

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 203

To designate the Republic of Korea as a visa waiver pilot program country  
for one year under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 1997

Mr. KIM (for himself, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Mr. UNDERWOOD) introduced  
the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To designate the Republic of Korea as a visa waiver pilot  
program country for one year under the Immigration  
and Nationality Act.

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. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.**

4       The Congress makes the following findings:

5               (1) The Republic of Korea and the United  
6       States have close historical and military ties.

7               (2) The Republic of Korea has been designated  
8       as a major non-NATO ally.

9               (3) The Republic of Korea is the sixth largest  
10      trading partner of the United States.

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1           (4) There is increasing demand by citizens of  
2           the Republic of Korea to visit the United States,  
3           with an increased demand for nonimmigrant visas  
4           from a 1982 total of 800 to a 1995 total of over  
5           2,000 applications per day.

6           (5) During calendar year 1995, a total of  
7           592,000 Korean citizens visited the United States,  
8           an increase of 19 percent over calendar year 1994.

9           (6) According to the United States Department  
10          of Commerce, overall tourism dollars spent in the  
11          United States by tourists from the Republic of  
12          Korea exceeded \$680,000,000 in fiscal year 1993.

13          (7) According to the United States Census Bu-  
14          reau, in 1995 the United States exported goods val-  
15          ued at \$25,379,874,000 to the Republic of Korea,  
16          and imported goods valued at \$24,183,941,000 from  
17          the Republic of Korea, a trade surplus of nearly  
18          \$1,200,000,000.

19          (8) Currently all potential Republic of Korea  
20          travelers seeking to obtain a travel visa to the  
21          United States must apply at the United States Em-  
22          bassy in Seoul, regardless of their place of residence  
23          in the Republic of Korea.

24          (9) The United States consular affairs office at  
25          the United States Embassy in Seoul has not been

1       able to meet the growing demand for nonimmigrant  
2       visas to the United States due to lack of space and  
3       personnel, resulting in unnecessary delays, frustra-  
4       tion, and loss of economic opportunity for the  
5       United States.

6           (10) During the past year numerous press re-  
7       ports and media stories have centered around the  
8       growing dissatisfaction of the South Korean people  
9       in relation to such delays and the lack of adequate  
10      protection against the natural elements.

11          (11) The Republic of Korea has a unique place  
12      of importance with respect to the United States  
13      under the provisions of the United States-North  
14      Korea Agreed Framework.

15   **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AS A**  
16                   **VISA WAIVER PILOT PROGRAM COUNTRY.**

17      (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
18      sion of law, beginning 60 days after date of enactment  
19      of this Act, the Republic of Korea shall be designated for  
20      one year as a visa waiver pilot program country for the  
21      purposes of section 217 of the Immigration and National-  
22      ity Act.

23      (b) AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE.—Notwithstanding  
24      any other provision of law, the requirements for designa-  
25      tion of a country under section 217 of the Immigration

1 and Nationality Act shall not apply to any designation of  
2 the Republic of Korea as a visa waiver pilot program coun-  
3 try under such section.

4 (c) REPORT REQUIREMENTS.—No later than one  
5 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
6 of State and the Attorney General shall compile and sub-  
7 mit to Congress a report evaluating the visa waiver pilot  
8 program country designation under subsection (a) and the  
9 qualifications of the Republic of Korea for designation  
10 under the provisions of section 217 of the Immigration  
11 and Nationality Act.

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