

Public Law 100-658
100th Congress

An Act

Nov. 15, 1988
[H.R. 5115]

To extend for 2 years section 314 of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, to make additional visas available to immigrants from underrepresented countries to enhance diversity in immigration, and to extend through December 31, 1989, H-1 nonimmigrant status for certain registered nurses.

Immigration
Amendments of
1988.
8 USC 1101 note.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Immigration Amendments of 1988".

SEC. 2. 2-YEAR EXTENSION OF SECTION 314 OF THE IMMIGRATION REFORM AND CONTROL ACT OF 1986.

8 USC 1153 note.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 314(a) of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 is amended by inserting "and 15,000 visa numbers in each of fiscal years 1989 and 1990" after "5,000 visa numbers in each of fiscal years 1987 and 1988".

8 USC 1153 note.

(b) **ADMINISTRATION.**—In carrying out the amendment made by subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall continue to use the list of qualified immigrants established under section 314 of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 before the date of the enactment of this Act, and may continue to carry out such section under the regulations in effect (as of the date of July 1, 1988) under part 43 of title 22 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

8 USC 1153 note.

SEC. 3. MAKING VISAS AVAILABLE TO IMMIGRANTS FROM UNDERREPRESENTED COUNTRIES TO ENHANCE DIVERSITY IN IMMIGRATION.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL VISAS.**—Notwithstanding the numerical limitations in section 201(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (relating to worldwide level of immigration), but subject to the numerical limitations in section 202 of such Act (relating to per country numerical limitations), there shall be made available to qualified immigrants who are natives of underrepresented countries 10,000 visa numbers in each of fiscal years 1990 and 1991.

(b) **DISTRIBUTION OF VISA NUMBERS.**—The Secretary of State shall provide for making visa numbers provided under subsection (a) available in the same manner as visa numbers were made available to qualified immigrants under section 203(a)(7) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, except that such visas shall be made available strictly in a random order among those who qualify during an application period established by the Secretary of State and except that if more than one petition is submitted with respect to any alien all such petitions submitted with respect to the alien shall be voided.

(c) **WAIVER OF LABOR CERTIFICATION.**—Section 212(a)(14) of the Immigration and Nationality Act shall not apply in the determination of an immigrant's eligibility to receive any visa made available

under this section or in the admission of such an immigrant issued a visa under this section.

(d) APPLICATION OF DEFINITIONS OF IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.—Except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, the definitions contained in the Immigration and Nationality Act shall apply in the administration of this section. Nothing in this section shall be held to repeal, amend, alter, modify, affect, or restrict the powers, duties, functions, or authority of the Attorney General in the administration and enforcement of such Act or any other law relating to immigration, nationality, or naturalization.

(e) UNDERREPRESENTED COUNTRY DEFINED.—In this section, the term “underrepresented country” means a foreign state natives of which used, during fiscal year 1988, less than 25 percent of the maximum number of immigrant visa numbers otherwise available to it in that fiscal year under section 202(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. In applying the previous sentence, there shall not be taken into account visa numbers issued under section 314 of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986.

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF H-1 STATUS FOR CERTAIN REGISTERED NURSES THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1989. 8 USC 1101 note.

The Attorney General shall provide for the extension through December 31, 1989, of nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act for an alien to perform temporarily services as a registered nurse in the case of an alien who has had such status for a period of at least 5 years if—

(1) such status has not expired as of the date of the enactment of this Act but would otherwise expire during 1988 or 1989, due only to the time limitation with respect to such status; or

(2)(A) the alien's status as such a nonimmigrant expired during the period beginning on January 1, 1987, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act, due only to the time limitation with respect to such status,

(B) the alien is present in the United States as of the date of the enactment of this Act,

(C) the alien has been employed as a registered nurse in the United States since the date of expiration of such status, and

(D) in the case of an alien whose status expired during 1987, the alien's employer has filed with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, before the date of the enactment of this Act, an appeal of a petition filed in connection with the alien's application for extension of such status.

Approved November 15, 1988.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 5115:

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Oct. 5, considered and passed House.

Oct. 21, considered and passed Senate.