

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8635

To modernize and improve the accuracy, timeliness, and interoperability of the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 30, 2026

Mr. SHREVE (for himself and Mr. TAYLOR) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To modernize and improve the accuracy, timeliness, and interoperability of the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements program, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Verification Enhance-  
5 ment and Reliability for Immigration Fidelity Act of  
6 2026” or as the “VERIFY Act of 2026”.

7 **SEC. 2. SAVE PROGRAM MODERNIZATION.**

8 (a) GENERAL REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of  
9 Homeland Security, acting through United States Citizen-

1 ship and Immigration Services, shall modernize the SAVE  
2 program to ensure accurate, timely, and reliable  
3 verification response, including by—

4 (1) upgrading query processing infrastructure  
5 to reduce response latency;

6 (2) implementing automated data reconciliation  
7 with source systems;

8 (3) expanding API access for authorized  
9 querying agencies; and

10 (4) establishing a user feedback mechanism for  
11 agencies to report suspected data errors.

12 (b) TIMELINESS OF UPDATES.—To the maximum ex-  
13 tent practicable and consistent with applicable law, the  
14 Secretary shall ensure that changes to an individual’s im-  
15 migration status, including grants, extensions, expirations,  
16 revocations, or terminations of lawful status or parole, are  
17 reflected in the SAVE program not later than 24 hours  
18 after such changes are recorded in the originating system.

19 (c) INTEROPERABILITY AND DATA SHARING.—The  
20 Secretary, consistent with the Privacy Act of 1974, the  
21 E-Government Act of 2002, the Computer Matching and  
22 Privacy Protection Act of 1988, and other applicable Fed-  
23 eral law, shall—

1           (1) integrate the SAVE program into relevant  
2     Department of Homeland Security systems, includ-  
3     ing arrival and departure information systems;

4           (2) establish or update memoranda of under-  
5     standing with the Social Security Administration  
6     and other Federal agencies, as appropriate, to im-  
7     prove verification accuracy using data-sharing ar-  
8     rangements authorized under applicable Federal law,  
9     including section 6103 of the Internal Revenue  
10    Code, the Computer Matching and Privacy Protec-  
11    tion Act of 1988, and memoranda of understanding  
12    in effect as of the date of enactment of this Act; and

13          (3) encourage voluntary data-sharing agree-  
14    ments with State vital records agencies for  
15    verification of birth and death information, where le-  
16    gally permissible.

17    (d)    POST-VERIFICATION    STATUS    CHANGE  
18    ALERTS.—The SAVE program shall notify querying agen-  
19    cies when an individual’s immigration status materially  
20    changes after a prior verification, when such notification  
21    is relevant to continued eligibility. Notifications shall com-  
22    ply with privacy applicable Federal privacy laws, including  
23    the Privacy Act of 1974, and with additional administra-  
24    tive safeguards established by the Secretary and include  
25    only information necessary for eligibility determinations.

1 (e) DATA SCOPE LIMITATIONS.—Information used or  
2 displayed through the SAVE program shall be limited to  
3 data necessary for eligibility verification purposes. Noth-  
4 ing in this Act may be construed to authorize—

5 (1) the expansion of the SAVE program to in-  
6 clude non-immigration criminal history databases;  
7 and

8 (2) the use of the SAVE program for general  
9 law enforcement or surveillance purposes.

10 (f) USE OF AUTOMATED TOOLS.—The Secretary may  
11 use automated or algorithmic tools within the SAVE pro-  
12 gram solely for data reconciliation, error reduction, and  
13 identity matching, provided that—

14 (1) no adverse eligibility determination is made  
15 solely on the basis of automated processing;

16 (2) human review is required for contested or  
17 negative determinations; and

18 (3) the Secretary implements regular testing for  
19 accuracy and bias and submits summary results an-  
20 nually to Congress.

21 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON USER ACCESS AND FEES.**

22 No fee may be charged to a Federal, State, local, or  
23 Tribal government agency for submitting a verification  
24 query through the SAVE program.

1 **SEC. 4. IMPLEMENTATION AND OVERSIGHT.**

2 (a) MODERNIZATION PLAN.—Not later than 180  
3 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall sub-  
4 mit to Congress a SAVE modernization plan that in-  
5 cludes—

6 (1) a description of technological upgrades to  
7 the SAVE program;

8 (2) user training improvements; and

9 (3) performance metrics related to accuracy and  
10 response time, including error rates and average  
11 query completion time benchmarks.

12 (b) INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDITS.—The Inspector  
13 General of the Department of Homeland Security shall  
14 conduct annual audits of the SAVE program’s accuracy,  
15 timeliness, and compliance with this Act, and submit re-  
16 ports to Congress.

17 (c) CORRECTIVE ACTION.—If the Inspector General  
18 identifies material non-compliance, the Secretary shall  
19 submit a corrective action plan to Congress within 90  
20 days. Continued non-compliance may be addressed  
21 through limitations on the use of funds for non-SAVE dis-  
22 cretionary activities, as determined by Congress, and may  
23 trigger suspension of SAVE queries until compliance is re-  
24 stored.

1 **SEC. 5. DEFINITION.**

2       For purposes of this Act, the term “SAVE program”  
3 means the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements  
4 program, established pursuant to section 121 of the Immi-  
5 gration Reform and Control Act of 1986.

6 **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

7       This Act shall take effect one year after the date of  
8 enactment, except that planning and reporting require-  
9 ments under section 4 shall take effect immediately upon  
10 enactment.

11 **SEC. 7. SEVERABILITY.**

12       If any provision of this Act, or the application there-  
13 of, is held invalid, the remainder of this Act shall not be  
14 affected.

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