



## Portugal Updates Immigration Law

Portugal's Parliament has approved a controversial new immigration law on July 16, 2025, which is now awaiting Presidential decision. The law significantly changes entry, stay, exit and removal of foreigners in Portugal, and has been met with both support and criticism from various political parties.





### **APPROVAL DATE**

Approved on July 16, 2025, by the Portuguese Parliament

### **ACCELERATED PROCESS**

Accelerated approval process of only 16 working days

### **PROCEDURAL CONCERNS**

Criticized for lack of mandatory legal opinions and consultation

### **CURRENT STATUS**

Now awaiting Presidential decision (20-day deadline)

### **SCOPE**

Significantly changes entry, stay, exit and removal of foreigners



# Parliamentary Vote



## IN FAVOUR:

PSD, Chega, CDS

## ABSTAINED:

Liberal Initiative (IL)

## AGAINST:

PS, BE, PCP, Livre, PAN, JPP

Vote Distribution by Party Count



■ For    ■ Abstained    ■ Against

# Key Changes

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## New Immigration Unit (UNEF)

Creation of specialized police unit for immigration and border control.

## Work Visas Restrictions

Limited to "Highly Qualified" professionals only.

## Family Reunification

Stricter rules for bringing family members to Portugal.

## Reduced Visa Validity

New 6-month limit on visa duration.

**\*These changes significantly impact CPLP citizens, including Brazilians, who previously had privileged access.**



# Controversy & Criticism



## Procedural Concerns

- Rushed process only 16 working days
- Missing mandatory legal opinions
- No consultation with immigrant associations

## Substantive Concerns

- Constitutional questions about family rights
- Economic impact on Portuguese labor market
- CPLP relations potentially damaged





# Next Steps

## Presidential Options

### **Sign into Law**

Law enters into force immediately

### **Political Veto**

Returns to Parliament for revision

### **Constitutional Review**

Sent to Constitutional Court





# IMPACTS

## **ECONOMIC IMPACT**

Potential labor shortages in sectors reliant on immigrant workforce  
Shift toward highly qualified immigration only

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Potential strain on CPLP relationships (Portuguese-speaking countries)

## **SOCIAL IMPACT**

Family separation due to stricter reunification rules  
Potential increase in irregular immigration

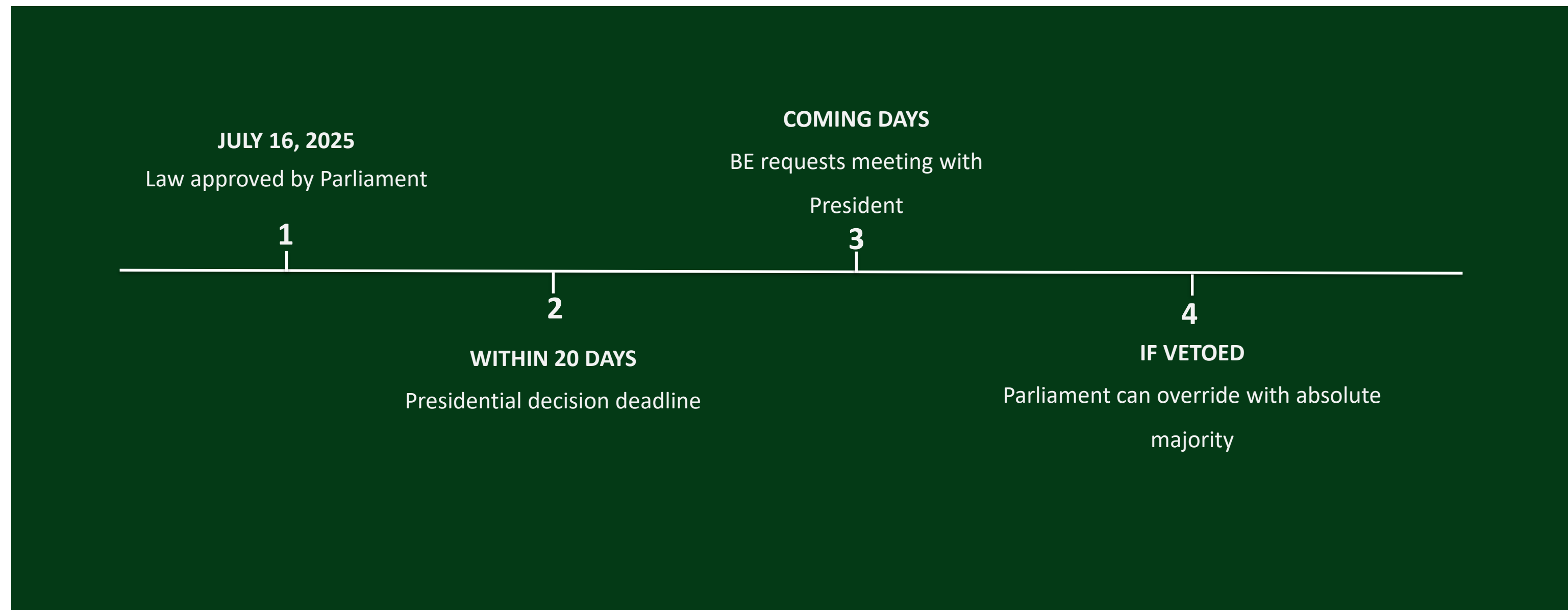
## **LEGAL CONCERNS**

Possible constitutional challenges regarding family rights





# TIMELINE



JULY '25





# Key Takeaways

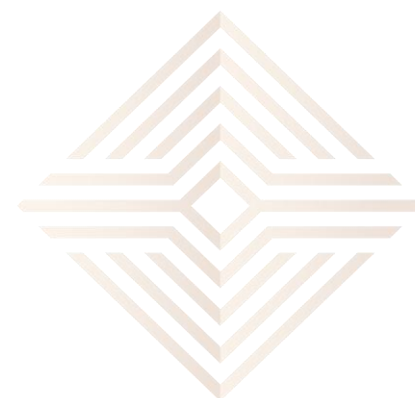


- New law represents a significant shift in Portugal's immigration policy
- Creates new Immigration & Borders Unit (UNEF) under PSP
- Approval process criticized as rushed and incomplete
- President's decision will determine next steps (sign, veto, or constitutional review)
- Potential economic and social impacts remain to be seen
- Reflects broader European trends toward stricter immigration controls

# Final Thoughts

**Presidential decision expected by August 5, 2025**

This presentation provides an overview of Portugal's new immigration law as of July 2025. The situation may evolve as the Presidential decision approaches and political discussions continue.



**For more info**

