

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3508

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide status in each of fiscal years 2000 through 2002 for 65,000 H-1B nonimmigrants who have a master's or Ph.D. degree and meet the requirements for such status and whose employers make scholarship payments to institutions of higher education for undergraduate and postgraduate education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 18, 1999

Mr. WU (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of Virginia, and Mr. STARK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide status in each of fiscal years 2000 through 2002 for 65,000 H-1B nonimmigrants who have a master's or Ph.D. degree and meet the requirements for such status and whose employers make scholarship payments to institutions of higher education for undergraduate and postgraduate education.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. H-1B NONIMMIGRANT STATUS FOR CERTAIN**
2 **ALIENS WHOSE EMPLOYERS MAKE SCHOLAR-**
3 **SHIP DONATIONS FOR UNDERGRADUATE AND**
4 **POST-GRADUATE EDUCATION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Immigration and Nationality
6 Act is amended by inserting after section 218 the following
7 new section:

8 “H-1B NONIMMIGRANT STATUS FOR CERTAIN ALIENS
9 WHOSE EMPLOYERS MAKE SCHOLARSHIP PAYMENTS
10 FOR UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE EDU-
11 CATION

12 “SEC. 218A. (a) H-1B STATUS.—Notwithstanding
13 section 214(g)(1)(A) and subject to subsection (c), during
14 the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this
15 Act and ending on September 30, 2002, the Attorney Gen-
16 eral may provide nonimmigrant status under section
17 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) to an alien who meets the require-
18 ments under subsection (b), if the employer petitioning
19 under section 214(c) for the provision of such status
20 makes a qualified scholarship payment for each year in
21 which such status is held.

22 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—An alien shall be eligible for a
23 visa or the provision of H-1B nonimmigrant status under
24 this section if the alien—

1 “(1) disregarding section 214(g)(1)(A), meets
2 all the requirements for an H-1B nonimmigrant;
3 and

4 “(2) possesses a master’s or Ph.D. degree from
5 an institution of higher education in the United
6 States (or an equivalent degree from an educational
7 institution in a foreign country).

8 “(c) NUMERICAL LIMITATION.—The total number of
9 aliens who may be issued a visa or otherwise provided non-
10 immigrant status under this section may not exceed
11 65,000 during any fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year
12 2000 and ending with fiscal year 2002). Aliens issued a
13 visa or otherwise provided nonimmigrant status under this
14 section shall not be counted in applying the numerical lim-
15 itations under section 214(g)(1)(A).

16 “(d) USE OF SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS BY INSTITUTIONS
17 OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—An institution of higher edu-
18 cation that receives funds under subsection (a) shall use
19 such funds only to provide scholarships administered by
20 such institution to students enrolled full-time in programs
21 of undergraduate and postgraduate study. Priority consid-
22 eration in the award of such scholarships shall be given
23 to citizens and permanent resident aliens.

24 “(e) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 15 days after
25 receipt of a payment pursuant to this section, an institu-

1 tion of higher education shall certify the receipt of such
 2 payment to the Attorney General.

3 “(f) DEADLINES.—A visa (or other appropriate docu-
 4 mentation of status) under this section shall be issued—

5 “(1) within 30 days of receipt of certification
 6 under subsection (e); and

7 “(2) in the case of an alien who received a de-
 8 gree described in subsection (b)(2) from an edu-
 9 cational institution in a foreign country, within 30
 10 days of receipt of a completed application and cer-
 11 tification under subsection (e).

12 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

13 “(1) H-1B NONIMMIGRANT.—The term ‘H-1B
 14 nonimmigrant’ has the meaning given such term in
 15 section 212(n)(4).

16 “(2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—
 17 The term ‘institution of higher education’ means an
 18 educational institution in any State that meets all of
 19 the following criteria:

20 “(A) Admits as regular students only per-
 21 sons who have a certificate of graduation from
 22 a school providing secondary education or the
 23 recognized equivalent of such a certificate.

1 “(B) Is legally authorized within such
2 State to provide a program of education beyond
3 secondary education.

4 “(C) Is accredited by a nationally recog-
5 nized accrediting agency or association, or if
6 not so accredited, is an institution that has
7 been granted preaccreditation status by such an
8 agency or association that has been recognized
9 by the Secretary of Education for the granting
10 of preaccreditation status, and the Secretary
11 has determined that there are satisfactory as-
12 surances that the institution will meet the ac-
13 creditation standards of such an agency or as-
14 sociation within a reasonable time.

15 “(D) Provides an educational program for
16 which the institution awards a bachelor’s degree
17 or provides a program that requires a bach-
18 elor’s degree for admission.

19 “(E) Is a public or other nonprofit institu-
20 tion.

21 “(3) QUALIFIED SCHOLARSHIP PAYMENT.—The
22 term ‘qualified scholarship’ payment means a pay-
23 ment to an institution of higher education in the
24 United States in an amount which is equal to the
25 then current maximum authorized Pell Grant award

1 for each year under the Federal Pell Grants pro-
2 gram authorized under subpart 1 of part A of title
3 IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
4 1070a et seq.).”.

5 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
6 of the Immigration and Nationality Act is amended by in-
7 serting after the item relating to section 218 the following:

“Sec. 218A. H-1B nonimmigrant status for certain aliens whose employers
make scholarship payments for undergraduate and post-
graduate education.”.

