



**H.R. 3123 – To extend the designation of Liberia under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act so that Liberians can continue to be eligible for temporary protected status under that section.**

**Floor Situation**

H.R. 3123 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 Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) on July 23, 2007. It was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, but never considered.

H.R. 3123 is expected to be considered on the floor on July 30, 2007.

**Summary**

H.R. 3123 extends temporary protected status (TPS) for Liberians through September 30, 2008. The bill provides work authorization for these individuals through April 1, 2008, at the earliest.

*Note: The Department of Homeland Security Secretary, in consultation with appropriate government agencies, has determined that the TPS designation for Liberia should be terminated. The current TPS eligibility for Liberians expires on September 30, 2007.*

**Background**

Temporary protected status provides temporary safe haven for aliens that are fleeing dangerous situations in their home countries. Under U.S. immigration law, individuals fleeing political or social persecution are eligible for asylum.

However, for those who don't qualify for permanent status as a refugee, immigration law provides temporary protection to designated countries in which there is an ongoing military conflict that jeopardizes personal safety, a foreign state requests it due to environmental disaster, or there is some other extraordinary condition that prevents aliens from returning to their home country. Please note that TPS does not lead to permanent resident status.

TPS can be extended to countries for periods of 6 to 18 months at a time. There are currently 7 countries whose citizens are designated for TPS. Individuals from Liberia have had the protection since March 1991, the longest of the 7 countries. According to the Congressional Research Service, there are approximately 3,600 Liberian aliens in the United States with TPS.

Liberia's second civil war in a decade ended in August 2003 with signing of a comprehensive peace agreement. A U.N. peacekeeping force took over security in Liberia in October 2003. A U.N. force of approximately 15,000 remains in Liberia today.

Since the conflict ended, Liberia has made significant progress promoting democracy, improving security, and rebuilding infrastructure. Liberia's current President, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, was inaugurated in January 2006 following the most free, fair, and peaceful elections in Liberia's history. Since August 2003, the U.S. has provided approximately \$570 million for reconstruction and development as well as almost \$600 million for the UN Mission in Liberia.

### **Additional Information**

[U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services – Temporary Protected Status](#)

[State Department Country Brief - Liberia](#)

### **Cost**

This bill has not been scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

### **Staff Contact**

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