

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1926

To amend the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act to make Uruguay eligible for designation as a beneficiary country under that Act, to include Uruguay in the list of foreign states whose nationals are eligible for admission into the United States as E1 and E2 nonimmigrants if nationals of the United States are treated similarly by the Government of Uruguay, and to require a report on the eligibility of Uruguay for the visa waiver program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 12, 2023

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mr. KAINE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act to make Uruguay eligible for designation as a beneficiary country under that Act, to include Uruguay in the list of foreign states whose nationals are eligible for admission into the United States as E1 and E2 nonimmigrants if nationals of the United States are treated similarly by the Government of Uruguay, and to require a report on the eligibility of Uruguay for the visa waiver program, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “United States-Uruguay
3 Economic Partnership Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY OF URUGUAY FOR DESIGNATION AS A**
5 **BENEFICIARY COUNTRY UNDER CARIBBEAN**
6 **BASIN ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT.**

7 Section 212(b) of the Caribbean Basin Economic Re-
8 covery Act (19 U.S.C. 2702(b)) is amended by inserting
9 after “Turks and Caicos Islands” the following new item:
10 “Uruguay”.

11 **SEC. 3. NONIMMIGRANT TRADERS AND INVESTORS.**

12 For purposes of clauses (i) and (ii) of section
13 101(a)(15)(E) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
14 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(E)), Uruguay shall be considered to
15 be a foreign state described in such section if the Govern-
16 ment of Uruguay provides similar nonimmigrant status to
17 nationals of the United States.

18 **SEC. 4. VISA WAIVER PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY.**

19 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
20 gress that the Secretary of Homeland Security, in con-
21 sultation with the Secretary of State, should conduct a re-
22 view as to whether Uruguay meets the eligibility criteria
23 for designation as a program country for purposes of the
24 visa waiver program under section 217 of the Immigration
25 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187).

1 (b) VISA WAIVER PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY.—Not later
2 than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
3 the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with
4 the Secretary of State, shall submit to Congress a report
5 that includes—

6 (1) an assessment as to whether Uruguay meets
7 the eligibility criteria for designation as a program
8 country for purposes of the visa waiver program
9 under section 217 of the Immigration and Nation-
10 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187); and

11 (2) in the case of such an assessment that Uru-
12 guay does not meet such eligibility criteria, a de-
13 scription of the actions required of Uruguay in order
14 to meet such criteria.

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