

Angela Romero proposes the following substitute bill:

Immigration Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Lisa Shepherd

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions relating to immigration.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- extends the effective date for the implementation of:
 - the Utah Pilot Sponsored Resident Immigrant Program Act;
 - the Guest Worker Program and related employee verification provisions; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

63G-12-202, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2016, Chapter 81

63G-14-201, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2016, Chapter 81

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **63G-12-202** is amended to read:

63G-12-202 . Federal waivers, exemptions, or authorizations -- Implementation without waiver, exemption, or authorization.

- (1) The department, under the direction of the governor, shall seek one or more federal waivers, exemptions, or authorizations to implement the program.
- (2) The governor shall actively participate in the effort to obtain one or more federal waivers, exemptions, or authorizations under this section.
- (3) The department shall implement the program the sooner of:

30 (a) 120 days after the day on which the governor finds that the state has the one or more
31 federal waivers, exemptions, or authorizations needed to implement the program; or

32 (b) July 1, [~~2027~~] 2037.

33 Section 2. Section **63G-14-201** is amended to read:

34 **63G-14-201 . Creation of program.**

35 (1)(a) The governor shall create a program known as the "Utah Pilot Sponsored Resident
36 Immigrant Program":

37 (i) that is consistent with this chapter; and

38 (ii) under which a resident immigrant may reside, work, and study in Utah, except
39 that the program may not permit a resident immigrant to travel outside of the state
40 except as provided in Subsection 63G-14-206(1).

41 (b) The governor shall:

42 (i) begin implementation of the program by no later than July 1, [~~2027~~] 2037; and

43 (ii) end operation of the program on June 30, [~~2032~~] 2042.

44 (c) Under the program, the governor may facilitate transport to Utah for a foreign
45 national who has been accepted into the program.

46 (d) The governor may recommend legislation to the Legislature to address how a
47 resident immigrant is to be treated under statutes that relate to an alien.

48 (2)(a) The department shall administer the program, except to the extent that the
49 governor delegates a power or duty under the program to another state agency.

50 (b) Subject to Subsection (3), the department may make rules in accordance with
51 Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, to implement the program to the
52 extent expressly provided for in this chapter.

53 (3)(a) The governor may act by executive order whenever the department is authorized
54 to make rules under this chapter.

55 (b) If there is a conflict between a rule made by the department and an executive order of
56 the governor, the executive order governs.

57 Section 3. **Effective Date.**

58 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.