



Fact Sheet

The Studying Towards Adjusted Residency Status (STARS) Act

Congressman David Rivera is introducing the Studying Towards Adjusted Residency Status (STARS) Act. The STARS Act will allow undocumented immigrants the opportunity to adjust their residency status if they achieve a degree from an accredited 4 year institution of higher education and meet certain other criteria.

Specifically, the STARS Act authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security to suspend the removal of an undocumented immigrant and grant them conditional non-immigrant status (upon application) **if the individual petitions for such suspension and meets the following requirements:**

- Obtained a high school diploma or general education development certificate in the United States
- Arrived in the U.S. before the age of 16
- Maintained residence in the U.S. for at least the previous five consecutive years
- Has demonstrated “good moral conduct” as defined by U.S. Code Title 8 Section 1227(a)
- Has been admitted to an accredited 4 year institution of higher education in the United States
- Is 19 years of age or younger or was granted “voluntary departure” status before turning 19, are 21 years of age or younger.

The conditional non-immigrant status will be granted for five years. However, it will be immediately revoked if the individual:

- Fails to continue demonstrating “good moral conduct”
- Becomes a public charge.
- Fails to enroll in an accredited 4 year institution of higher education within 1 year of receiving the conditional non-immigrant status.
- Fails to continue to attend a college or university.

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall extend the conditional non-immigrant status for an additional five years if the individual:

- Has graduated from an accredited 4 year institution of higher education
- Continues to demonstrate “good moral conduct”
- Has maintained residence in the U.S. throughout their studies.

Three years after receiving the additional five year non-immigrant status extension, the STARS Act authorizes the graduate to apply for legal permanent status.