

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6980

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for the reallocation of unused waivers of the foreign residency requirement for certain J-visa holders.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 11, 2024

Mr. NEHLS (for himself, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. CASTEN, Mrs. HINSON, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. BERA, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for the reallocation of unused waivers of the foreign residency requirement for certain J-visa holders.

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 “Directing Our Coun-
5 try’s Transfer Of Residency Slots” or the “DOCTORS
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REALLOCATION OF UNUSED WAIVERS OF THE FOR-**
2 **EIGN RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT FOR CER-**
3 **TAIN J-VISA HOLDERS.**

4 Section 214(*l*) of the Immigration and Nationality
5 Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(*l*)) is amended by adding at the end
6 the following:

7 “(4)(A) Beginning on September 30, 2025, and
8 every September 30 thereafter, each State agency
9 that received a waiver under section 212(e) during
10 the fiscal year that ends on that date shall report to
11 the Secretary of State the total number of such
12 waivers that the State agency did not use during
13 such fiscal year.

14 “(B)(i) For fiscal year 2025, and each fiscal
15 year thereafter, the Secretary of State shall—

16 “(I) calculate the total number of unused
17 waivers reported by all State agencies under
18 subparagraph (A); and

19 “(II) subject to clause (ii), reallocate such
20 waivers for equal distribution among eligible
21 State agencies for use during the subsequent
22 fiscal year as waivers subject to paragraph
23 (1)(D)(ii) (referred to in this paragraph as
24 ‘supplemental waivers’).

25 “(ii) In accordance with the 3-year commitment
26 required under paragraph (1)(D), the number of

1 supplemental waivers to be redistributed for use dur-
2 ing a subsequent fiscal year shall be the total num-
3 ber of unused waivers described in clause (i)(I) di-
4 vided by three.

5 “(C) In reallocating waivers under subpara-
6 graph (B), on January 1, 2025, and every January
7 1 thereafter, the Secretary of State shall inform
8 each eligible State agency of—

9 “(i) the number of supplemental waivers
10 available to the State agency for the subsequent
11 fiscal year; and

12 “(ii) the manner in which the supplemental
13 waivers will be distributed.

14 “(D) If the number of supplemental waivers
15 distributed under this paragraph in a fiscal year is
16 less than the total number of supplemental waivers
17 available for distribution in the fiscal year, the dif-
18 ference between the number distributed and the
19 number available for distribution shall be added to
20 the total number of supplemental waivers available
21 for distribution in the subsequent fiscal year.

22 “(E) Ten percent of supplemental waivers dis-
23 tributed in a fiscal year shall be used to support po-
24 sitions in 1 or more facilities that serve patients who
25 reside in medically underserved communities (as de-

1 fined in section 799B of the Public Health Service
2 Act (42 U.S.C. 295p).

3 “(F) In this paragraph, the term ‘eligible State
4 agency’ means a State agency that, in the preceding
5 fiscal year, used not fewer than 30 waivers under
6 section 212(e).”.

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