

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7964

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to prohibit the admission of aliens from certain countries where the United States cannot reliably verify the identities or backgrounds of individuals seeking entry, building upon the framework established by Presidential Proclamation 9645 and upheld by the Supreme Court in *Trump v. Hawaii*, 585 U.S. (2018), and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2026

Mr. OGLES (for himself, Mr. FINE, Mr. DONALDS, and Mrs. HARSHBARGER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to prohibit the admission of aliens from certain countries where the United States cannot reliably verify the identities or backgrounds of individuals seeking entry, building upon the framework established by Presidential Proclamation 9645 and upheld by the Supreme Court in *Trump v. Hawaii*, 585 U.S. (2018), 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Halt Immigration from
3 Countries with Inadequate Verification Capabilities Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The Supreme Court, in *Trump v. Hawaii*,
7 585 U.S. (2018), upheld the President’s authority to
8 restrict entry from countries posing national security
9 risks due to inadequate information-sharing and
10 verification capabilities, affirming that such meas-
11 ures are within the executive’s broad discretion
12 under section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nation-
13 ality Act and do not violate the Establishment
14 Clause when facially neutral and justified by legiti-
15 mate national security concerns.

16 (2) Presidential Proclamation 9645 (issued
17 September 24, 2017) identified countries with defi-
18 cient identity-management practices, inadequate in-
19 formation-sharing on public-safety and terrorism
20 threats, or other risk factors, including Iran, Libya,
21 North Korea, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela, and
22 Yemen, as warranting entry restrictions.

23 (3) Expanding such restrictions to additional
24 countries meeting similar criteria, such as those with
25 ongoing instability, state-sponsored terrorism, or
26 failure to cooperate in verification processes, is nec-

1 essary to protect U.S. national security, consistent
2 with the precedents set in *Trump v. Hawaii* and
3 prior executive actions.

4 (4) This Act builds upon the upheld framework
5 to include countries like Afghanistan, Sudan, Eri-
6 trea, and the Central African Republic, where reli-
7 able verification of individuals' identities and back-
8 grounds is not feasible due to governance failures,
9 conflict, or adversarial policies.

10 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

11 In this Act:

12 (1) The term “designated country” means—

13 (A) Somalia;

14 (B) any country identified in Presidential
15 Proclamation 9645, as upheld in *Trump v. Ha-*
16 waii, including Iran, Libya, North Korea, Syria,
17 Venezuela, and Yemen; and

18 (C) any other country designated by the
19 Secretary of State, in consultation with the Sec-
20 retary of Homeland Security and the Director
21 of National Intelligence, as a country where the
22 government or prevailing conditions do not
23 allow for reliable verification of the identities,
24 backgrounds, or intentions of individuals seek-
25 ing admission to the United States, based on

1 factors such as inadequate information sharing,
2 lack of diplomatic cooperation, state failure, or
3 heightened national security risks, including but
4 not limited to Afghanistan, Sudan, Eritrea, and
5 the Central African Republic.

6 (2) The term “alien” has the meaning given
7 such term in section 101(a)(3) of the Immigration
8 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(3)).

9 (3) The term “admission” has the meaning
10 given such term in section 101(a)(13) of the Immi-
11 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(13)).

12 **SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON ADMISSION OF ALIENS FROM DES-**
13 **IGNATED COUNTRIES.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
15 sion of law, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in con-
16 sultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of
17 National Intelligence, shall prohibit the admission of any
18 alien who is a national of, or who has resided in, a des-
19 ignated country during the 5-year period preceding the
20 date of application for admission.

21 (b) EXCEPTIONS.—The prohibition under subsection
22 (a) shall not apply to—

23 (1) an alien who is a lawful permanent resident
24 of the United States;

1 (2) an alien admitted as a refugee or granted
2 asylum prior to the date of enactment of this Act;

3 (3) an alien serving in the United States Armed
4 Forces or any immediate family member of that
5 alien;

6 (4) an alien traveling on a diplomatic visa
7 issued by that alien's country of origin; or

8 (5) an alien whose admission is deemed by the
9 Secretary of Homeland Security to be in the na-
10 tional interest, on a case-by-case basis, including
11 students and certain nonimmigrant categories sub-
12 ject to enhanced screening as referenced in Presi-
13 dential Proclamation 9645.

14 (c) **WAIVER AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of Home-
15 land Security may waive the application of subsection (a)
16 for an alien if the Secretary determines that such waiver
17 is necessary for humanitarian reasons or to ensure compli-
18 ance with international obligations, consistent with the
19 waiver processes upheld in *Trump v. Hawaii*.

20 **SEC. 5. DESIGNATION AND REVIEW PROCESS.**

21 (a) **INITIAL DESIGNATIONS.**—Not later than 60 days
22 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
23 State shall publish in the Federal Register a list of des-
24 ignated countries under section 3(1)(C), including the ra-
25 tionale for each designation, with reference to the

1 verification standards outlined in Presidential Proclama-
2 tion 9645 and the Supreme Court’s decision in Trump v.
3 Hawaii.

4 (b) ANNUAL REVIEW.—The Secretary of State shall
5 review the list of designated countries annually and may
6 add or remove countries based on updated assessments of
7 verification capabilities and national security risks, similar
8 to the reviews conducted under prior executive orders. Any
9 changes shall be published in the Federal Register with
10 a 30-day notice period.

11 (c) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—The Secretary of
12 State shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-
13 mittees an annual report detailing the designations, in-
14 cluding classified annexes as necessary.

15 **SEC. 6. ENHANCED VETTING PROCEDURES.**

16 (a) DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary of Homeland Se-
17 curity, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall
18 develop and implement enhanced vetting procedures for
19 aliens from designated countries who may qualify for ex-
20 ceptions or waivers under section 4, drawing from the pro-
21 cedures established in Presidential Proclamation 9645.

22 (b) IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE.—Such procedures
23 shall be implemented not later than 180 days after the
24 date of enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 7. ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES.**

2 (a) ENFORCEMENT.—The provisions of this Act shall
3 be enforced in accordance with the Immigration and Na-
4 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

5 (b) PENALTIES.—Any alien who attempts to enter
6 the United States in violation of this Act shall be subject
7 to removal proceedings and barred from reentry for a pe-
8 riod of 10 years.

9 **SEC. 8. SEVERABILITY.**

10 If any provision of this Act, or the application of such
11 provision to any person or circumstance, is held invalid,
12 the remainder of this Act, and the application of such pro-
13 vision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be af-
14 fected thereby.

15 **SEC. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

16 This Act shall take effect on the date that is 90 days
17 after the date of enactment of this Act.

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