilot program alien may not have the status ex-

1	tended for a continuous period longer than 2 years
2	unless the alien remains outside the United States
3	for an uninterrupted period of 6 months. An absence
4	from the United States may break the continuity of
5	the period for which a nonimmigrant visa issued
6	under section $101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(c)$ is valid. If the
7	alien has resided in the United States 10 months or
8	less, an absence breaks the continuity of the period
9	if its lasts for at least 2 months. If the alien has re-
10	sided in the United States 10 months or more, an
11	absence breaks the continuity of the period if it lasts
12	for at least one-fifth the duration of the stay.
13	"(j) Trust Fund To Assure Worker Return.—
14	"(1) Establishment.—There is established in
15	the Treasury of the United States a trust fund (in
16	this section referred to as the 'Trust Fund') for the
17	purpose of providing a monetary incentive for pilot
18	program aliens to return to their country of origin
19	upon expiration of their visas under this section.
20	"(2) Withholding of wages; payment into
21	THE TRUST FUND.—
22	"(A) In general.—Employers of pilot
23	program aliens shall—
24	"(i) withhold from the wages of their
25	nilot program alien workers an amount

1	equivalent to 25 percent of the wages of
2	each pilot program alien worker and pay
3	such withheld amount into the Trust Fund
4	in accordance with paragraph (3); and
5	"(ii) pay to the Trust Fund an
6	amount equivalent to the Federal tax on
7	the wages paid to pilot program aliens that
8	the employer would be obligated to pay
9	under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act
10	and the Federal Insurance Contributions
11	Act .
12	Amounts withheld under clause (i) shall be
13	maintained in such interest bearing account
14	with such a financial institution as the Attorney
15	General shall specify.
16	"(3) Distribution of funds.—Amounts paid
17	into the Trust Fund on behalf of a worker, and held
18	pursuant to paragraph (2)(A)(i) and interest earned
19	thereon, shall be paid by the Attorney General to the
20	worker if—
21	"(A) the worker applies to the Attorney
22	General (or the designee of the Attorney Gen-
23	eral) for payment within 30 days of the expira-
24	tion of the alien's last authorized stay in the
25	United States as a pilot program alien;

"(B) in such application the worker estab-
lishes that the worker has complied with the
terms and conditions of this section; and
"(C) in connection with the application,
the worker tenders the identification and em-
ployment authorization card issued to the work-
er pursuant to subsection $(i)(1)(F)$ and estab-
lishes that the worker is identified as the per-
son to whom the card was issued based on the
biometric identification information contained
on the card.
"(4) Administrative expenses.—The
amounts paid into the Trust Fund and held pursu-
ant to paragraph (2)(A)(ii), and interest earned
thereon, shall be paid to the Attorney General, the
Secretary of Labor, and the Secretary of State in
amounts equivalent to the expenses incurred by such
officials in the administration of section
101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(e) and this section.
"(5) REGULATIONS.—The Attorney General
shall prescribe regulations to carry out this sub-
section.
"(k) Investment of Trust Fund.—
"(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be the duty of the

Secretary of the Treasury to invest such portion of

the Trust Fund as is not, in the Secretary's judgment, required to meet current withdrawals. Such
investments may be made only in interest-bearing
obligations of the United States or in obligations
guaranteed as to both principal and interest by the
United States. For such purpose, such obligations
may be acquired—

"(A) on original issue at the price; or

"(B) by purchase of outstanding obligations at the market price.

The purposes for which obligations of the United States may be issued under chapter 31 of title 31, United States Code, are hereby extended to authorize the issuance at par of special obligations exclusively to the Trust Fund. Such special obligations shall bear interest at a rate equal to the average rate of interest, computed as to the end of the calendar month next preceding the date of such issue, borne by all marketable interest-bearing obligations of the United States then forming a part of the public debt, except that where such average rate is not a multiple of one-eighth of 1 percent next lower than such average rate. Such special obligations shall be issued only if the Secretary of the Treasury determines that the purchase of other interest-bearing ob-

- ligations of the United States, or of obligations guaranteed as to both principal and interest by the United States on original issue or at the market price, is not in the public interest.
 - "(2) SALE OF OBLIGATION.—Any obligation acquired by the Trust Fund (except special obligations issued exclusively to the Trust Fund) may be sold by the Secretary of the Treasury at the market price, and such special obligations may be redeemed at par plus accrued interest.
 - "(3) CREDITS TO TRUST FUND.—The interest on, and the proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any obligations held in the Trust Fund shall be credited to and form a part of the Trust Fund.
 - "(4) Report to congress.—It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to hold the Trust Fund, and (after consultation with the Attorney General) to report to the Congress each year on the financial condition and the results of the operations of the Trust Fund during the preceding fiscal year and on its expected condition and operations during the next fiscal year. Such report shall be printed as both a House and a Senate document of the session of the Congress to which the report is made.

1	"(l) Miscellaneous Provisions.—
2	"(1) APPLICABILITY OF LABOR LAWS.—Except
3	as provided in paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), all Fed-
4	eral, State, and local labor laws (including laws af-
5	fecting migrant farm workers) applicable to United
6	States workers shall also apply to pilot program
7	aliens.
8	"(2) Limitation of written disclosure im-
9	POSED UPON RECRUITERS.—Any disclosure required
10	of recruiters under section of 201(a) of the Migrant
11	and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act
12	(29 U.S.C. 1821(a)) need not be given to pilot pro-
13	gram aliens prior to the time their visa is issued per-
14	mitting entry into the United States.
15	"(3) Exemption from fica and futa
16	TAXES.—The wages paid to pilot program aliens
17	shall be excluded from wages subject to taxation
18	under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act and
19	under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act.
20	"(4) Ineligibility for certain public ben-
21	EFITS PROGRAMS.—
22	"(A) In General.—Notwithstanding any
23	other provision of law and except as provided in
24	subparagraph (B), any alien provided status as

a pilot program alien shall not be eligible for

1	any Federal or State or local means-tested pub-
2	lic benefit program.
3	"(B) Exceptions.—Subparagraph (A)
4	shall not apply to the following:
5	"(i) Emergency medical serv-
6	ICES.—The provision of emergency medical
7	services (as defined by the Attorney Gen-
8	eral in consultation with the Secretary of
9	Health and Human Services).
10	"(ii) Public health immuniza-
11	TIONS.—Public health assistance for im-
12	munizations with respect to immunizable
13	diseases and for testing and treatment for
14	communicable diseases.
15	"(iii) Short-term emergency dis-
16	ASTER RELIEF.—The provision of non-
17	cash, in-kind, short-term emergency disas-
18	ter relief.
19	"(m) Regulations.—
20	"(1) Selection of Areas.—The Secretary of
21	Agriculture shall select the areas under subsection
22	(a)(4) not later than 60 days after the date of the
23	enactment of the Temporary Agricultural Worker
24	Act of 1997.

1 "(2) REGULATIONS OF THE SECRETARY.—The 2 Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Agri-3 culture, and the Attorney General shall approve, all regulations dealing with the approval of labor condi-5 tion attestations for pilot program aliens and en-6 forcement of the requirements for employing pilot 7 program aliens under an approved attestation. The 8 Secretary shall promulgate, and the Attorney Gen-9 eral shall approve, such regulations not later than 10 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Temporary Agricultural Worker Act of 1997.

- "(3) Regulations of the attorney gen-ERAL.—The Attorney General shall consult with the Secretary of Agriculture on all regulations dealing with the approval of petitions for admission or extension of stay of pilot program aliens and the requirements for employing pilot program aliens and the enforcement of such requirements. The Attorney General shall promulgate such regulations not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Temporary Agricultural Worker Act of 1997.
- 22 "(n) Definitions.—For the purpose of this section:
 - "(1) AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.—The term 'agricultural association' means any nonprofit or cooperative association of farmers, growers, or ranch-

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- ers incorporated or qualified under applicable State law, which recruits, solicits, hires, employs, furnishes, or transports any agricultural workers.
- "(2) AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT.—The term 5 'agricultural employment' means any service or ac-6 tivity included within the provisions of section 3(f) 7 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 8 203(f)) or section 3121(g) of the Internal Revenue 9 Code of 1986 and the handling, planting, drying, 10 packing, packaging, processing, freezing, or grading 11 prior to delivery for storage of any agricultural or 12 horticultural commodity in its unmanufactured 13 state.
 - "(3) EMPLOYER.—The term 'employer' means any person or entity, including any independent contractor and any agricultural association, that employs workers.
 - "(4) PILOT PROGRAM ALIEN.—The term 'pilot program alien' means an alien admitted to the United States or provided status as a nonimmigrant under section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(c).
- "(5) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means
 the Secretary of Labor.
- 24 "(6) UNITED STATES WORKER.—The term 25 'United States worker' means any worker, whether

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- 1 a United States citizen, a United States national, or
- 2 an alien, who is legally permitted to work in the job
- 3 opportunity within the United States other than an
- 4 alien admitted pursuant to this section.".
- 5 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
- 6 of the Immigration and Nationality Act is amended by in-
- 7 serting after the item relating to section 218 the following
- 8 new item:

"Sec. 218A. Alternative agricultural worker program.".

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