

JULY 2007 VISA AVAILABILITY

The bulletin issued by the Visa Office of the Bureau of Consular Affairs of the U.S. Department of State gives the following availability position for issuance of immigrant visas during July 2007:

Persons Chargeable to India

Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Jul 01, 2001
2nd Preference	
2A	Jun 01, 2002
2B	Jun 08, 1998
3rd Preference	Jul 15, 1999
4th Preference	Feb 08, 1996

Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Current
2nd Preference	Current
3rd Preference	Current
Other Workers	Unavailable
4 th Preference	Current
Certain Religious Workers	Current
Iraqi & Afghani Translators	Current
5 th Preference	Current
Targeted Emp Areas	Current

Persons Chargeable to Other Countries

For other chargeability areas, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, and the nations of Africa, the cut-off dates for July 2007 are:

Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Jul 01, 2001
2nd Preference	
2A	Jun 01, 2002
2B	Feb 08, 1998
3rd Preference	Jul 15, 1999
4th Preference	Aug 01, 1996

Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Current
2nd Preference	Current
3rd Preference	Current
Other Workers	Unavailable
4th Preference	Current
Certain Religious Workers	Current
Iraqi & Afghani Translators	Current
5th Preference	Current
Targeted Emp Areas	Current

REVIVAL OF SENATE BILL ON IMMIGRATION

The Senate "grand bargainers" have reached an agreement to revive S. 1348 that relates to immigration reform. The final debate on the Floor will take place at the end of June. Senators will likely vote on a negotiated package of 20-24 amendments (10-12 per party) before proceeding with a vote on final passage. The expectation is that in exchange for this agreement on amendments, the leadership teams will be able to secure the 60 votes necessary to move to a vote on final passage.

The American Immigration Lawyers Association, having membership of more than 10,000 attorneys, continues to point out the following key concerns with S. 1348:

1. Decimation of the employment-based immigration system through creation of the so called "merit-based" point system that disconnects employment-based immigration from employer sponsorship and eliminates existing avenues of migration for aliens of extraordinary ability, multinational executives, and outstanding researchers.
2. Elimination of 4 out of 5 long-recognized family relationships that qualify an individual for green card sponsorship in exchange for a partial reduction of the backlogs in those categories.

3. **Lack of meaningful opportunities for new temporary workers to transition to permanent residence.**
4. **Lack of sufficient future numbers for employment-based immigrants at all ends of the skill spectrum.**
5. **Unwarranted restrictions on the H-1B and L-1 nonimmigrant visa programs.**
6. **Lack of sufficient confidentiality protections for Z-visa applicants.**

I shall keep the readers informed as the debate reopens on the Floor.