

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1850

To reform and modernize domestic refugee resettlement programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 18, 2013

Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. KING) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To reform and modernize domestic refugee resettlement programs, 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 “Domestic Refugee Re-
5 settlement Reform and Modernization Act of 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION.**—The
9 term “community-based organization” means a non-
10 profit organization providing a variety of social,

1 health, educational and community services to a pop-
2 ulation that includes refugees resettled into the
3 United States.

4 (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
5 the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement
6 in the Department of Health and Human Services.

7 (3) NATIONAL RESETTLEMENT AGENCIES.—
8 The term “national resettlement agencies” means
9 voluntary agencies contracting with the Department
10 of State to provide sponsorship and initial resettle-
11 ment services to refugees entering the United States.

12 **SEC. 3. ASSESSMENT OF REFUGEE DOMESTIC RESETTLE-**
13 **MENT PROGRAMS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the
15 date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
16 of the United States shall conduct a study regarding the
17 effectiveness of the domestic refugee resettlement pro-
18 grams operated by the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

19 (b) MATTERS TO BE STUDIED.—In the study re-
20 quired under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall
21 determine and analyze—

22 (1) how the Office of Refugee Resettlement de-
23 fines self-sufficiency and if this definition is ade-
24 quate in addressing refugee needs in the United
25 States;

1 (2) the effectiveness of Office of Refugee Reset-
2 tlement programs in helping refugees to meet self-
3 sufficiency and integration;

4 (3) the Office of Refugee Resettlement’s budg-
5 etary resources and project the amount of additional
6 resources needed to fully address the unmet needs of
7 refugees with regard to self-sufficiency and integra-
8 tion;

9 (4) the role of community-based organizations
10 in serving refugees in areas experiencing a high
11 number of new refugee arrivals;

12 (5) how community-based organizations can be
13 better utilized and supported in the Federal domes-
14 tic resettlement process; and

15 (6) recommended statutory changes to improve
16 the Office of Refugee Resettlement and the domestic
17 refugee program in relation to the matters analyzed
18 under paragraphs (1) through (5).

19 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
20 of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall
21 submit to Congress the results of the study required under
22 subsection (a).

23 **SEC. 4. REFUGEE ASSISTANCE.**

24 (a) ASSISTANCE MADE AVAILABLE TO SECONDARY
25 MIGRANTS.—Section 412(a)(1) of the Immigration and

1 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(a)(1)) is amended by add-
2 ing at the end the following:

3 “(C) The Director shall ensure that assistance under
4 this section is provided to refugees who are secondary mi-
5 grants and meet all other eligibility requirements for such
6 assistance.”.

7 (b) REPORT ON SECONDARY MIGRATION.—Section
8 412(a)(3) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(a)(3)) is amended—

9 (1) by inserting “(A)” after “(3)”;

10 (2) by striking “periodic” and inserting “an-
11 nual”; and

12 (3) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(B) At the end of each fiscal year, the Director shall
14 submit a report to Congress that includes—

15 “(i) States experiencing departures and arrivals
16 due to secondary migration;

17 “(ii) likely reasons for migration;

18 “(iii) the impact of secondary migration on
19 States hosting secondary migrants;

20 “(iv) the availability of social services for sec-
21 ondary migrants in those States; and

22 “(v) unmet needs of those secondary mi-
23 grants.”.

1 (c) AMENDMENTS TO SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDING.—
2 Section 412(c)(1)(B) of such Act (8 U.S.C.
3 1522(c)(1)(B)) is amended—

4 (1) by inserting “a combination of—” after
5 “based on”;

6 (2) by striking “the total number” and insert-
7 ing the following:

8 “(i) the total number”; and

9 (3) by striking the period at the end and insert-
10 ing the following:

11 “(ii) the total number of all other eligible popu-
12 lations served by the Office during the period de-
13 scribed who are residing in the State as of the be-
14 ginning of the fiscal year; and

15 “(iii) projections on the number and nature of
16 incoming refugees and other populations served by
17 the Office during the subsequent fiscal year.”.

18 (d) NOTICE AND RULEMAKING.—Not later than 90
19 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and not
20 later than 30 days before the effective date set forth in
21 subsection (e), the Director shall—

22 (1) issue a proposed rule for a new formula by
23 which grants and contracts are to be allocated pur-
24 suant to the amendments made by subsection (c);
25 and

1 (2) solicit public comment regarding such pro-
2 posed rule.

3 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
4 this section shall become effective on the first day of the
5 first fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment
6 of this Act.

7 **SEC. 5. RESETTLEMENT DATA.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall expand the Of-
9 fice of Refugee Resettlement’s data analysis, collection,
10 and sharing activities in accordance with the requirements
11 set forth in subsections (b) through (e).

12 (b) DATA ON MENTAL AND PHYSICAL MEDICAL
13 CASES.—The Director shall—

14 (1) coordinate with the Centers for Disease
15 Control and Prevention, national resettlement agen-
16 cies, community-based organizations, and State ref-
17 ugee health programs to track national and State
18 trends on refugees arriving with Class A medical
19 conditions and other urgent medical needs; and

20 (2) in collecting information under this sub-
21 section, utilize initial refugee health screening data,
22 including—

23 (A) a history of severe trauma, torture,
24 mental health symptoms, depression, anxiety,
25 and posttraumatic stress disorder recorded dur-

1 ing domestic and international health screen-
2 ings; and

3 (B) Refugee Medical Assistance utilization
4 rate data.

5 (c) DATA ON HOUSING NEEDS.—The Director shall
6 partner with State refugee programs, community-based
7 organizations, and national resettlement agencies to col-
8 lect data relating to the housing needs of refugees, includ-
9 ing—

10 (1) the number of refugees who have become
11 homeless; and

12 (2) the number of refugees who are at severe
13 risk of becoming homeless.

14 (d) DATA ON REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT AND SELF-
15 SUFFICIENCY.—The Director shall gather longitudinal in-
16 formation relating to refugee self-sufficiency, integration,
17 and employment status during the 2-year period beginning
18 1 year after the date on which the refugees arrived in the
19 United States.

20 (e) AVAILABILITY OF DATA.—The Director shall an-
21 nually—

22 (1) update the data collected under this section;
23 and

24 (2) submit a report to Congress that contains
25 the updated data.

1 **SEC. 6. GUIDANCE REGARDING REFUGEE PLACEMENT DE-**
2 **CISIONS.**

3 (a) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of State shall
4 provide guidance to national resettlement agencies and
5 State refugee coordinators on consultation with local
6 stakeholders pertaining to refugee resettlement.

7 (b) BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary of Health and
8 Human Services, in collaboration with the Secretary of
9 State, shall collect best practices related to the implemen-
10 tation of the guidance on stakeholder consultation on ref-
11 ugee resettlement from voluntary agencies and State ref-
12 ugee coordinators and disseminate such best practices to
13 such agencies and coordinators.

14 **SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

15 This Act (except for the amendments made by section
16 4) shall take effect on the date that is 90 days after the
17 date of the enactment of this Act.

○