

Reforming American Immigration for a Strong Economy Act (RAISE Act)

A Bill to Raise Working Wages & Boost American Competitiveness

Section-By-Section Summary

Section 1 names the bill the Reforming American Immigration for a Strong Economy Act.

Section 2 eliminates the Diversity Visa program. Currently, 50,000 visas are allotted annually in a lottery to applicants from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States, with no regard to the applicants' skills.

Section 3 caps the number of refugees granted permanent visas to the United States at 50,000 per year, in line with a 13-year average. It also requires the President to report the annual number of refugees admitted to the United States.

Section 4 maintains immigration preferences for the spouses and minor children of U.S. residents, but eliminates visa preferences for extended family and grown adult family members of U.S. residents. It also creates a renewable temporary visa for the elderly parents of U.S. residents to come to the United States for caretaking purposes.

- **Section 4(e)** grandfathered in potential immigrants awaiting entry under immigration categories eliminated by the RAISE Act if their entry into the United States is scheduled to occur within one year of the RAISE Act's enactment.

Section 5 replaces the current employment-based immigration system with an immigration points system, akin to the systems used by Canada and Australia. The points categories are based on predictors of immigrant success and economic contribution. Up to 140,000 employment-based visas will be issued annually to the highest scoring applicants.

- **Sections 5(c) & (d)** describe the points-based system.
 - Applicants earn points based on education, English-language ability, high-paying job offers, age, record of extraordinary achievement, and entrepreneurial initiative.
 - Potential immigrants who were awaiting entry under family preference categories eliminated by the RAISE Act but who do not qualify under the grandfather provision in Section 4 are allotted points if they apply through the points system.
 - Applicants must reach a 30-point threshold to be eligible for an employment-based visa.
 - Eligible applicants enter a pool of potential immigrants from which U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services twice a year invites the highest scorers to file full applications and undergo security vetting.
 - Immigrant households arriving through the points system are not eligible for federal means-tested benefits for a period of 5 years.
- **Section 5(e)** requires an annual statistical report on the skills-based points system.
- **Section 5(f)** requires a quadrennial report to Congress recommending updates to the points system with the aim of improving the economy and enhancing working Americans' wages.

Section 6 conditions naturalization on the sponsors of an immigrant fulfilling their obligation to reimburse the federal government for benefits used by the immigrant, as required under current law.