

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4048

To suspend the admission and resettlement of aliens seeking refugee status because of the conflict in Syria until adequate protocols are established to protect the national security of the United States and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 17, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mr. FLEMING) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Select Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), Rules, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To suspend the admission and resettlement of aliens seeking refugee status because of the conflict in Syria until adequate protocols are established to protect the national security of the United States 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 “Syrian Refugee
5 Verification and Safety Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
4 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
5 gress” means the following:

6 (A) The Committee on the Judiciary, the
7 Committee on Foreign Relations, the Com-
8 mittee on Homeland Security and Govern-
9 mental Affairs, and the Select Committee on
10 Intelligence of the Senate.

11 (B) The Committee on the Judiciary, the
12 Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee
13 on Homeland Security, and the Permanent Se-
14 lect Committee on Intelligence of the House of
15 Representatives.

16 (2) APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS.—The term “ap-
17 propriate officials” means each of the following:

18 (A) The Secretary of Homeland Security.

19 (B) The Secretary of State.

20 (C) The Director of National Intelligence.

21 (D) The Director of the Federal Bureau of
22 Investigation.

23 (3) COVERED ALIEN.—The term “covered
24 alien” means an alien who is a refugee (as that term
25 is defined in section 101(a)(42) of the Immigration

1 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(42)) because
2 of the conflict in Syria.

3 **SEC. 3. SUSPENSION OF ADMISSION OF REFUGEES FROM**
4 **THE CONFLICT IN SYRIA.**

5 (a) SUSPENSION OF ADMISSIONS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
7 provision of law—

8 (A) no covered alien may be admitted to
9 the United States as a refugee under section
10 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
11 U.S.C. 1157) or any other provision of law;

12 (B) no funds may be expended to process
13 applications for covered aliens to be admitted as
14 refugees; and

15 (C) no funds may be expended by the Sec-
16 retary of State or the Secretary of Health and
17 Human Services to resettle covered aliens in the
18 United States.

19 (2) EFFECTIVE PERIOD.—Subject to subsection
20 (f), paragraph (1) shall be in effect until the date
21 that is 30 days after the date that the President
22 submits to the appropriate committees of Congress
23 a certification that the provisions of subsections (b)
24 through (e) of this section have been carried out.

1 (3) MINIMUM REVIEW PERIOD.—The President
2 may not submit the certification referred to in para-
3 graph (2) until after the date that is 270 days after
4 the date of the enactment of this Act to ensure there
5 is adequate time to conduct the necessary evaluation
6 of trends, analysis, and intelligence, and to otherwise
7 obtain the necessary information to review the intel-
8 ligence and security structures required to make the
9 certifications and submissions required by this sec-
10 tion.

11 (b) IMPROVED PROTOCOLS AND COORDINATION.—
12 Each appropriate official shall submit to the appropriate
13 committees of Congress a certification that includes the
14 following:

15 (1) A description of the protocols in place and
16 efforts to enhance protocols to properly adjudicate
17 whether a covered alien is admissible to the United
18 States and to resettle covered aliens in the United
19 States, including a description of—

20 (A) all security-related requirements and
21 any enhanced security requirements;

22 (B) how such protocols are adequate to
23 protect the national security of the United
24 States; and

1 (C) how such protocols will ensure coordi-
2 nation with Federal, State, and local law en-
3 forcement officials in areas where covered aliens
4 will reside.

5 (2) A cost assessment of the costs related to the
6 admission of covered aliens as refugees and resettlement
7 of covered aliens in the United States, including
8 potential costs to individual States.

9 (3) A description of the enhanced interagency
10 coordination occurring to effectively implement such
11 protocols.

12 (4) A statement acknowledging that every covered
13 alien entering the United States as a refugee
14 is required to go through the full enhanced vetting
15 process, as described in this section and carried out
16 by the United States Government.

17 (c) EVALUATION AND REVIEW BY INSPECTOR GEN-
18 ERAL OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The Inspec-
19 tor General of the Intelligence Community shall submit
20 to the appropriate committees of Congress a comprehensive
21 evaluation and review of the protocols and coordina-
22 tion referred to in subsection (b).

23 (d) UPDATE OF CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION
24 DOCUMENT FROM BUREAU OF POPULATION, REFUGEES,
25 AND MIGRATION.—

1 (1) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of State
2 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
3 gress an updated Congressional Presentation Docu-
4 ment of the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and
5 Migration for Fiscal Year 2016 that reflects security
6 or other risks posed by covered aliens.

7 (2) CONTENTS.—The update required by para-
8 graph (1) shall include the following:

9 (A) An assessment of whether the Bureau
10 of Population, Refugees, and Migration, the De-
11 partment of Homeland Security, and law en-
12 forcement and intelligence agencies are success-
13 fully protecting the refugee admissions program
14 from infiltration by aliens who pose national se-
15 curity threats to the United States related to
16 the violent extremist organization that calls
17 itself the Islamic State (also known as “ISIS”).

18 (B) The identify of the aliens admitted to
19 the United States as refugees since 2001 who
20 subsequently engaged in criminal or terrorist
21 conduct.

22 (e) BRIEFING TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary of
23 State shall provide a briefing to the appropriate congres-
24 sional committees on the increase in covered aliens seeking
25 to be admitted as refugees, including whether any covered

1 alien seeking to be admitted as a refugee had, or there
2 was reason to believe may have, engaged in terrorist con-
3 duct regardless of whether such conduct was linked to the
4 conflict in Syria or to the violent extremist organization
5 that calls itself the Islamic State (also known as “ISIS”).

6 (f) JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
8 provision of this section, a certification described in
9 subsection (a) shall not have any effect if, within 15
10 calendar days after the date on which Congress re-
11 ceives the certification, there is enacted into law a
12 joint resolution disapproving the certification.

13 (2) CONTENTS OF JOINT RESOLUTION.—For
14 the purpose of this subsection, the term “joint reso-
15 lution” means only a joint resolution—

16 (A) that is introduced not later than 3 cal-
17 endar days after the date on which a certifi-
18 cation described in subsection (a) is received by
19 Congress;

20 (B) which does not have a preamble;

21 (C) the title of which is as follows: “Joint
22 resolution disapproving the certification of the
23 President described in section 3(a) of the Syr-
24 ian Refugee Verification and Safety Act”; and

1 (D) the matter after the resolving clause of
2 which is as follows: “That Congress disapproves
3 the certification of the President described in
4 section 3(a) of the Syrian Refugee Verification
5 and Safety Act.”.

6 (3) FAST TRACK CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF
7 REPRESENTATIVES.—

8 (A) RECONVENING.—Upon receipt of a
9 certification described in subsection (a), the
10 Speaker of the House of Representatives, if the
11 House of Representatives would otherwise be
12 adjourned, shall notify the Members of the
13 House that, pursuant to this subsection, the
14 House shall convene not later than the second
15 calendar day after receipt of such certification.

16 (B) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—Any
17 committee of the House of Representatives to
18 which a joint resolution described in paragraph
19 (2) is referred shall report it to the House not
20 later than 5 calendar days after the date of re-
21 ceipt of the certification described in subsection
22 (a). If a committee fails to report the joint reso-
23 lution within that period, the committee shall be
24 discharged from further consideration of the

1 joint resolution and the joint resolution shall be
2 referred to the appropriate calendar.

3 (C) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—

4 After each committee authorized to consider a
5 joint resolution reports it to the House or has
6 been discharged from its consideration, it shall
7 be in order, not later than the sixth day after
8 Congress receives the certification described in
9 subsection (a), to move to proceed to consider
10 the joint resolution in the House. All points of
11 order against the motion are waived. Such a
12 motion shall not be in order after the House
13 has disposed of a motion to proceed on the joint
14 resolution. The previous question shall be con-
15 sidered as ordered on the motion to its adoption
16 without intervening motion. The motion shall
17 not be debatable. A motion to reconsider the
18 vote by which the motion is disposed of shall
19 not be in order.

20 (D) CONSIDERATION.—The joint resolu-
21 tion shall be considered as read. All points of
22 order against the joint resolution and against
23 its consideration are waived. The previous ques-
24 tion shall be considered as ordered on the joint
25 resolution to its passage without intervening

1 motion except two hours of debate equally di-
2 vided and controlled by the proponent and an
3 opponent. A motion to reconsider the vote on
4 passage of the joint resolution shall not be in
5 order.

6 (4) FAST TRACK CONSIDERATION IN SENATE.—

7 (A) RECONVENING.—Upon receipt of a
8 certification described in subsection (a), if the
9 Senate has adjourned or recessed for more than
10 2 days, the majority leader of the Senate, after
11 consultation with the minority leader of the
12 Senate, shall notify the Members of the Senate
13 that, pursuant to this subsection, the Senate
14 shall convene not later than the second calendar
15 day after receipt of the certification.

16 (B) PLACEMENT ON CALENDAR.—Upon in-
17 troduction in the Senate, the joint resolution
18 shall be placed immediately on the calendar.

19 (C) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—

20 (i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
21 Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the
22 Senate, it is in order at any time during
23 the period beginning on the 4th day after
24 the date on which Congress receives a cer-
25 tification described in subsection (a) and

1 ending on the 6th day after the date on
2 which Congress receives a certification de-
3 scribed in subsection (a) (even though a
4 previous motion to the same effect has
5 been disagreed to) to move to proceed to
6 the consideration of the joint resolution,
7 and all points of order against the joint
8 resolution (and against consideration of
9 the joint resolution) are waived. The mo-
10 tion to proceed is not debatable. The mo-
11 tion is not subject to a motion to postpone.
12 A motion to reconsider the vote by which
13 the motion is agreed to or disagreed to
14 shall not be in order. If a motion to pro-
15 ceed to the consideration of the resolution
16 is agreed to, the joint resolution shall re-
17 main the unfinished business until dis-
18 posed of.

19 (D) DEBATE.—Debate on the joint resolu-
20 tion, and on all debatable motions and appeals
21 in connection therewith, shall be limited to not
22 more than 10 hours, which shall be divided
23 equally between the majority and minority lead-
24 ers or their designees. A motion further to limit
25 debate is in order and not debatable. An

1 amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a
2 motion to proceed to the consideration of other
3 business, or a motion to recommit the joint res-
4 olution is not in order.

5 (E) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—The vote on pas-
6 sage shall occur immediately following the con-
7 clusion of the debate on a joint resolution, and
8 a single quorum call at the conclusion of the de-
9 bate if requested in accordance with the rules of
10 the Senate.

11 (F) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCE-
12 DURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair
13 relating to the application of the rules of the
14 Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure re-
15 lating to a joint resolution shall be decided
16 without debate.

17 (5) RULES RELATING TO SENATE AND HOUSE
18 OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

19 (A) COORDINATION WITH ACTION BY
20 OTHER HOUSE.—If, before the passage by one
21 House of a joint resolution of that House, that
22 House receives from the other House a joint
23 resolution, then the following procedures shall
24 apply:

1 (i) The joint resolution of the other
2 House shall not be referred to a com-
3 mittee.

4 (ii) With respect to a joint resolution
5 of the House receiving the resolution—

6 (I) the procedure in that House
7 shall be the same as if no joint resolu-
8 tion had been received from the other
9 House; but

10 (II) the vote on passage shall be
11 on the joint resolution of the other
12 House.

13 (B) TREATMENT OF JOINT RESOLUTION
14 OF OTHER HOUSE.—If one House fails to intro-
15 duce or consider a joint resolution under this
16 subsection, the joint resolution of the other
17 House shall be entitled to expedited floor proce-
18 dures under this subsection.

19 (C) TREATMENT OF COMPANION MEAS-
20 URES.—If, following passage of the joint resolu-
21 tion in the Senate, the Senate then receives the
22 companion measure from the House of Rep-
23 resentatives, the companion measure shall not
24 be debatable.

1 (D) VETO DEBATE AND DURATION.—If the
2 President vetoes the joint resolution, debate on
3 a veto message in the Senate under this sub-
4 section shall be 1 hour equally divided between
5 the majority and minority leaders or their des-
6 ignees.

7 (6) RULES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
8 AND SENATE.—This paragraph and paragraphs (3),
9 (4), and (5) are enacted by Congress—

10 (A) as an exercise of the rulemaking power
11 of the Senate and House of Representatives, re-
12 spectively, and as such it is deemed a part of
13 the rules of each House, respectively, but appli-
14 cable only with respect to the procedure to be
15 followed in that House in the case of a joint
16 resolution, and it supersedes other rules only to
17 the extent that it is inconsistent with such
18 rules; and

19 (B) with full recognition of the constitu-
20 tional right of either House to change the rules
21 (so far as relating to the procedure of that
22 House) at any time, in the same manner, and
23 to the same extent as in the case of any other
24 rule of that House.

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