

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8931

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

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

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.

