

Calendar No. _____

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION**S. 4680**

To authorize the Secretary of State to extend limited consular appointments to eight years, with an additional two-year extension for needs of the Foreign Service.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 4, 2026

Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. RICKETTS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

_____ (legislative day, _____), _____

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of State to extend limited consular appointments to eight years, with an additional two-year extension for needs of the Foreign Service.

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 “Expanded Consular
5 Fellows Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) Consular services provided at United States
2 embassies and consulates worldwide, and in the
3 United States, are critical to protecting the safety
4 and security of Americans abroad, safeguarding
5 United States borders, supporting American families
6 pursuing international adoptions, and facilitating le-
7 gitimate travel to the United States.

8 (2) Foreign Service posts process millions of
9 visa applications each year, conducting rigorous se-
10 curity vetting of each application to detect fraud,
11 mitigate security risks, prevent unlawful migrations,
12 and protect the homeland.

13 (3) Travel and tourism is the United States
14 largest single services export, accounting for 22 per-
15 cent of services exports and 7 percent of total ex-
16 ports in 2023. In 2022, the travel and tourism in-
17 dustry contributed \$2,300,000,000,000 to the
18 United States economy—approximately 2.97 percent
19 of gross domestic product—and supported 9,500,000
20 United States jobs.

21 (4) Demand for consular services will continue
22 to increase as the United States enters an American
23 decade of sports as the host of major international
24 events between 2024 and 2034—including the Copa
25 America, Club World Cup, FIFA World Cup, Olym-

1 pic and Paralympic Games, and Rugby World
2 Cups—which are expected to draw millions of inter-
3 national visitors and significantly increasing work-
4 loads for consular staff while simultaneously requir-
5 ing enhanced security screening and adjudicative
6 rigor.

7 (5) Expanding limited non-career appointments
8 for Department of State personnel performing con-
9 sular functions, including through the Consular Fel-
10 lows Program, is essential to increasing staffing ca-
11 pacity, reducing recruitment costs and delays, and
12 ensuring the continued efficient delivery of consular
13 services.

14 **SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF LIMITED CONSULAR APPOINTMENT**
15 **AUTHORITY.**

16 Section 309 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22
17 U.S.C. 3949) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “, or 8 years
19 in duration for personnel performing consular serv-
20 ices,” after “may not exceed 5 years in duration”;
21 and

22 (2) in subsection (b)(6)—

23 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or”;

24 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
25 period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

1 (C) by adding at the end the following new
2 subparagraph:

3 “(C) a limited noncareer appointment for a
4 period not to exceed 2 years, in the case of per-
5 sonnel performing consular services.”.