

Calendar No. 303

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1580

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend the special immigrant religious worker program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

September 3, 2003

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. LEAHY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

OCTOBER 2, 2003

Reported by Mr. HATCH, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend the special immigrant religious worker program.

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 “Religious Workers Act
5 of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF SPECIAL IMMIGRANT**
 2 **RELIGIOUS WORKER PROGRAM.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 101(a)(27)(C)(ii) of the
 4 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
 5 1101(a)(27)(C)(ii)) is amended by striking “2003” each
 6 place that term appears and inserting “2008”.

7 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by
 8 subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2003.

9 **SECTION 1. SPECIAL IMMIGRANT RELIGIOUS WORKER PRO-**
 10 **GRAM.**

11 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—*This section may be cited as the*
 12 *“Religious Workers Act of 2003”.*

13 (b) **EXTENSION OF SPECIAL IMMIGRANT RELIGIOUS**
 14 **WORKER PROGRAM.**—

15 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—*Section 101(a)(27)(C)(ii) of*
 16 *the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.*
 17 *1101(a)(27)(C)(ii)) is amended by striking “2003”*
 18 *each place that term appears and inserting “2008”.*

19 (2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—*The amendment made by*
 20 *paragraph (1) shall take effect on October 1, 2003.*

21 **SEC. 2. PILOT IMMIGRATION PROGRAM.**

22 (a) **PROCESSING PRIORITY UNDER PILOT IMMIGRA-**
 23 **TION PROGRAM FOR REGIONAL CENTERS TO PROMOTE**
 24 **ECONOMIC GROWTH.**—*Section 610 of the Departments of*
 25 *Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related*

1 *Agencies Appropriations Act, 1993 (8 U.S.C. 1153 note) is*
2 *amended—*

3 (1) *by striking “Attorney General” each place*
4 *such term appears and inserting “Secretary of Home-*
5 *land Security”; and*

6 (2) *by adding at the end the following:*

7 “(d) *In processing petitions under section*
8 *204(a)(1)(H) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8*
9 *U.S.C. 1154(a)(1)(H)) for classification under section*
10 *203(b)(5) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(5)), the Secretary*
11 *of Homeland Security may give priority to petitions filed*
12 *by aliens seeking admission under the pilot program de-*
13 *scribed in this section. Notwithstanding section 203(e) of*
14 *such Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(e)), immigrant visas made avail-*
15 *able under such section 203(b)(5) may be issued to such*
16 *aliens in an order that takes into account any priority ac-*
17 *corded under the preceding sentence.”.*

18 (b) *EXTENSION.—Section 610(b) of the Departments*
19 *of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Re-*
20 *lated Agencies Appropriations Act, 1993 (8 U.S.C. 1153*
21 *note) is amended by striking “10 years” and inserting “15*
22 *years”.*

23 **SEC. 3. GAO STUDY.**

24 (a) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date*
25 *of enactment of this Act, the General Accounting Office shall*

1 *report to Congress on the immigrant investor program cre-*
2 *ated under section 203(b)(5) of the Immigration and Na-*
3 *tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(5)).*

4 *(b) CONTENTS.—The report described in subsection (a)*
5 *shall include information regarding—*

6 *(1) the number of immigrant investors that have*
7 *received visas under the immigrant investor program*
8 *in each year since the inception of the program;*

9 *(2) the country of origin of the immigrant inves-*
10 *tors;*

11 *(3) the localities where the immigrant investors*
12 *are settling and whether those investors generally re-*
13 *main in the localities where they initially settle;*

14 *(4) the number of immigrant investors that have*
15 *sought to become citizens of the United States;*

16 *(5) the types of commercial enterprises that the*
17 *immigrant investors have established; and*

18 *(6) the types and number of jobs created by the*
19 *immigrant investors.*

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