

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

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

Ms. ROSEN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

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:

8 (1) Consular services provided at United States
9 embassies and consulates worldwide, and in the

1 United States, are critical to protecting the safety
2 and security of Americans abroad, safeguarding
3 United States borders, supporting American families
4 pursuing international adoptions, and facilitating le-
5 gitimate travel to the United States.

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

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

19 (4) Demand for consular services will continue
20 to increase as the United States enters an American
21 decade of sports as the host of major international
22 events between 2024 and 2034—including the Copa
23 America, Club World Cup, FIFA World Cup, Olym-
24 pic and Paralympic Games, and Rugby World
25 Cups—which are expected to draw millions of inter-

1 national visitors and significantly increasing work-
2 loads for consular staff while simultaneously requir-
3 ing enhanced security screening and adjudicative
4 rigor.

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

12 **SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF LIMITED CONSULAR APPOINTMENT**
13 **AUTHORITY.**

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

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

20 (2) in subsection (b)(6)—

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

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

24 (C) by adding at the end the following new
25 subparagraph:

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