



RECRUITMENT OF FILIPINO NURSES UNDER EB-3 RESUMES

The recruitment of Filipino nurses for the United States resumes with the amendment of the American Competitiveness in the 21st Century Act of 2000. The amendment provides for the recapture of 50,000 unused EB-3 visas from 2001 to 2004 for issuance of visa to schedule A occupations such as nurses and physical therapists.

The EB-3 amendment was incorporated in the "Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief Act, 2005" which was signed by President George Bush on 11 May 2005.

This development will open the door for the entry to the United States of Filipino nurses whose processing of visa applications were halted since December last year, when the US government imposed a moratorium on the processing of EB-3 visas filed after January 2002. Over-subscription of EB-3 visas was cited as basis for the moratorium.

The EB-3 amendment is expected to advance the cut-off priority dates for countries with pending applications for nurses and physical therapists. At present, cut-off date for China, India, and the Philippines is April 2002.

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