

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 161**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 3, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Congress to add Ireland to nonimmigrant visa program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



ACR161 MURPHY, DEANGELO

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1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging Congress to pass H.R.8761
2 and add Ireland to the E-3 nonimmigrant visa program.

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4 **WHEREAS**, The United States and Ireland share a long history that
5 underpins a critical and special relationship; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Irish immigrants and their descendants, through their grit,
7 determination, and work ethic, have been a driving force of
8 development and prosperity in the United State since our nation's
9 founding; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Irish immigrants have made incalculable contributions in
11 the fields of art, music, literature, religion, and organized labor in
12 the United States; and

13 **WHEREAS**, New generations of Irish men and women continue to
14 contribute greatly to the growth and economic development of our
15 nation and our State; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Irish men and women continue to seek opportunities in the
17 United States through all available legal channels; and

18 **WHEREAS**, The E-3 nonimmigrant visa program allows for the
19 expedited entry of highly skilled workers to live and work in the
20 United States; and

21 **WHEREAS**, E-3 visa recipients provide highly advanced practical and
22 theoretical knowledge to specialty occupations with vacancies in
23 the United States for up to two years; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Nearly half of E-3 visas go unused each year because the
25 visa program is only available to Australian nationals; and

26 **WHEREAS**, The United States is currently experiencing a historically
27 tight labor market, leaving highly specialized occupations without
28 qualified applicants to fill the vacancies; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Failure to maximize the E-3 visa program at this time
30 leaves additional job vacancies and untapped potential in the
31 development of our nation and our State's workforce; and

32 **WHEREAS**, House Resolution No. 8761, currently pending in the
33 United States Congress, would allow for Irish nationals to apply for
34 unused E-3 visas each year; and

35 **WHEREAS**, Highly skilled Irish immigrants would eagerly make use of
36 the excess number of E-3 visas, given their long history of
37 immigrant success in the United States; and

38 **WHEREAS**, The nation of Ireland has already expressed its intentions
39 to reciprocate the passage of H.R.8761 with enhanced visa
40 opportunities for American workers in Ireland; now, therefore,

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42 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
43 Jersey (the Senate concurring):

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45 1. The Legislature of the State of New Jersey urges the United
46 States Congress to pass House Resolution No. 8761 and add Ireland
47 to the E-3 nonimmigrant visa program.

1 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
2 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
3 Secretary of the Senate to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the
4 United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the
5 United States House of Representatives, and each member of the
6 Congress elected from this State.

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STATEMENT

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11 This concurrent resolution urges the United States Congress to
12 add Ireland to the E-3 nonimmigrant visa program.

13 The E-3 nonimmigrant visa program currently allows highly
14 skilled Australian nationals expedited entry to live and work in the
15 United States. E-3 visa recipients bring highly advanced and
16 specialized knowledge to specialty occupations which otherwise
17 would remain vacant in the United States. The program allocates a
18 total of 10,500 visas to be awarded each year, but half of these visas
19 go unused on an annual basis. House Resolution No. 8761, pending
20 before the United States Congress, would allow for any unused
21 visas to be awarded to Irish nationals who could fill current
22 vacancies in a historically tight American labor market.

23 Irish immigrants have long contributed to growth and
24 development of the United States and the State of New Jersey in
25 particular. The passage of H.R.8761 would further strengthen the
26 special bond that exists between the United States and Ireland, and
27 provide for greater workforce development at the state and national
28 levels.