

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4615

To require the Secretary of State to establish an expedited procedure to renew or extend the period of validity of certain passports, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2021

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. SIREs) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of State to establish an expedited procedure to renew or extend the period of validity of certain passports, 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 “Passport Emergency
5 Extension Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. EXPEDITED PROCEDURE TO RENEW OR EXTEND PE-**
7 **RIOD OF VALIDITY OF CERTAIN PASSPORTS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the limitation
9 described in section 2 of the Act of July 3, 1926 (22

1 U.S.C. 217a), the Secretary of State shall, not later than
2 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, estab-
3 lish an expedited procedure to permit individuals who wish
4 to use their United States passport that expired at any
5 time during the COVID–19 emergency or are scheduled
6 to expire by March 31, 2022, to receive a notation or other
7 marker to be affixed to such passport to indicate a renewal
8 or extension, as the case may be, of such validity through
9 July 31, 2022.

10 (b) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.—The Secretary
11 of State shall make every effort to inform appropriate for-
12 eign counterparts of the renewal or extension, as the case
13 may be, of the period of validity of an otherwise expired
14 or expiring passport under subsection (a).

15 (c) TREATMENT.—The Secretary of Homeland Secu-
16 rity shall treat a passport with a renewed or extended pe-
17 riod of validity under subsection (a) as if such passport
18 is valid through July 31, 2022, for purposes of immigra-
19 tion and border controls.

20 (d) TERMINATION.—The authority provided to the
21 Secretary of State by subsection (a) shall expire on Janu-
22 ary 31, 2022.

23 (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in sub-
24 section (a) may be construed as affecting in any manner
25 the procedure through which an individual submits an ap-

- 1 plication to renew a passport as in existence on the day
- 2 before the date of the enactment of this Act.

