

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8013

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to codify the Optional Practical Training program.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 2026

Mr. LICCARDO (for himself, Mr. OBERNOLTE, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to codify the Optional Practical Training program.

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 “Keep Innovators in  
5 America Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. IN GENERAL.**

7 Section 101(a)(15)(F)(i) of the Immigration and Na-  
8 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(F)(i)) is amended by  
9 inserting after “course of study” the second time it ap-  
10 pears the following: “, except that such a course of study

1 may include practical training and employment authoriza-  
2 tion under terms and conditions set by the Secretary of  
3 Homeland Security as long as such employment is related  
4 to the field of study, including after completion of degree  
5 requirements, and that such an alien may maintain stu-  
6 dent status under this section if the alien is the beneficiary  
7 of a pending or approved petition filed pursuant to section  
8 204(a)(1) except that as an enrolled student the alien's  
9 course of study must be consistent with section 214(m)".

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