

Calendar No. 515

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**S. 4680**

To authorize the Secretary of State to extend limited consular appointments to eight years, with an additional two-year extension for needs of the Foreign Service.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 4, 2026

Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. RICKETTS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

JULY 27, 2026

Reported by Mr. RISCH, without amendment

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of State to extend limited consular appointments to eight years, with an additional two-year extension for needs of the Foreign Service.

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 “Expanded Consular
5 Fellows Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) Consular services provided at United States
4 embassies and consulates worldwide, and in the
5 United States, are critical to protecting the safety
6 and security of Americans abroad, safeguarding
7 United States borders, supporting American families
8 pursuing international adoptions, and facilitating le-
9 gitimate travel to the United States.

10 (2) Foreign Service posts process millions of
11 visa applications each year, conducting rigorous se-
12 curity vetting of each application to detect fraud,
13 mitigate security risks, prevent unlawful migrations,
14 and protect the homeland.

15 (3) Travel and tourism is the United States
16 largest single services export, accounting for 22 per-
17 cent of services exports and 7 percent of total ex-
18 ports in 2023. In 2022, the travel and tourism in-
19 dustry contributed \$2,300,000,000,000 to the
20 United States economy—approximately 2.97 percent
21 of gross domestic product—and supported 9,500,000
22 United States jobs.

23 (4) Demand for consular services will continue
24 to increase as the United States enters an American
25 decade of sports as the host of major international
26 events between 2024 and 2034—including the Copa

America, Club World Cup, FIFA World Cup, Olympic and Paralympic Games, and Rugby World Cups—which are expected to draw millions of international visitors and significantly increasing workloads for consular staff while simultaneously requiring enhanced security screening and adjudicative rigor.

(5) Expanding limited non-career appointments for Department of State personnel performing consular functions, including through the Consular Fellows Program, is essential to increasing staffing capacity, reducing recruitment costs and delays, and ensuring the continued efficient delivery of consular services.

**SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF LIMITED CONSULAR APPOINTMENT
AUTHORITY.**

Section 309 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3949) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “, or 8 years in duration for personnel performing consular services,” after “may not exceed 5 years in duration”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(6)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or”;

1 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
2 period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

3 (C) by adding at the end the following new
4 subparagraph:

5 “(C) a limited noncareer appointment for a
6 period not to exceed 2 years, in the case of per-
7 sonnel performing consular services.”.

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