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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To provide for an annual adjustment of the number of admissible refugees,  
and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LABRADOR (for himself and Mr. GOODLATTE) introduced the following  
bill; which was referred to the Committee on

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To provide for an annual adjustment of the number of  
admissible refugees, 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 “Refugee Program In-  
5 tegrity Restoration Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT OF THE NUMBER OF ADMIS-**  
2 **SIBLE REFUGEES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 207(a)(2) of the Immi-  
4 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157(a)(2)) is  
5 amended by striking all that follows after “shall be” and  
6 inserting the following: “50,000. The President may, after  
7 appropriate consultation, submit a recommendation to  
8 Congress for the revision of such number not later than  
9 6 months prior to the beginning of such fiscal year, setting  
10 forth the justification for such revision due to humani-  
11 tarian concerns or that such revision is otherwise in the  
12 national interest.”.

13 (b) IN CASES OF EMERGENCIES.—Section 207(b) of  
14 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157(b))  
15 is amended—

16 (1) by striking “the President may fix a num-  
17 ber of refugees” and inserting the following: “the  
18 President may submit to Congress a recommended  
19 number of refugees”; and

20 (2) by striking all that follows after “to the  
21 emergency refugee situation” the second place it ap-  
22 pears and inserting a period.

23 **SEC. 3. TERMINATION OF REFUGEE STATUS.**

24 Section 207(c) of the Immigration and Nationality  
25 Act (8 U.S.C. 1157(c)), as amended by this Act, is further  
26 amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (4)—

2 (A) by striking “may” each place it ap-  
3 pears and inserting “shall”;

4 (B) by inserting after “determines” the  
5 following: “—”;

6 (C) by striking “that the alien was not”  
7 and inserting the following:

8 “(A) that the alien was not”;

9 (D) by striking the period at the end and  
10 inserting “; or”; and

11 (E) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(B) that the alien, who applied for such  
13 status because of persecution or a well-founded  
14 fear of persecution in the country from which  
15 they sought refuge on account of race, religion,  
16 nationality, membership in a particular social  
17 group, or political opinion, returned to such  
18 country absent changed conditions therein.”;  
19 and

20 (2) by inserting after paragraph (4) the fol-  
21 lowing:

22 “(5) Each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to  
23 the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Rep-  
24 resentatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
25 Senate a report that includes the number of terminations

1 of status under paragraph (4), disaggregated by whether  
2 the termination occurred pursuant to subparagraph (A)  
3 or (B) of such paragraph.”.

4 **SEC. 4. PRIORITY CONSIDERATION FOR CERTAIN APPLI-**  
5 **CANTS FOR REFUGEE STATUS.**

6 Section 207(c) of the Immigration and Nationality  
7 Act (8 U.S.C. 1157(c)), as amended by this Act, is further  
8 is amended—

9 (1) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(6) When processing refugee applications from indi-  
11 viduals seeking refuge from a country listed as a ‘Country  
12 of Particular Concern’ in the annual report of the Com-  
13 mission on International Religious Freedom under section  
14 203 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998  
15 for the year prior to the current year, the Secretary of  
16 Homeland Security shall grant priority consideration to  
17 such applicants whose claims are based on persecution or  
18 a well-founded fear of persecution based on religion by  
19 reason of those applicants being practitioners of a minor-  
20 ity religion in the country from which they sought ref-  
21 uge.”;

22 (2) by striking “Attorney General” each place  
23 it appears and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Se-  
24 curity”; and

1           (3) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “Attorney  
2       General’s” and inserting “Secretary of Homeland  
3       Security’s”.

4       **SEC. 5. LIMITATION OF WAIVER AUTHORITY ON ADMISSION**  
5                               **OF REFUGEES.**

6       Section 207(c)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality  
7       Act (8 U.S.C. 1157(c)(3)) is amended by striking “any  
8       other provision of such section (other than paragraph  
9       (2)(C) or subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (E) of paragraph  
10      (3))” and inserting “paragraph (1) of section 212(a)”.

11      **SEC. 6. RECURRENT SECURITY MONITORING.**

12      Section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act  
13      (8 U.S.C. 1157) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
14      lowing:

15      “(g) **BACKGROUND SECURITY CHECKS.**—The Sec-  
16      retary may conduct recurrent background security checks  
17      of an admitted refugee until such date as the refugee ad-  
18      justs status under section 209.”.

19      **SEC. 7. ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS OF REFUGEES.**

20      Section 209(a)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality  
21      Act (8 U.S.C. 1159(a)(1)) is amended—

22           (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “for at  
23      least one year” and inserting “for 3 years”; and

1           (2) by striking “shall, at the end of such year  
2           period” and inserting “shall, at the end of such pe-  
3           riod”.

4 **SEC. 8. LIMITATION OF WAIVER AUTHORITY ON ADJUST-**  
5 **MENT OF STATUS OF REFUGEES.**

6           (a) **GROUND FOR INADMISSIBILITY.**—Section  
7 209(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
8 1159(c)) is amended by striking “any other provision of  
9 such section (other than paragraph (2)(C) or subpara-  
10 graph (A), (B), (C), or (E) of paragraph (3))” and insert-  
11 ing “paragraph (1) of section 212(a)”.

12           (b) **GROUND OF DEPORTABILITY; IN-PERSON**  
13 **INTERVIEW REQUIRED; REQUIRED REEXAMINATION FOR**  
14 **ADMISSION.**—Section 209 of the Immigration and Nation-  
15 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1159) is amended by adding at the  
16 end the following:

17           “(d) **COORDINATION WITH SECTION 237.**—An alien  
18 may not adjust status under this section if the alien is  
19 deportable under section 237, except that section  
20 237(a)(5) shall not apply for purposes of this subsection.

21           “(e) **IN-PERSON INTERVIEW REQUIREMENTS.**—An  
22 alien may not adjust status under this section unless, at  
23 the time of application for adjustment, the alien estab-  
24 lishes by clear and convincing evidence during an in-per-  
25 son interview with the Secretary of Homeland Security

1 that the alien continues to meet the requirements of sec-  
2 tion 101(a)(42).

3 “(f) **REQUIRED REEXAMINATION FOR ADMISSION.**—  
4 An alien who is admitted as a refugee who is denied ad-  
5 mission under subsection (a)(1) shall, beginning on the  
6 date that is 5 years after such denial, and every 5 years  
7 thereafter, if that alien retains status as a refugee, return  
8 or be returned to the custody of the Department of Home-  
9 land Security for inspection and examination for admis-  
10 sion to the United States as an immigrant in accordance  
11 with the provisions of sections 235, 240, and 241.”.

12 **SEC. 9. LIMITATION ON RESETTLEMENT.**

13 Section 412 of the Immigration and Nationality Act  
14 (8 U.S.C. 1522) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
15 lowing:

16 “(g) **LIMITATION ON RESETTLEMENT.**—Notwith-  
17 standing any other provision of this section, for a fiscal  
18 year, the resettlement of any refugee may not be provided  
19 for—

20 “(1) in any State in which the Governor of that  
21 State or the State legislature have taken any action  
22 formally disapproving of resettlement in that State;  
23 or

24 “(2) in any locality where the chief executive of  
25 that locality’s government, or the local legislature,

1       has taken any action formally disapproving of resettlement in that locality.”.

3       **SEC. 10. BENEFIT FRAUD ASSESSMENT.**

4       Not later than 540 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Fraud Detection and National Security Directorate of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services shall—

8               (1) complete a study on the processing of refugees by officers and employees of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services including an identification of the most common ways in which fraud occurs in such processing and recommendations for the prevention of fraud in such processing; and

14              (2) submit a report on such study to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

18       **SEC. 11. DOCUMENT FRAUD DETECTION PROGRAM.**

19       Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish a program for detecting the use of fraudulent documents in applications for admission as a refugee, including—

24              (1) placement of Fraud Detection and National Security officials who are under the direction of the



1 Fraud Detection and National Security Directorate  
2 of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at ini-  
3 tial refugee screening in conjunction with the reset-  
4 tlement agency and with the authority to hold a ref-  
5 ugee application in abeyance until any fraud or na-  
6 tional security concerns are resolved; and

7 (2) creation of a searchable database of scanned  
8 and categorized documents proffered by applicants  
9 at initial refugee screening to allow for discovery of  
10 fraud trends and random translation verification  
11 within such documents.

12 **SEC. 12. RECORDING OF INTERVIEWS TO PROTECT REFU-**  
13 **GEES AND PREVENT FRAUD.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Secu-  
15 rity shall use digital recording technology to record each  
16 interview of an alien applying for admission as a refugee  
17 under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act  
18 by an officer or employee of the U.S. Citizenship and Im-  
19 migration Services.

20 (b) AUDITING OF TRANSLATIONS.—The Secretary  
21 shall randomly select a number of interviews conducted,  
22 with the assistance of an interpreter, during each refugee  
23 circuit ride, equal to 20 percent of the total number of  
24 interviews conducted with the assistance of an interpreter  
25 during such circuit ride and review each such selected

1 interview in order to determine whether any interpreter  
2 who participated in the interview incorrectly interpreted  
3 any portion of the interview (other than a de minimis error  
4 in translation). Such reviews shall take place prior to ap-  
5 proval or denial of any application for admission as a ref-  
6 ugee submitted at that location.

7 (c) IN CASES OF MISTRANSLATIONS.—If the Sec-  
8 retary determines that the interpreter incorrectly inter-  
9 preted any portion of the interview (other than a de mini-  
10 mis error in translation)—

11 (1) the interpreter shall be barred from subse-  
12 quently serving as an interpreter for immigration  
13 purposes; and

14 (2) no action shall be taken regarding the appli-  
15 cation until the applicant has been reinterviewed.

16 **SEC. 13. LIMITATION ON QUALIFICATION AS A REFUGEE.**

17 Section 101(a)(42) of the Immigration and Nation-  
18 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(42)) is amended by inserting  
19 “For purposes of this paragraph, a person may not be con-  
20 sidered a refugee solely or in part because the person is  
21 displaced due to, or is fleeing from, violence in the country  
22 of such person’s nationality or, in the case of a person  
23 having no nationality, the country in which such person  
24 last habitually resided, if that violence is not specifically  
25 directed at the person, or, if it is directed specifically at

1 the person, it is not directed at the person on account of  
2 that person’s race, religion, nationality, membership in a  
3 particular social group, or political opinion.” before “The  
4 term ‘refugee’ does not include”.

5 **SEC. 14. SECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR REFUGEES.**

6 Prior to admitting to the United States as a refugee  
7 under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act  
8 (8 U.S.C. 1157) an alien, the Secretary of Homeland Se-  
9 curity shall ensure that the alien does not pose a threat  
10 to the national security of the United States based on a  
11 background check that the Secretary conducts, which in-  
12 cludes a review of the alien’s publicly available interactions  
13 on and posting of material to the Internet (including social  
14 media services).

15 **SEC. 15. IMPLEMENTATION OF GAO RECOMMENDATIONS.**

16 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-  
17 ment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Secretary  
18 of Homeland Security each shall implement the rec-  
19 ommendations applicable to their respective department  
20 set out in the Government Accountability Office reports  
21 entitled “State and Its Partners Have Implemented Sev-  
22 eral Antifraud Measures but Could Further Reduce the  
23 Risk of Staff Fraud” (GAO-17-446SU) and “Actions  
24 Needed by State Department and DHS to Further

1 Strengthen Applicant Screening Process and Assess  
2 Fraud Risks” (GAO-17-444SU).

3 **SEC. 16. GAO REPORT ON U.S. REFUGEE ADMISSIONS PRO-**  
4 **GRAM.**

5 Not later than 18 months after the date of the enact-  
6 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United  
7 States shall conduct a review and report to Congress on  
8 the following:

9 (1) The security of the U.S. Refugee Admis-  
10 sions Program, including an examination of—

11 (A) how the U.S. Government conducts se-  
12 curity screening and background checks, includ-  
13 ing the agencies or U.S. Government partners  
14 involved and the systems and databases used;

15 (B) how the U.S. Government determines  
16 whether applicants are eligible for refugee reset-  
17 tlement and admissible to the United States;  
18 and

19 (C) the number of individuals who were  
20 admitted into the United States as refugees and  
21 subsequently convicted as a result of a ter-  
22 rorism-related investigation by the U.S. Govern-  
23 ment since fiscal year 2006.

24 (2) Federally funded benefit programs for  
25 which aliens admitted into the United States under

1 section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act  
2 (8 U.S.C. 1157) are eligible, as well as what is  
3 known about their participation in these programs.