

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8931

To eliminate the touchback requirement for certain Commonwealth Only Workers, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 20, 2026

Ms. KING-HINDS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To eliminate the touchback requirement for certain Commonwealth Only Workers, and for other purposes.

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 “Northern Mariana Is-  
5 lands Workforce Improvement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ELIMINATION OF TOUCHBACK REQUIREMENT.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6(d)(7) of Public Law  
8 94–241 (48 U.S.C. 1806(d)(7)) is amended to read as fol-  
9 lows:

1           “(7) PERMIT VALIDITY; LONG-TERM WORK-  
2           ERS.—

3           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
4           subparagraph (B), a permit for a Common-  
5           wealth Only Worker shall be valid for a period  
6           not to exceed 1 year.

7           “(B) RENEWALS.—A permit issued under  
8           subparagraph (A) may be renewed for addi-  
9           tional periods of not more than 1 year each,  
10          subject to the requirements of this subsection.

11          “(C) LONG-TERM WORKERS.—An alien  
12          who was admitted to the Commonwealth as a  
13          Commonwealth Only Transitional Worker—

14                 “(i) during fiscal year 2015; and

15                 “(ii) during two of fiscal years 2016,  
16                 2017, 2018, or 2019,

17          may be admitted as a Commonwealth Only  
18          Transitional Worker for a period that may not  
19          exceed 3 years and may be renewed for addi-  
20          tional 3-year periods during the transition pe-  
21          riod. A permit issued pursuant to this subpara-  
22          graph shall be counted toward the numerical  
23          cap for each fiscal year for which the permit is  
24          valid.”.

1       (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
2 this section shall take effect as if included in the enact-  
3 ment of Public Law 115–218.

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