

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5564

To designate Cameroon under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Cameroon to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 12, 2021

Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. NADLER, Ms. BASS, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. KIND, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. BUSH, Mr. POCAN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. EVANS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To designate Cameroon under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Cameroon to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Cameroon TPS Act
3 of 2021”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Cameroon is in the midst of four ongoing
7 armed conflicts generally characterized by state-
8 sponsored violence, nonstate transnational terrorism,
9 and widespread human rights violations, making
10 safe return to Cameroon impossible.

11 (2) Since late 2016, the conflict between the
12 government and armed separatists has displaced
13 over 700,000 people in the Anglophone regions of
14 Cameroon and resulted in thousands of civilian cas-
15 ualties.

16 (3) This conflict has also exacerbated long-
17 standing tensions between farmers and nomadic
18 herders over natural resources, resulting in violence
19 and increased civilian casualties in the Northwest re-
20 gion of Cameroon.

21 (4) Cameroon’s presidential election in 2018
22 and local elections in 2020 exacerbated long-sim-
23 mering political and ethnic tensions, and each re-
24 sulted in uprisings and violence.

25 (5) In the Far North region, Boko Haram and
26 the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) continue

1 to terrorize communities, including by using kidnap-
2 ping and child soldiers in suicide bombings of
3 schools, mosques, and refugee camps.

4 (6) The civil war in the Central African Repub-
5 lic has also spilled over to Cameroon, with cross-bor-
6 der militias initiating conflicts in the East region.

7 (7) These conflicts have led to critical shortages
8 of essentials such as water, food, housing, and
9 health care, leaving an estimated 4.4 million people
10 in need of urgent humanitarian assistance and
11 roughly 1 million people displaced internally.

12 (8) In 2020, the Department of State reported
13 that Cameroonian authorities used these conflicts as
14 a pretext to engage in extrajudicial killings, arbi-
15 trary detentions, torture, and targeted violence
16 against marginalized populations.

17 (9) Cameroonian authorities have also targeted
18 Cameroonians who have fled to the United States.
19 Prior to scheduled removal flights leaving the United
20 States, government-led protests in front of the
21 United States Embassy in Yaoundé called on the
22 United States Government to either criminally
23 charge or deport asylum seekers who they alleged
24 were backers of Anglophone separatists.

1 (10) The United States nevertheless deported a
2 significant number of Cameroonians, reportedly
3 under duress, to face politically motivated detention
4 and torture at the hands of their government.

5 (11) Reports also indicate that upon arrival,
6 Cameroonian authorities confiscated identity docu-
7 ments and monitored activities of all deported indi-
8 viduals. Family members of such individuals report
9 that their loved ones are unaccounted for and fear
10 that they may have been redetained by security
11 forces.

12 (12) Cameroonians in the United States cannot
13 return safely to Cameroon without risking detention,
14 torture, or displacement. After years of uncertainty,
15 these individuals deserve stability and temporary re-
16 lief in the United States.

17 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION FOR PURPOSES OF GRANTING TEM-**
18 **PORARY PROTECTED STATUS.**

19 (a) DESIGNATION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 244
21 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
22 1254a), Cameroon shall be treated as if it had been
23 designated under subsection (b)(1)(A) of that sec-
24 tion, subject to the provisions of this section.

1 (2) PERIOD OF DESIGNATION.—The initial pe-
2 riod of the designation referred to in paragraph (1)
3 shall be for the 18-month period beginning on the
4 date of the enactment of this Act.

5 (b) ALIENS ELIGIBLE.—As a result of the designa-
6 tion made under subsection (a), an alien who is a national
7 of Cameroon is deemed to satisfy the requirements under
8 paragraph (1) of section 244(c) of the Immigration and
9 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(c)), subject to paragraph
10 (3) of such section, if the alien—

11 (1) has been continuously physically present in
12 the United States since the date of the enactment of
13 this Act;

14 (2) is admissible as an immigrant, except as
15 otherwise provided in paragraph (2)(A) of such sec-
16 tion, and is not ineligible for temporary protected
17 status under paragraph (2)(B) of such section; and

18 (3) registers for temporary protected status in
19 a manner established by the Secretary of Homeland
20 Security.

21 (c) CONSENT TO TRAVEL ABROAD.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland
23 Security shall give prior consent to travel abroad, in
24 accordance with section 244(f)(3) of the Immigra-
25 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(f)(3)), to

1 an alien who is granted temporary protected status
2 pursuant to the designation made under subsection
3 (a) if the alien establishes to the satisfaction of the
4 Secretary of Homeland Security that emergency and
5 extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the
6 alien require the alien to depart for a brief, tem-
7 porary trip abroad.

8 (2) TREATMENT UPON RETURN.—An alien re-
9 turning to the United States in accordance with an
10 authorization described in paragraph (1) shall be
11 treated as any other returning alien provided tem-
12 porary protected status under section 244 of the Im-
13 migration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a).

14 **SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

15 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of
16 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,
17 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement
18 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this
19 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record
20 by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-
21 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the
22 vote on passage.

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