

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2582

To designate the Republic of Korea as a pilot program country for one year under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 2, 1995

Mr. KIM introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To designate the Republic of Korea as a pilot program country for one year under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

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. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) The Republic of Korea and the United
6 States have close historical and military ties.

7 (2) The Republic of Korea has been designated
8 as a major non-NATO ally.

9 (3) The Republic of Korea is the sixth largest
10 trading partner of the United States.

1 (4) In 1994, total United States exports to the
2 Republic of Korea were \$14,800,000,000, with im-
3 ports of \$17,100,000,000, a trade surplus of
4 \$3,700,000,000, and cumulative direct investment of
5 \$1,200,000,000.

6 (5) There is an increasing demand by citizens
7 of the Republic of Korea to visit the United States,
8 with an increased demand for nonimmigrant visas
9 from a 1982 total of 800 to a 1995 total of over
10 2,000 applications daily.

11 (6) During fiscal year 1993, a total of 408,213
12 Korean citizens visited the United States as tourists,
13 making the Republic of Korea the twelfth highest
14 source country for tourism in the United States, an
15 increase of 20 percent over fiscal year 1992.

16 (7) According to the United States Department
17 of Commerce, overall tourism dollars spent in the
18 United States by tourists from the Republic of
19 Korea exceeded \$680,000,000 in fiscal year 1993.

20 (8) It is estimated that for fiscal year 1995, ar-
21 rivals from the Republic of Korea will reach more
22 than 600,000, an increase of over 900 percent from
23 fiscal year 1987 arrivals, and more than
24 \$1,000,000,000 in tourist spending.

1 (9) Currently, all potential Republic of Korea
2 travellers seeking to obtain a travel visa must apply
3 at the United States Embassy in Seoul, regardless
4 of their place of residence in the Republic of Korea.

5 (10) The United States consular affairs office
6 at the United States Embassy in Seoul has not been
7 able to meet the growing demand for nonimmigrant
8 visas to the United States due to lack of space and
9 personnel, resulting in unnecessary delays, frustra-
10 tion, and loss of economic opportunity for the
11 United States.

12 (11) During the past several months, numerous
13 press reports and media stories have centered
14 around the growing dissatisfaction of the South Ko-
15 rean people in relation to such delays and the lack
16 of adequate protection against the natural elements.

17 (12) The commitment of the United States to
18 the Republic of Korea has been enhanced and solidi-
19 fied by the recent visit of President Kim to the
20 United States.

21 (13) The Republic of South Korea has a unique
22 place of importance with respect to the United
23 States under the provisions of the United States-
24 North Korea Agreed Framework.

1 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AS**
2 **VISA WAIVER PILOT PROGRAM COUNTRY.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provi-
4 sion of law, beginning 60 days after the date of the enact-
5 ment of this Act, the Republic of Korea shall be des-
6 ignated for one year as a visa waiver pilot program coun-
7 try for purposes of section 217 of the Immigration and
8 Nationality Act.

9 (b) **AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE.**—Notwithstanding
10 any other provision of law, the requirements for designa-
11 tion of a country under section 217 of the Immigration
12 and Nationality Act shall not apply to any designation of
13 the Republic of Korea as a visa waiver pilot program coun-
14 try under such section.

15 (c) **REPORT REQUIREMENTS.**—Not later than one
16 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
17 retary of State and the Attorney General shall compile and
18 submit to the Congress a report evaluating the visa waiver
19 pilot program country designation under subsection (a)
20 and the qualifications of the Republic of Korea for des-
21 ignation under the provisions of section 217 of the Immi-
22 gration and Nationality Act.

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