

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5700

To direct the Secretary of State to develop and submit to Congress a strategy to improve the processing of passport applications.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

Ms. CARAVEO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of State to develop and submit to Congress a strategy to improve the processing of passport applications.

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 “Federal Assistance for
5 Streamlining Travel Passports Act” or the “FAST Pass-
6 ports Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STRATEGY TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION RELAT-**
2 **ING TO THE PROCESSING OF PASSPORT AP-**
3 **PLICATIONS.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
6 shall develop and submit to the relevant congressional
7 committees a strategy to improve the processing of pass-
8 port applications.

9 (b) **MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.**—The strategy re-
10 quired by subsection (a) shall, within 360 days after the
11 date of submission of the strategy, seek to achieve the fol-
12 lowing:

13 (1) Improve communication within the Depart-
14 ment of State, including among all passport agencies
15 and centers, relating to the processing of passport
16 applications.

17 (2) Ensure that United states citizens and con-
18 gressional offices inquiring on behalf of such citizens
19 are able to contact the Department of State, includ-
20 ing a passport agency or center, regarding the status
21 of requests for passport applications and receive up-
22 dates within a reasonably short period of time.

23 (c) **RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-**
24 **FINED.**—In this section, the term “relevant congressional
25 committees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of

- 1 the House of Representatives and the Committee on For-
- 2 eign Relations of the Senate.

