



H.R. 1312 – Arts Require Timely Service (ARTS) Act

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 1312 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Howard Berman (D-CA) on March 5, 2007. The House Committee on the Judiciary reported the bill as amended on March 6, 2008.

H.R. 1312 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on April 1, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 1312 requires the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to process, within 30 days, temporary non-immigrant visa petitions for foreign persons who have extraordinary abilities in the sciences, arts, education, business, or athletics. DHS must also process the temporary non-immigrant visa petitions for any immigrant who will be accompanying this foreign person.

If the requesting party is a qualified nonprofit organization or requesting the temporary visa on behalf of one, DHS must provide premium processing services and waive any processing fee if the 30 day requirement is not met.

**** Note: Current law requires that petitioners who have paid the \$1,000 premium processing fee must have their petitions processed within 15 days. H.R. 1312 waives the \$1,000 premium processing fee.*

BACKGROUND

The Immigration and Nationality Act allows persons who have demonstrated extraordinary abilities in the sciences, arts, education, business, or athletics to qualify for temporary non-immigrant visas for foreign guest artists.

Foreign persons accompanying these individuals may also qualify for a temporary non-immigrant visa. Accompanying persons must be requesting a visa to temporarily enter the U.S. for the sole purpose of accompanying, being an integral part of, or assisting the performance of the person they are accompanying.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that implementing H.R. 1312 would have no significant cost to the federal government.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at (202) 226-2302.