

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2237

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the President to set a minimum annual goal for the number of refugees to be admitted, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 2021

Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. NADLER, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. COOPER, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RUSH, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. WELCH, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. YARMUTH, and Ms. TLAIB) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the President to set a minimum annual goal for the number of refugees to be admitted, 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 “Guaranteed Refugee  
3 Admission Ceiling Enhancement Act” or the “GRACE  
4 Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. ADMISSION OF REFUGEES.**

6       Section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act  
7 (8 U.S.C. 1157) is amended—

8               (1) in subsection (a)—

9                       (A) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and  
10               inserting the following:

11               “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in sub-  
12               section (b), the number of refugees who may be ad-  
13               mitted under this section in any fiscal year shall be  
14               such number as the President determines is—

15                       “(A) justified by humanitarian concerns or  
16               otherwise in the national interest; and

17                       “(B) not fewer than 125,000.

18               “(2) ABSENCE OF DETERMINATION.—If the  
19               President does not issue a determination under  
20               paragraph (1) before the beginning of a fiscal year,  
21               the number of refugees who may be admitted under  
22               this section shall be 125,000.”;

23                       (B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and  
24               (4) as paragraphs (4) and (7), respectively;

25                       (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the  
26               following:

1           “(3) NUMERICAL GOALS.—Each officer of the  
2       Federal Government responsible for refugee admis-  
3       sions or refugee resettlement shall treat as the nu-  
4       merical goals for refugee admissions under this sec-  
5       tion for the applicable fiscal year—

6           “(A)(i) a determination under paragraph  
7       (1); or

8           “(ii) in the absence of a determination  
9       under paragraph (1), the number under para-  
10      graph (2); and

11          “(B) a determination under subsection  
12      (b).”; and

13          (D) by inserting after paragraph (4), as  
14      redesignated, the following:

15          “(5) CONSIDERATION OF RESETTLEMENT  
16      NEEDS.—In making a determination under para-  
17      graph (1), the President shall consider the number  
18      of refugees who, during the calendar year beginning  
19      immediately after the beginning of the applicable fis-  
20      cal year, are in need of resettlement in a third coun-  
21      try, as determined by the United Nations High  
22      Commissioner for Refugees in the most recently  
23      published projected global resettlement needs report.

1           “(6) REGIONAL ALLOCATIONS.—The President  
2           shall determine regional allocations for admissions  
3           under this subsection, which shall—

4                   “(A) consider the projected needs identi-  
5                   fied by the United Nations High Commissioner  
6                   for Refugees in the projected global resettle-  
7                   ment needs report for the calendar year begin-  
8                   ning immediately after the beginning of the ap-  
9                   plicable fiscal year; and

10                   “(B) include an unallocated reserve that  
11                   the Secretary of State, after notifying the Com-  
12                   mittee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the  
13                   Committee on the Judiciary of the House of  
14                   Representatives, may use for 1 or more regions  
15                   in which the need for additional refugee admis-  
16                   sions arises.”; and

17           (2) by adding at the end the following:

18           “(g) QUARTERLY REPORTS ON ADMISSIONS.—Not  
19           later than 15 days after the last day of each quarter, the  
20           President shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary  
21           of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
22           House of Representatives a report that includes the fol-  
23           lowing:

24                   “(1) REFUGEES ADMITTED.—

1           “(A) The number of refugees admitted to  
2           the United States during the preceding quarter.

3           “(B) The number of refugees admitted to  
4           the United States during the preceding quarter,  
5           expressed as a percentage of the number of ref-  
6           ugees authorized to be admitted in accordance  
7           with the determinations under subsections (a)  
8           and (b) for the applicable fiscal year.

9           “(C) The cumulative number of refugees  
10          admitted to the United States during the appli-  
11          cable fiscal year, as of the last day of the pre-  
12          ceding quarter.

13          “(D) The number of refugees to be admit-  
14          ted to the United States during the remainder  
15          of the applicable fiscal year so as to achieve the  
16          numerical goals set forth in the determinations  
17          under subsections (a) and (b) for such fiscal  
18          year.

19          “(E) The number of refugees from each  
20          region admitted to the United States during the  
21          preceding quarter, expressed as a percentage of  
22          the allocation for each region under subsection  
23          (a)(6) for the applicable fiscal year.

24          “(2) ALIENS WITH SECURITY ADVISORY OPIN-  
25          IONS.—

1           “(A) The number of aliens, by nationality,  
2           for whom a Security Advisory Opinion has been  
3           requested who were security-cleared during the  
4           preceding quarter, expressed as a percentage of  
5           all cases successfully adjudicated by the Direc-  
6           tor of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration  
7           Services in the applicable fiscal year.

8           “(B) The number of aliens, by nationality,  
9           for whom a Security Advisory Opinion has been  
10          requested who were admitted to the United  
11          States during the preceding quarter.

12         “(3) CIRCUIT RIDES.—

13                 “(A) For the preceding quarter—

14                         “(i) the number of Refugee Corps of-  
15                         ficers deployed on circuit rides, expressed  
16                         as a percentage of the overall number of  
17                         Refugee Corps officers;

18                         “(ii) the number of individuals inter-  
19                         viewed—

20                                 “(I) on each circuit ride; and

21                                 “(II) at each circuit ride location;

22                                 “(iii) the number of circuit rides; and

23                                 “(iv) for each circuit ride—

24   “(I) the duration of the circuit  
25   ride;

1 “(II) the average number of  
2 interviews conducted daily on the cir-  
3 cuit ride; and

4 “(III) the percentages of inter-  
5 views conducted for—

6 “(aa) individuals who re-  
7 quire Security Advisory Opinions;  
8 and

9 “(bb) individuals who do not  
10 require Security Advisory Opin-  
11 ions.

12 “(B) For the subsequent quarter—

13 “(i) the number of circuit rides sched-  
14 uled; and

15 “(ii) the number of circuit rides  
16 planned.

17 “(4) PROCESSING.—For the preceding quar-  
18 ter—

19 “(A) the average number of days be-  
20 tween—

21 “(i) the date on which an individual is  
22 identified by the United States Govern-  
23 ment as a refugee; and

1 “(ii) the date on which such individual  
2 is interviewed by the Secretary of Home-  
3 land Security;

4 “(B) the average number of days be-  
5 tween—

6 “(i) the date on which an individual  
7 identified by the United States Govern-  
8 ment as a refugee is interviewed by the  
9 Secretary of Homeland Security; and

10 “(ii) the date on which such individual  
11 is admitted to the United States; and

12 “(C) with respect to individuals identified  
13 by the United States Government as refugees  
14 who have been interviewed by the Secretary of  
15 Homeland Security, the approval, denial, and  
16 hold rates for the applications for admission of  
17 such individuals, by nationality.

18 “(5) PLAN AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—

19 “(A) A plan that describes the procedural  
20 or personnel changes necessary to ensure the  
21 admission of the number of refugees authorized  
22 to be admitted to the United States in accord-  
23 ance with determinations under subsections (a)  
24 and (b), including a projection of the number of  
25 refugees to be admitted to the United States



1           each month so as to achieve the numerical goals  
2           set forth in such determinations.

3           “(B) Additional information relating to the  
4           pace of refugee admissions, as determined by  
5           the President.

6           “(h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
7   tion may be construed—

8           “(1) to inhibit the expeditious processing of ref-  
9   ugee and asylum applications; or

10          “(2) to restrict the authority of the Secretary of  
11   Homeland Security to admit aliens to the United  
12   States under any other Act.”.

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