

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7263

To authorize amounts collected in certain visa fees to be made available to reduce visa wait times, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2024

Ms. TITUS (for herself, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Appropriations, 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 authorize amounts collected in certain visa fees to be made available to reduce visa wait times, 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 “Visa Improvement,
5 Streamlined Investment, and Tourism Optimization Re-
6 form Act” or the “VISITOR Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO USE COLLECTED FEES TO REDUCE**
2 **VISA WAIT TIMES.**

3 (a) AMENDMENT TO THE PASSPORT ACT.—Section
4 1(b) of the Passport Act of June 4, 1920 (22 U.S.C.
5 214(b)), is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “such costs”
7 and inserting “the costs of providing consular serv-
8 ices”;

9 (2) by striking paragraph (2); and

10 (3) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-
11 graph (2).

12 (b) AUTHORITY TO USE COLLECTED FEES FOR THE
13 PURPOSES OF REDUCING VISA WAIT TIMES.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
15 provision of law, the following passport and immi-
16 grant visa surcharges collected in any fiscal year are
17 authorized to be made available for the costs of pro-
18 viding general consular services, including the con-
19 sular protection of United States citizens and their
20 interests overseas:

21 (A) Surcharges collected pursuant to the
22 fourth paragraph under the heading “Diplo-
23 matic and Consular Programs” in the Depart-
24 ment of State and Related Agency Appropria-
25 tions Act, 2005 (title IV of division B of Public
26 Law 108–447; 8 U.S.C. 1714).

1 (B) Fees deposited into the Fraud Preven-
2 tion and Detection Account and made available
3 for the purposes described in section
4 286(v)(2)(A) of the Immigration and Nation-
5 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(v)(2)(A)).

6 (2) AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER UNOBLIGATED
7 FEE BALANCES.—

8 (A) TRANSFER OF EXISTING FEE COLLEC-
9 TION.—The unobligated balances of each
10 amount available from fees listed in section
11 7081(h) of the Department of State, Foreign
12 Operations, and Related Programs Appropria-
13 tions Act, 2017 (division J of Public Law 115–
14 31) are authorized to be transferred to the Con-
15 sular and Border Security Programs account
16 and between accounts of the Department of
17 State under the heading “Administration of
18 Foreign Affairs” for the purposes described in
19 paragraph (1) of this subsection.

20 (B) TRANSFER OF OTHER AMOUNTS MADE
21 AVAILABLE FOR ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN
22 AFFAIRS.—The unobligated balances of any
23 amounts made available to the Department of
24 State under the heading “Administration of
25 Foreign Affairs” by any Act are authorized to

1 be transferred to the Consular and Border Se-
2 curity Programs Account if the Secretary of
3 State determines and reports to the Committees
4 on Appropriations of the House of Representa-
5 tives and the Senate that to do so is necessary
6 to sustain consular operations, following con-
7 sultation with such Committees.

8 (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 6 of
9 the Department of State Authorities Act of 2006 (8
10 U.S.C. 1714 note) is amended by inserting “and the
11 provision of other general consular services” after
12 “in support of enhanced border security” each place
13 it appears.

14 (c) GOAL OF REDUCED VISA WAIT TIME.—The Sec-
15 retary of State is authorized to take such steps as may
16 be necessary for the goal of ensuring that 80 percent of
17 nonimmigrant visa applicants are interviewed within 3
18 weeks of receipt and application, recognizing that resource
19 and security considerations and the need to ensure provi-
20 sion of consular services to United States citizens may die-
21 tate specific exceptions to this goal.

○