


I-Squared Act (2015)	Startup Act (2015)	S. 744 (2013)	SKILLS Visa Act (2013)
<p>Immigrant Visa Reforms</p> <p><u>Family-based visas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Per country limits increase from 7% to 15%. <p><u>Employment-based (EB) visas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintains current cap, but exempts the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dependents of EB visa-holders STEM degree holders (master's or higher) from U.S. college or university Two EB-1 eligibility occupational categories: (1) workers with extraordinary ability and (2) outstanding professors and researchers. Per country limits are eliminated. Recaptures unused EB visas between FY 1992 and FY 2013. Ensures full utilization of EB visa within a fiscal year (unused visas roll over to the following fiscal year). 	<p>Immigrant Visa Reforms</p> <p><u>Family-based visas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Per country limits increase from 7% to 15%. <p><u>Employment-based (EB) visas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates a new visa for U.S.-educated foreign students who hold an advanced STEM degree, capped at 50,000 per year. Grants visa recipients conditional permanent resident status for 5 years if they remain actively engaged in a STEM field. After five years, the conditional status can be lifted and the visa holder can become a regular legal permanent resident (LPR). Creates new immigrant entrepreneur visa for H-1B or F-1 visa holders, capped at 75,000 per year. Grants conditional permanent residence for 4 years. Criteria for first year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registers at least one new business. Employ at least 2 full-time employees. Invest or raises capital investment of at least \$100,000. Criteria for next 3 years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employ at least 5 full-time employees. Conditional status can be lifted after the 4 years. Per-country limits are eliminated. 	<p>Immigrant Visa Reforms</p> <p><u>Family-based visas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces minimum number of family visas from 226,000 to 161,000 Removes the cap on spouses or children of LPRs (F-2A visa). This becomes an immediate relative category. Eliminates the F-4 visa for siblings of U.S. citizens. Restricts immigration of married children of U.S. citizens (the F-3 visa) to individuals aged 31 and younger. <p><u>Employment-based (EB) visas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintains current cap (140,000), but exempts spouses and children. Removes cap on immigrants with certain extraordinary abilities (EB-1). Exempts from caps: immigrants holding a doctorate or the foreign equivalent, STEM immigrants with an MA or higher and a job offer, and certain physicians. Creates an EB-6 visa for entrepreneurs with 10,000 visas. <p><u>Other changes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clears "backlog" by 2023. Recaptures unused family/EB visas between FY 1992 and FY 2013. A new merit visa would award points to prospective immigrants based on education, employment, length of residence and other considerations. Cap would fluctuate between 120,000 and 250,000 based on demand. Eliminates Diversity Visa 	<p>Immigrant Visa Reforms</p> <p><u>Family-based visas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lowers family-based immigration quota from 480,000 to 440,000. Increases minimum number of family visas from 226,000 to 251,000 for 2014 through 2023, then reduces it to 186,000 beginning in 2024. Eliminates the F-4 visa for siblings of U.S. citizens beginning in 2024. Per country limits on family visas increase from 7% to 15%. <p><u>Employment-based (EB) visas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EB green cards are increased to a total 235,000 visas. Creates a new EB-6 category for aliens holding a STEM doctorate degrees from U.S. with a cap of 55,000 visas per year EB-7s - If there are leftover numbers out of the 55,000 in a given year, visas can go to master's degree STEM professional. Creates new EB-8 category for entrepreneurs with 10,000 visas plus leftover from the EB-1, EB-2 and EB-3. Per country limits are eliminated.
<p>Non-Immigrant Visa Reforms</p> <p><u>H-1B</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The H-1B cap is raised from 65,000 to 155,000. Eliminates numerical limit for H-1B visas allocated for foreign graduates of U.S. universities with advanced degrees, currently capped at 20,000 A market-based "escalator" is established that allows the supply of H-1B visas to meet the rise or fall in demand from year-to-year or within a fiscal year. From year to year, the cap can increase or decrease by no more than 20,000 visas, but can never fall below 115,000 or rise above 195,000. Spouses of H-1Bs can work. Proposes a 60-day "grace period" for H-1B visa holders who either quit or are fired from their job before their period of authorized admission expires to transition into a new job have a new employer file a sponsoring visa petition. H-1Bs (as well as E, L, O and P visa holders) may renew their nonimmigrant while in the United States, if still eligible. 		<p>Non-Immigrant Visa Reforms</p> <p><u>H-1B</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expands H-1B cap from 65,000 plus 20,000 advanced degree holders, to 115,000 plus 25,000 advanced degree holders. Base cap may go as high as 180,000 based on previous year's demand. Increases prevailing wage requirements for H-1B visa holders, mandates advertising job to American workers first. Spouses of H-1Bs can work if the sending country permits reciprocal employment of U.S. nationals. Phases in maximum share of employees that may be on H-1B and L-1 visas. By FY2016, employers who are more than 50% H-1B and L-1 cannot apply for further visas. Allows spouses and children to accompany H-1B workers without counting against the cap and allows spouses to work. <p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new W visa would allow between 20,000 and 200,000 low-skilled workers per year. The cap would start at 20,000 and escalate to 75,000 by the fourth year. A demand-based formula would determine changes after that. 	<p>Non-Immigrant Visa Reforms</p> <p><u>H-1B</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The H-1B cap is raised from 65,000 to 155,000. The master's cap allocation of 20,000 is modified. It now covers STEM professionals covered in the new EB-6 and EB-7 categories and is doubled to 40,000. Spouses of H-1Bs (H-4s) can work.  <p>BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER</p>