on the first day of the first month beginning more than 180 days after Sept. 30, 1996, see section 309 of Pub. L. 104–208, set out as a note under section 1101 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1991 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 303(a)(1), (2) of Pub. L. 102–232 effective as if included in the enactment of the Immigration Act of 1990, Pub. L. 101–649, see section 310(1) of Pub. L. 102–232, set out as a note under section 1101 of this title.

Pub. L. 102–232, title III, § 307(*l*), Dec. 12, 1991, 105 Stat. 1756, provided that the amendment made by section 307(*l*) is effective as if included in section 603(a) of the Immigration Act of 1990, Pub. L. 101–649.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 101–649, title II, § 201(d), Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 5014, provided that: ''The amendments made by this section [amending this section and section 1323 of this title] shall take effect as of the date of the enactment of this Act [Nov. 29, 1990].''

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1988 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 100–525 effective as if included in enactment of Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, Pub. L. 99–603, see section 2(s) of Pub. L. 100–525, set out as a note under section 1101 of this title.

ABOLITION OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AND TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For abolition of Immigration and Naturalization Service, transfer of functions, and treatment of related references, see note set out under section 1551 of this title.

DATE OF SUBMISSION OF FIRST REPORT

Pub. L. 114–113, div. O, title II, § 205(b), Dec. 18, 2015, 129 Stat. 2993, provided that: ''The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit the first report described in subclause (V) of section 217(c)(5)(A)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. (c)(5)(A)(i)), as added by subsection (a), not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 18, 2015].''

MODERNIZING AND STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY OF VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

Pub. L. 110–53, title VII, § 711(b), Aug. 3, 2007, 121 Stat. 338, provided that: ''It is the sense of Congress that—

''(1) the United States should modernize and strengthen the security of the visa waiver program under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187) by simultaneously—

''(A) enhancing program security requirements; and

''(B) extending visa-free travel privileges to nationals of foreign countries that are partners in the war on terrorism—

''(i) that are actively cooperating with the United States to prevent terrorist travel, including sharing counterterrorism and law enforcement information; and

''(ii) whose nationals have demonstrated their compliance with the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act [8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.] regarding the purpose and duration of their admission to the United States; and

''(2) the modernization described in paragraph (1) will—

''(A) enhance bilateral cooperation on critical counterterrorism and information sharing initiatives;

''(B) support and expand tourism and business opportunities to enhance long-term economic competitiveness; and

''(C) strengthen bilateral relationships.''

MACHINE READABLE PASSPORTS

Pub. L. 107–56, title IV, § 417(a), (b), Oct. 26, 2001, 115 Stat. 355, required the Secretary of State to perform annual audits and submit reports relating to machine readable, counterfeit, and tamper-resistant passports until Sept. 30, 2007.

REPORT REQUIRED

Pub. L. 106–396, title IV, § 403(e), Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1649, provided that: ''Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 30, 2000], the Attorney General shall submit a report to the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Senate assessing the effectiveness of the program implemented under the amendments made by this section [amending this section] for simplifying the admission of business travelers from visa waiver program countries and compliance with the Immigration and Nationality Act [8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.] by such travelers under that program.''

TRANSITION PROVISIONS

Pub. L. 104–208, div. C, title VI, § 635(c)(2), Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009–703, provided that: ''A country designated as a pilot program country with probationary status under section 217(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act [8 U.S.C. 1187(g)] (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act [Sept. 30, 1996]) shall be considered to be designated as a pilot program country on and after such date, subject to placement in probationary status or termination of such designation under such section (as amended by paragraph (1)).''

OPERATION OF AUTOMATED DATA ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE CONTROL SYSTEM; REPORT TO CONGRESS

Pub. L. 101–649, title II, § 201(c), Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 5014, provided that: ''By not later than January 1, 1992, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall submit to the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and of the Senate a report on the operation of the automated data arrival and departure control system for foreign visitors and on admission refusals and overstays for such visitors who have entered under the visa waiver program.''

REPORT ON VISA WAIVER PILOT PROGRAM

Pub. L. 99–603, title IV, § 405, Nov. 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 3442, provided that:

''(a) MONITORING AND REPORT ON THE PILOT PROGRAM.—The Attorney General and the Secretary of State shall jointly monitor the pilot program established under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act [8 U.S.C. 1187] and shall report to the Congress not later than two years after the beginning of the program.

''(b) DETAILS IN REPORT.—The report shall include—

''(1) an evaluation of the program, including its impact—

''(A) on the control of alien visitors to the United States,

''(B) on consular operations in the countries designated under the program, as well as on consular operations in other countries in which additional consular personnel have been relocated as a result of the implementation of the program, and

''(C) on the United States tourism industry; and

''(2) recommendations—

''(A) on extending the pilot program period, and

''(B) on increasing the number of countries that may be designated under the program.''

§ 1187a. Provision of assistance to non-program countries

The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall provide assistance in a risk-based manner to countries that do not participate in the visa waiver program under section 1187 of this title to assist those countries in—

(1) submitting to Interpol information about the theft or loss of passports of citizens or nationals of such a country; and

(2) issuing, and validating at the ports of entry of such a country, electronic passports that are fraud-resistant, contain relevant biographic and biometric information (as determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security), and otherwise satisfy internationally accepted standards for electronic passports.

(Pub. L. 114–113, div. O, title II, § 208, Dec. 18, 2015, 129 Stat. 2995.)

§ 1188. Admission of temporary H–2A workers

(a) Conditions for approval of H–2A petitions

(1) A petition to import an alien as an H–2A worker (as defined in subsection (i)(2)) may not be approved by the Attorney General unless the petitioner has applied to the Secretary of Labor for a certification that—

(A) there are not sufficient workers who are able, willing, and qualified, and who will be available at the time and place needed, to perform the labor or services involved in the petition, and

(B) the employment of the alien in such labor or services will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of workers in the United States similarly employed.

(2) The Secretary of Labor may require by regulation, as a condition of issuing the certification, the payment of a fee to recover the reasonable costs of processing applications for certification.

(b) Conditions for denial of labor certification

The Secretary of Labor may not issue a certification under subsection (a) with respect to an employer if the conditions described in that subsection are not met or if any of the following conditions are met:

(1) There is a strike or lockout in the course of a labor dispute which, under the regulations, precludes such certification.

(2)(A) The employer during the previous two-year period employed H–2A workers and the Secretary of Labor has determined, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, that the employer at any time during that period substantially violated a material term or condition of the labor certification with respect to the employment of domestic or nonimmigrant workers.

(B) No employer may be denied certification under subparagraph (A) for more than three years for any violation described in such subparagraph.

(3) The employer has not provided the Secretary with satisfactory assurances that if the employment for which the certification is sought is not covered by State workers' compensation law, the employer will provide, at no cost to the worker, insurance covering injury and disease arising out of and in the course of the worker's employment which will provide benefits at least equal to those provided under the State workers' compensation law for comparable employment.

(4) The Secretary determines that the employer has not made positive recruitment efforts within a multi-state region of traditional or expected labor supply where the Secretary finds that there are a significant number of qualified United States workers who, if recruited, would be willing to make themselves available for work at the time and place needed. Positive recruitment under this paragraph is in addition to, and shall be conducted within the same time period as, the circulation through the interstate employment service system of the employer's job offer. The obligation to engage in positive recruitment under this paragraph shall terminate on the date the H–2A workers depart for the employer's place of employment.

(c) Special rules for consideration of applications

The following rules shall apply in the case of the filing and consideration of an application for a labor certification under this section:

(1) Deadline for filing applications

The Secretary of Labor may not require that the application be filed more than 45 days before the first date the employer requires the labor or services of the H–2A worker.

(2) Notice within seven days of deficiencies

(A) The employer shall be notified in writing within seven days of the date of filing if the application does not meet the standards (other than that described in subsection (a)(1)(A)) for approval.

(B) If the application does not meet such standards, the notice shall include the reasons therefor and the Secretary shall provide an opportunity for the prompt resubmission of a modified application.

(3) Issuance of certification

(A) The Secretary of Labor shall make, not later than 30 days before the date such labor or services are first required to be performed, the certification described in subsection (a)(1) if—

(i) the employer has complied with the criteria for certification (including criteria for the recruitment of eligible individuals as prescribed by the Secretary), and

(ii) the employer does not actually have, or has not been provided with referrals of, qualified eligible individuals who have indicated their availability to perform such labor or services on the terms and conditions of a job offer which meets the requirements of the Secretary.

In considering the question of whether a specific qualification is appropriate in a job offer, the Secretary shall apply the normal and accepted qualifications required by non-H–2A-employers in the same or comparable occupations and crops.

(B)(i) For a period of 3 years subsequent to the effective date of this section, labor certifications shall remain effective only if, from the