

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6946

To amend section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to terminate
Temporary Protected Status designations for certain countries.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 2026

Mr. HUNT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality
Act to terminate Temporary Protected Status designa-
tions for certain countries.

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 Protected
5 Status Reform Act of 2026.”

6 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) STATUTORY PURPOSE OF TEMPORARY PRO-
9 TECTED STATUS.—Temporary Protected Status
10 (TPS), as established under section 244 of the Im-

1 migration and Nationality Act, was intended by Con-
2 gress to provide temporary and humanitarian relief
3 to nationals of designated countries experiencing
4 armed conflict, environmental disaster, or other ex-
5 traordinary and temporary conditions.

6 (2) DURATION AND REPEATED EXTENSIONS.—

7 Since its enactment, TPS designations for certain
8 countries have been repeatedly extended for periods
9 spanning multiple decades, resulting in populations
10 residing in the United States for prolonged dura-
11 tions under a status intended by statute to be tem-
12 porary in nature.

13 (3) EXECUTIVE BRANCH DISCRETION.—The

14 designation, extension, and termination of TPS have
15 been exercised primarily through executive branch
16 discretion, which has led to differing interpretations
17 across administrations regarding the scope, dura-
18 tion, and application of such authority.

19 (4) IMPACT ON THE IMMIGRATION SYSTEM.—

20 Long-term TPS designations raise policy questions
21 concerning the interaction between temporary hu-
22 manitarian protections and the broader immigration
23 system, including issues of lawful presence, work au-
24 thorization, and eligibility for other forms of immi-
25 gration relief.

1 (5) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT AND LEGISLA-
 2 TIVE AUTHORITY.—Article I of the Constitution
 3 vests Congress with the authority to establish a uni-
 4 form rule of naturalization, and Congress has a con-
 5 tinuing responsibility to review, clarify, and amend
 6 immigration statutes to ensure they reflect legisla-
 7 tive intent.

8 **SEC. 3. TERMINATION OF TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS**
 9 **FOR CERTAIN COUNTRIES.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 244 of the Immigration
 11 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a) is amended by add-
 12 ing at the end the following new subsection:

13 “(o) TERMINATION OF DESIGNATIONS FOR CERTAIN
 14 COUNTRIES.—

15 “(1) TERMINATION.—Notwithstanding any
 16 other provision of this section or any other provision
 17 of law, the designation of a foreign state under this
 18 section shall terminate with respect to nationals of—

19 “(A) Somalia;

20 “(B) Sudan;

21 “(C) Syria;

22 “(D) Yemen; and

23 “(E) Lebanon.

24 “(2) PROHIBITION ON REDESIGNATION.—The
 25 Secretary of Homeland Security may not designate

1 or redesignate any country listed in paragraph (1)
2 under this section on or after the date of enactment
3 of this subsection, except pursuant to a statute en-
4 acted after such date that expressly authorizes such
5 designation.”.

6 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The termination of Tem-
7 porary Protected Status under subsection (o) of section
8 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by
9 subsection (a), shall take effect 180 days after the date
10 of enactment of this Act.

11 **SEC. 4. ORDERLY WIND-DOWN AND DEPARTURE REQUIRE-**
12 **MENTS.**

13 (a) CESSATION OF LAWFUL PRESENCE AND RE-
14 QUIRED DEPARTURE.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
16 graph (2), any individual whose Temporary Pro-
17 tected Status is terminated pursuant to section
18 244(o) of the Immigration and Nationality Act
19 shall—

20 (A) depart the United States not later
21 than the effective date described in section 2(b);
22 and

23 (B) cease to be considered lawfully present
24 in the United States on and after such date.

1 (2) EXCEPTION FOR INDEPENDENT LAWFUL
2 STATUS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to an indi-
3 vidual who, on or before the termination date, has
4 been granted—

5 (A) lawful permanent resident status;

6 (B) nonimmigrant status under section
7 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality
8 Act;

9 (C) asylum under section 208 of such Act;
10 or

11 (D) any other lawful immigration status
12 independent of Temporary Protected Status.

13 (3) NO CONTINUING PROTECTION FROM RE-
14 MOVAL.—An individual described in paragraph (1)
15 shall be subject to removal under the Immigration
16 and Nationality Act if such individual remains in the
17 United States after the termination date without
18 lawful status.

19 (b) LIMITED STAY OF REMOVAL PRIOR TO TERMI-
20 NATION DATE.—During the 180-day period preceding the
21 termination date described in section 2(b), the Secretary
22 of Homeland Security may not remove an individual solely
23 on the basis of the termination of Temporary Protected
24 Status.

1 (c) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—Any employ-
2 ment authorization document issued pursuant to Tem-
3 porary Protected Status for an individual described in sec-
4 tion 2(a) shall expire on the termination date specified in
5 section 2(b) and may not be extended thereafter.

6 **SEC. 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

7 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to—

8 (1) require the Secretary of Homeland Security
9 to grant any form of discretionary relief from re-
10 moval;

11 (2) limit the authority of the Secretary to deny
12 any application for immigration benefits; or

13 (3) confer any right to remain in the United
14 States beyond the termination date described in sec-
15 tion 2(b).

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