



House of Representatives
Judiciary Committee

Chairman Bob Goodlatte

H.R. 2407, U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES REAUTHORIZATION ACT

The bill reauthorizes U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) which is the agency within the Department of Homeland Security tasked with processing immigrant and nonimmigrant benefits petitions for those seeking temporary visas, lawful permanent residence, international adoption, and other statuses. USCIS also adjudicates naturalization applications and manages the E-Verify system.

Makes USCIS Work Better for America

The bill authorizes the Office of Citizenship to promote instruction and training on citizenship responsibilities, as well as assimilation, for eligible aliens who are interested in becoming naturalized citizens of the United States.

The bill ensures the External Affairs Directorate office provides clear, accurate, and timely responses to inquiries from applicants or petitioners, and is transparent with the American people.

The bill reduces the certificate of citizenship processing fee for U.S. families who have adopted internationally.

Prevents Fraud in the Immigration System and Protects National Security

The bill strengthens the mission of USCIS to “efficiently adjudicate immigration benefits petitions and applications for foreign nationals seeking legal immigration status in the United States and those seeking to become Americans, in a manner consistent with detecting and preventing fraud, while protecting American jobs and working conditions, and while ensuring the national security and welfare of the American people.”

It authorizes the Fraud Detection and National Security Directorate whose Associate Director is responsible for ensuring immigration benefits are not granted to individuals who pose a threat to national security or public safety, or who seek to defraud our immigration system.

Strengthens Operations and Integrity at USCIS

Under the bill, the USCIS Director is required to have at least five years of management experience. The Director will be responsible for running the agency and establishing the national immigration services policies and priorities.

The bill authorizes the Field Operations Directorate whose Associate Director is responsible for managing all USCIS field offices as well as overseeing the adjudication of immigration benefits applications and petitions, applicant interviews, naturalization ceremonies, and background checks for those applying or petitioning for benefits.

It also authorizes the Service Center Operations Directorate whose Associate Director oversees the five USCIS Service Centers responsible for adjudicating benefits for petitions that do not require interviews.

The bill codifies ethics guidelines to prevent USCIS employees from improperly influencing the outcome of a case.

The bill authorizes the Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate whose Associate Director is responsible for overseeing refugee application adjudication and interviews, asylum application adjudication and interviews, and international adoptions and other humanitarian programs such as parole.

Protects Jobs for U.S. Workers

The bill makes voluntary E-Verify permanent. This successful, web-based program checks the legal status of newly hired employees by checking their names and Social Security numbers against federal government databases.

It also authorizes the Immigration Record and Identity Services Directorate whose Associate Director is responsible for managing E-Verify and the SAVE program, as well as overseeing USCIS' biometrics collection services and historical records management and storage.