



H.R. 2571, the AMIGOS Act

H.R. 2571 is a bipartisan bill that would allow nationals of Portugal to participate—along with more than 80 other countries—in the E-1 and E-2 nonimmigrant visa programs for “treaty traders” and “treaty investors,” if an agreement to provide reciprocal treatment to U.S. nationals is finalized between Portugal and the United States.

H.R. 2571 also ensures that individuals who obtain the nationality of a treaty country through an investment-based visa program have sufficient ties to their country of nationality before they can be eligible for an E-1 or E-2 visa, by requiring them to be domiciled there for at least three consecutive years.

E-1 and E-2 Visa Programs:

- To be granted an E-1 “treaty trader” visa, the applicant must be coming to the United States solely to engage in “substantial” international trade that is principally between the United States and the treaty country.
- To be granted an E-2 “treaty investor” visa, the applicant (or organizational investor) must have made a “substantial” investment in a “real, active, and operational commercial or entrepreneurial undertaking.”
- Unlike most European Union (EU) countries, Portugal did not have a bilateral treaty with the United States before joining the EU. As a result, despite being one of our oldest allies and closest economic partners, Portugal is one of only 4 EU countries whose citizens are not eligible for E-1 or E-2 visas.
- The last two bills to add countries to the E-1 and E-2 visa programs passed Congress without controversy:
 - **2018: S. 2245 (New Zealand):** Discharged by the Senate Judiciary Committee by Unanimous Consent; passed by the Senate by Unanimous Consent; passed the House on motion to suspend the rules by voice vote.
 - **2012: H.R. 3992 (Israel):** Favorably reported by the House Judiciary Committee without amendment by voice vote; passed the House on motion to suspend the rules (371 to 0); passed by the Senate by Unanimous Consent.

United States/Portugal Relations:

- Portugal is a longstanding ally of the United States, with ties dating back to 1791.
- The United States is Portugal’s largest trading partner outside the EU, with bilateral trade in goods and services reaching \$8 billion in 2018, a 9 percent increase from the previous year.
- Similarly, U.S. direct investment in Portugal reached \$2.1 billion in 2017, with U.S. companies playing a significant role, investing in the Portuguese banking, pharmaceutical, and chemical industries.
- Both countries have also agreed to a bilateral income tax agreement to prevent double taxation.

Prepared by House Judiciary Committee Democratic Staff