

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 293

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 13, 2013

Mr. LEE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes.

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 “Fairness for High-
5 Skilled Immigrants Act of 2013”.

1 **SEC. 2. NUMERICAL LIMITATION TO ANY SINGLE FOREIGN**
 2 **STATE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(a)(2) of the Immi-
 4 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(a)(2)) is
 5 amended—

6 (1) in the paragraph heading, by striking “AND
 7 EMPLOYMENT-BASED”;

8 (2) by striking “(3), (4), and (5),” and insert-
 9 ing “(3) and (4),”;

10 (3) by striking “subsections (a) and (b) of sec-
 11 tion 203” and inserting “section 203(a)”;

12 (4) by striking “7” and inserting “15”; and

13 (5) by striking “such subsections” and inserting
 14 “such section”.

15 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 202 of the
 16 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1152) is
 17 amended—

18 (1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “both sub-
 19 sections (a) and (b) of section 203” and inserting
 20 “section 203(a)”;

21 (2) by striking subsection (a)(5); and

22 (3) by amending subsection (e) to read as fol-
 23 lows:

24 “(e) SPECIAL RULES FOR COUNTRIES AT CEILING.—
 25 If it is determined that the total number of immigrant
 26 visas made available under section 203(a) to natives of

1 any single foreign state or dependent area will exceed the
 2 numerical limitation specified in subsection (a)(2) in any
 3 fiscal year, in determining the allotment of immigrant visa
 4 numbers to natives under section 203(a), visa numbers
 5 with respect to natives of that state or area shall be allo-
 6 cated (to the extent practicable and otherwise consistent
 7 with this section and section 203) in a manner so that,
 8 except as provided in subsection (a)(4), the proportion of
 9 the visa numbers made available under each of paragraphs
 10 (1) through (4) of section 203(a) is equal to the ratio of
 11 the total number of visas made available under the respec-
 12 tive paragraph to the total number of visas made available
 13 under section 203(a).”.

14 (c) COUNTRY-SPECIFIC OFFSET.—Section 2 of the
 15 Chinese Student Protection Act of 1992 (8 U.S.C. 1255
 16 note) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “subsection
 18 (e))” and inserting “subsection (d))”; and

19 (2) by striking subsection (d) and redesignating
 20 subsection (e) as subsection (d).

21 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 22 this section shall take effect as if enacted on September
 23 30, 2012, and shall apply to fiscal years beginning with
 24 fiscal year 2013.

1 (e) TRANSITION RULES FOR EMPLOYMENT-BASED
2 IMMIGRANTS.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the succeeding
4 paragraphs of this subsection and notwithstanding
5 title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
6 U.S.C. 1151 et seq.), the following rules shall apply:

7 (A) For fiscal year 2013, 15 percent of the
8 immigrant visas made available under each of
9 paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 203(b) of
10 such Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) shall be allotted to
11 immigrants who are natives of a foreign state
12 or dependent area that was not one of the two
13 states with the largest aggregate numbers of
14 natives obtaining immigrant visas during fiscal
15 year 2011 under such paragraphs.

16 (B) For fiscal year 2014, 10 percent of the
17 immigrant visas made available under each of
18 such paragraphs shall be allotted to immigrants
19 who are natives of a foreign state or dependent
20 area that was not one of the two states with the
21 largest aggregate numbers of natives obtaining
22 immigrant visas during fiscal year 2012 under
23 such paragraphs.

24 (C) For fiscal year 2015, 10 percent of the
25 immigrant visas made available under each of

1 such paragraphs shall be allotted to immigrants
2 who are natives of a foreign state or dependent
3 area that was not one of the two states with the
4 largest aggregate numbers of natives obtaining
5 immigrant visas during fiscal year 2013 under
6 such paragraphs.

7 (2) PER-COUNTRY LEVELS.—

8 (A) RESERVED VISAS.—With respect to
9 the visas reserved under each of subparagraphs
10 (A) through (C) of paragraph (1), the number
11 of such visas made available to natives of any
12 single foreign state or dependent area in the ap-
13 propriate fiscal year may not exceed 25 percent
14 (in the case of a single foreign state) or 2 per-
15 cent (in the case of a dependent area) of the
16 total number of such visas.

17 (B) UNRESERVED VISAS.—With respect to
18 the immigrant visas made available under each
19 of paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 203(b) of
20 such Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) and not reserved
21 under paragraph (1), for each of fiscal years
22 2013, 2014, and 2015, not more than 85 per-
23 cent shall be allotted to immigrants who are na-
24 tives of any single foreign state.

1 (3) SPECIAL RULE TO PREVENT UNUSED
2 VISAS.—If, with respect to fiscal year 2013, 2014, or
3 2015, the operation of paragraphs (1) and (2) of
4 this subsection would prevent the total number of
5 immigrant visas made available under paragraph (2)
6 or (3) of section 203(b) of such Act (8 U.S.C.
7 1153(b)) from being issued, such visas may be
8 issued during the remainder of such fiscal year with-
9 out regard to paragraphs (1) and (2) of this sub-
10 section.

11 (4) RULES FOR CHARGEABILITY.—Section
12 202(b) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(b)) shall apply
13 in determining the foreign state to which an alien is
14 chargeable for purposes of this subsection.

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