

	H.R. 3039 Welcoming Business Travelers and Tourists to America Act of 2011	S. 1653 International Tourism Facilitation Act	S. 1746/H.R. 3341 Visa Improvements to Stimulate International Tourism to the United States of America Act (VISIT USA Act)		S. 497/ H.R. 959 Secure Travel and Counterterrorism Partnership Program Act	
Lead Sponsors	Joe Heck (R-NV)	Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) Roy Blunt (R-MO)	Schumer (D-NY) Lee (R-UT)	Hirono (D-HI) Dreier (R-CA)	Mikulski (D-MD) Kirk (R-IL)	Quigley (D-IL)
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Committee Referrals & Action	House Judiciary; House Foreign Affairs	Senate Judiciary	Judiciary	Judiciary; Homeland Security	Judiciary	Judiciary; Intelligence
Visa Processing Standard and Consular Staffing	State shall set a 12-day visa processing standard for Brazil, China & India and shall use visa fees to hire sufficient consular and LNA officers to meet the standard. (Sec. 3)					
Longer Visa Terms	State may agree to leisure and business visa terms on a non-reciprocal basis with specific countries if there are “no adversarial effects”. (Sec. 7)		State shall lengthen the visa terms for Chinese nationals from 1 to 5 years if applicants are screened via ESTA program. (Sec. 2)			

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Visa Video-conferencing	State “shall” conduct a 2-year video conferencing pilot program and report on its viability for expansion. (Sec. 4)		State “shall” develop a visa video conferencing pilot program if it can be conducted consistent with security controls. Premium processing fees shall cover costs of technology to carry out the pilot. (Secs. 3-4)	
Visa Wait Time Information	State shall post historical data about visa interview wait times for appointments and visa processing. (Sec. 5)			
Visa Interview Waivers		State may waive the mandatory visa interview for visa renewals occurring within 4 years of the original visa issuance, rather than 1 year under current law. (Sec. 3)		
Visa Interviews Conducted by Mobile Teams			Premium processing fees shall cover costs to create mobile interview teams for cities over 1M in population without a U.S. consulate or embassy. (Sec. 3)	

2011 LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

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Visa Waiver Program			DHS may admit countries with either visa refusal or visa overstay rates not more than 3 percent if country meets other law enforcement criteria and has a refusal rate that is declining and not more than 10 percent. Also establishes a probationary period for non-compliant countries. Also requires GAO to review overstay tracking. (Sec. 7)	DHS may admit countries with an overstay rate not more than 3 percent if country meets other law enforcement criteria. Also establishes a probationary period for non-compliant countries. Also requires GAO to review overstay tracking. (Secs. 2-5)
Off-Peak Visa Fees			Permits the State Department to lower visa application fees during off-peak visa application seasons to give travelers an incentive to apply for visas when demand is lower. (Sec. 6)	
Expedited Visa Services			This section requires the Secretary of State to develop “premium processing” for B-1 and B-2 visas (tourist and business travel visas). A visa interview appointment and adjudication would take place within 3 business days, absent compelling security concerns. Fees shall be set to cover costs of premium processing, visa videoconferencing technology and mobile interview units. (Sec. 3)	

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Long-Term Visa Planning	State shall report to Congress on planning for Brazil, China & India, including projected demand through 2020, comparison with Commerce Department arrival projections, current processes, staffing projections, and strategies to maximize officers and space. (Sec. 6)	State shall report to Congress on planning for Brazil, China & India, including projected demand through 2020, comparison with Commerce Department arrival projections, current processes, staffing projections, and strategies to maximize officers and space. (Sec. 4)		
State Department Budgeting		State may retain visa fees collected above amount collected in FY11 for consular use. (Sec. 2)		
Canadian Visas			New visa category for Canadians living but not employed in the U.S. up to 240 days. (Sec. 5)	
Home Buyer Visas			New nonimmigrant visa category for persons spending 500K to purchase a house in the U.S. and not employed in the U.S. (Sec. 8)	
Expediting Entry for Priority Foreign Visitors			DHS shall expand Global Entry to individuals from international organizations. (Sec. 9)	