

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1353

To authorize the Port Passenger Accelerated Service System (PortPASS) as a permanent program for land border inspection under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 2003

Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself, Mr. ISSA, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. REYES, Mr. FROST, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. CUNNINGHAM) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

## A BILL

To authorize the Port Passenger Accelerated Service System (PortPASS) as a permanent program for land border inspection 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Secure and Fast Entry  
5       at the Border Act of 2003” or the “SAFE Border Act  
6       of 2003” .

7       **SEC. 2. PORTPASS PROGRAM.**

8       (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following  
9       findings:

1           (1) Port Passenger Accelerated Service System  
2           (PortPASS) is a group of pre-inspection technology  
3           programs used at ports of entry to facilitate the  
4           speedy passage of low-risk travelers.

5           (2) Ports of entry constitute vital links in our  
6           nation's economic and social life.

7           (3) Southern and northern land border inspec-  
8           tions combined comprise over 80 percent of the total  
9           inspections performed at all ports of entry.

10          (4) PortPASS programs strengthen our borders  
11          without impeding legitimate traffic needed for our  
12          nation's economic health.

13          (5) The Secure Electronic Network for Trav-  
14          elers' Rapid Inspection (SENTRI), a PortPASS pro-  
15          gram, incorporates an extensive screening process to  
16          move pre-screened, low-risk travelers quickly and  
17          safely through the inspection process while pre-  
18          serving border security. There are currently over  
19          45,000 SENTRI participants.

20          (6) PortPASS programs must expand their ex-  
21          isting infrastructure to meet border management  
22          issues. The success and effectiveness of the pro-  
23          grams demonstrate they are deserving of increased  
24          resource allocation to meet growth and security chal-  
25          lenges.

1 (b) AMENDMENT TO IMMIGRATION AND NATION-  
2 ALITY ACT.—Section 286(q)(1) of the Immigration and  
3 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(q)(1)(B)) is amended by  
4 inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new sub-  
5 paragraph:

6 “(C) The Port Passenger Accelerated Serv-  
7 ice System (PortPASS) is authorized as a per-  
8 manent program for land border inspection  
9 under this Act.”.

10 (c) EXTENSION OF VALIDITY OF SENTRI APPROV-  
11 ALS FOR PARTICIPATION.—Notwithstanding any other  
12 provision of law and beginning not later than 30 days after  
13 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secure Elec-  
14 tronic Network for Travelers’ Rapid Inspection (SENTRI)  
15 Program, authorized under section 286(q) of the Immigra-  
16 tion and Nationality Act, shall issue approvals for partici-  
17 pation for non-commercial vehicle border crossers that  
18 shall be valid for not less than 2 years.

19 (d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the  
20 Congress that—

21 (1) the Department of Homeland Security must  
22 ensure the permanence of PortPASS programs in  
23 the transition from the Department of Justice to the  
24 new Department of Homeland Security;

1           (2) all land PortPASS programs should utilize  
2           interoperable technology to offer program enrollees  
3           increased access at all participating dedicated com-  
4           muter lanes;

5           (3) the Secretary of Homeland Security should  
6           appoint dedicated staff with appropriate training  
7           and instruction, increase staffing under the Secure  
8           Electronic Network for Travelers' Rapid Inspection  
9           (SENTRI) Program for actual inspections and nec-  
10          essary administrative tasks, and should allocate  
11          greater resources to the program to facilitate and  
12          expedite the processing of applications for SENTRI;  
13          and

14          (4) the Secretary of Homeland Security should  
15          create a pre-inspection low-risk traveler dedicated  
16          commuter lane for pedestrian land border crossers.

○