

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3366

To streamline the R–1 religious worker visa petition process.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

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

A BILL

To streamline the R–1 religious worker visa petition process.

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. R–1 RELIGIOUS WORKER VISA PETITIONS.**

4 Section 214 of the Immigration and Nationality Act
5 (8 U.S.C. 1184) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(s) VISAS OF NONIMMIGRANTS DESCRIBED IN SEC-
8 TION 101(a)(15)(R).—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
10 graph (2), a consular officer may not issue a visa
11 and the Secretary of Homeland Security may not
12 grant status to any alien under section

1 101(a)(15)(R) until the Secretary has approved a
2 petition filed on behalf of such alien.

3 “(2) BLANKET PETITION AUTHORIZED.—Not-
4 withstanding paragraph (1), a petitioner who has
5 satisfied the requirements of paragraph (3) may file
6 a blanket petition, in lieu of individual petitions, on
7 behalf of aliens who meet the eligibility requirements
8 of paragraph (4).

9 “(3) PETITIONER REQUIREMENTS.—A peti-
10 tioner satisfies the requirements of this paragraph
11 if—

12 “(A) the petitioner has an established pro-
13 gram for temporary, uncompensated missionary
14 work in the United States that is part of a
15 broader international missionary work program;

16 “(B) participation in the missionary work
17 described in subparagraph (A) is an established
18 element of religious development in the peti-
19 tioner’s religious denomination;

20 “(C) the petitioner provides formal train-
21 ing to its missionaries that is incidental to their
22 missionary service;

23 “(D) the petitioner has established a finan-
24 cial support system that reasonably ensures

1 that its missionaries will not become public
2 charges during their missionary service; and

3 “(E) at least 1,000 individual petitions for
4 nonimmigrant religious workers previously filed
5 by the petitioner under section 101(a)(15)(R)
6 have been approved by the Secretary of Home-
7 land Security.

8 “(4) ELIGIBILITY FOR INCLUSION IN BLANKET
9 PETITION.—An alien meets the requirements of this
10 paragraph if the alien—

11 “(A) is described in section 101(a)(15)(R);

12 “(B) has been accepted into a missionary
13 program described in paragraph (3)(A); and

14 “(C) will perform missionary work at a lo-
15 cation listed in the blanket-petition approval no-
16 tice.

17 “(5) LIMITATION.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of
19 Homeland Security may only include, in its ap-
20 proval of a blanket petition, locations of mis-
21 sionary service for which the Secretary has pre-
22 viously conducted a site inspection in connection
23 with an individual petition for a religious work-
24 er.

1 “(B) DEFINED TERM.—In this paragraph,
 2 the term ‘location of missionary service’ means
 3 a specific worksite or a geographic area with
 4 specific boundaries. If the location of mis-
 5 sionary service is a geographical area with spe-
 6 cific boundaries, the location shall include a
 7 head office or facility that can be reasonably
 8 subject to a site inspection.

9 “(6) LIST OF AUTHORIZED LOCATIONS OF MIS-
 10 SIONARY SERVICE.—

11 “(A) NOTICE.—When the Secretary of
 12 Homeland Security approves a blanket petition
 13 filed under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall
 14 issue a notice to the petitioner containing a list
 15 of the locations of missionary service authorized
 16 under the blanket petition. Such approval shall
 17 remain valid unless revoked by the Secretary of
 18 Homeland Security for good cause shown.

19 “(B) AMENDMENT.—A petitioner under
 20 this subsection may file a petition at any time
 21 seeking to amend the list of locations of mis-
 22 sionary service that were previously author-
 23 ized.”.

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