

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 8234, With an Amendment**

**(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)**

118<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 8234

To authorize the Secretary of State to designate additional persons eligible to serve as passport acceptance agents, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 2, 2024

Mr. MAST (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Ms. SALAZAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of State to designate additional persons eligible to serve as passport acceptance agents, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF STATE TO DES-**  
2 **IGNATE ADDITIONAL PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO**  
3 **SERVE AS PASSPORT ACCEPTANCE AGENTS.**

4 Section 6109(b) of the National Defense Authoriza-  
5 tion Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (22 U.S.C. 213a(b)) is  
6 amended—

7 (1) by redesignating paragraph (6) as para-  
8 graph (7); and

9 (2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the fol-  
10 lowing:

11 “(6) A United States citizen who, as deter-  
12 mined by the Secretary, is employed by and provides  
13 services through a reputable, established company or  
14 institution and is commissioned or appointed as a  
15 notary or notary public or otherwise authorized to  
16 perform a notarization under the laws of a State,  
17 district, or territorial government.”.

18 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO HAND-CARRY COU-**  
19 **RIER SERVICES FOR PASSPORT APPLICA-**  
20 **TIONS AND PASSPORTS.**

21 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State shall take  
22 such actions as may be necessary to—

23 (1) facilitate an increase in the number of com-  
24 panies certified to provide hand-carry courier serv-  
25 ices; and

1           (2) increase the daily maximum number of ap-  
2           plications for United States regular passports, by  
3           service type, that such companies may submit to a  
4           passport agency of the Department of State (com-  
5           monly referred to as “meeting slots”) as part of the  
6           hand-carry courier services of such company.

7           (b) **HAND-CARRY COURIER SERVICE DEFINED.**—In  
8           this section, the term “hand-carry courier service”  
9           means—

10           (1) the transport of applications for United  
11           States passports to a passport agency of the Depart-  
12           ment of State for processing; and

13           (2) the retrieval of newly issued United States  
14           passports for delivery, directly or indirectly, to the  
15           passport holder.

16           **SEC. 3. DATE OF EXPIRATION OF UNITED STATES PASS-**  
17           **PORTS.**

18           The Secretary of State shall take such actions as may  
19           be necessary to provide that each United States regular  
20           passport issued or renewed on or after the date that is  
21           180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act ex-  
22           pires on the same month and day of the month as the  
23           date of birth of the individual associated with such pass-  
24           port.