

# Explainer | Trump and Congress's Punishing New Immigration Fees

**Congress imposed exorbitant fees for immigration applications — then the Trump administration made it even worse.**

In July 2025, Congress changed the immigration landscape for years to come using a budget bill to [codify some of the Trump administration's most hateful anti-immigrant proposals](#). This included the imposition of [new "fees" or fines](#) to access basic humanitarian protection, work permits, and more. Congress also allowed federal agencies to raise those fees by regulation or on a yearly basis.

Within weeks, the two agencies responsible for collecting fees — the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the Department of Justice Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) — issued agency memoranda and notices to layer the fee increases passed by Congress on top of existing fees. As a result, many forms of immigration relief will become unaffordable for the most vulnerable immigrants and asylum seekers. Below is an explainer on the expected impact of these fees.

## First, Congress required historic and punishing fees on immigration applications.

Congress passed the [H.R.1 megabill](#) that President Trump signed into law on July 4, which changed immigration policy toward a [more carceral, anti-asylum, and anti-children](#) landscape for years to come. This new law imposed new fees and raised other fees on immigration benefits, such as:

- **Historic, nonwaivable fines on asylum access**, including a new annual fee for each calendar year an asylum application is pending. Only [three other countries out of the 147 nations](#) that agreed to protect asylum rights under international law charge fees to people seeking asylum.
- **New unwaivable fines on access to work permits** for asylum seekers, people seeking parole or humanitarian entry into the United States, and individuals seeking Temporary Protected Status. The new law simultaneously shrank the validity period for some of these work permits.
- **An unprecedented fine on children seeking protection from abuse, abandonment and neglect** who apply for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS).
- **A new fine to punish and charge any adult or child based on where they entered at the border**, even though it is [lawful](#) to seek asylum anywhere one enters U.S. soil.

- **A new fine if an immigration judge orders deportation** for not having appeared in court, even though, as the [U.S. Government Accountability Office](#) reported, many people are ordered deported due to language barriers, lack of access to counsel, or lack of notice.
- **Dramatically increased fees for seeking appeals or reviews of negative decisions**, ensuring that many people will be “priced out” of seeking review of erroneous denials.

For more on the H.R. 1 fees, see the National Immigration Project’s chart [here](#).

## **Then, USCIS layered Congress’ fees on top of its prior fees, penalizing the most vulnerable immigrants.**

USCIS announced on its [website](#) that some of the new statutory fees passed under H.R. 1 took effect on July 22, 2025. The agency issued a [notice](#) in the Federal Register that, beginning in August, the new fees passed under H.R. 1 will be layered on top of current fees.

USCIS also opted to be *harsher* in how it implements fees by [declining](#) to waive the unprecedented fee for SIJS youth even though Congress allowed fee waivers.

USCIS has not yet implemented all the fees Congress raised in H.R. 1, noting that some require cross-agency coordination and further review — specifically related to humanitarian parole and a document related to recording entry or status known as the I-94. Finally, USCIS noted it will increase these fees on a yearly basis starting in October 2025 and may make additional increases following biennial fee reviews.

See USCIS Notice of fee increases [here](#).

## **EOIR’s added fees further increased barriers to due process.**

In a [Policy Memorandum](#), EOIR issued changes effective as of July 17, 2025. Like USCIS, EOIR chose to keep existing fees and layer H.R. 1’s new fees on top of those. The impact is particularly staggering for people seeking adjustment of status or lawful permanent residence, who now face nearly \$3,000 in fees. Appeals and court motions to challenge wrongful decisions now cost over \$1,010, undermining access to justice for many immigrants and asylum seekers.

Finally, EOIR noted it will increase the fees on a yearly basis starting in October 2025 and may make additional increases following biennial fee reviews.

See EOIR’s Policy Memorandum implementing fee increases [here](#).

## When will these fees go into effect?

For USCIS, some of the new H.R.1 fees are already in effect as of July 22, 2025. The agency updated its fee schedule [here](#). Starting on August 21, 2025, USCIS will also *add* H.R.1's fees to those it routinely collects.

EOIR has already indicated it [requires](#) submission of the new H.R.1 fees on top of prior collected fee amounts as of July 17, 2025.

*We reflect some of those fees in a chart below.*

## The new fees are a money grab at the expense of low-income immigrants.

USCIS and EOIR previously set application fees to cover their operational expenses. However, rather than consider how the existing fees could be adjusted in light of the many unwaivable fees Congress added, both agencies now have chosen to pile H.R.1's fees onto their existing fees. The new costs will undoubtedly deter many immigrants from pursuing the immigration benefits they qualify for—and otherwise extract money that low-income immigrants need to provide for their families' basic needs.

## How should immigrant applicants prepare?

Immigrants and asylum seekers should consult with qualified immigration attorneys to ensure they pay the necessary fee when submitting an application. These fees are subject to more changes and both USCIS and EOIR have indicated they could reject applications that do not have the correct fee. For many individuals, such a rejection could mean missing an important deadline on their application or the opportunity to appeal.

# Review of July 2025 immigration fee changes

Updated July 22, 2025

**Note:** Where USCIS has increased the fee, it is scheduled to go into effect by August 21, 2025. EOIR updates are effective immediately. Both agencies could increase fees further.

Category	Application	Prior Fee	New H.R. 1 Fee	Increased by EOIR and/or USCIS?	Waivable?
<b>Asylum</b>	<b>NEW</b> Asylum (I-589) fee	\$0	<b>\$100</b>	Not at this time.	No
	<b>NEW</b> Annual fee for each calendar year asylum application is pending	\$0	<b>\$100</b>	Not yet. However, both <a href="#">EOIR</a> and <a href="#">USCIS</a> indicated they will begin collecting this fee starting in Oct. 2025.	No
<b>Work Permits</b>	Initial work permit applications (I-765) based on asylum, parole and TPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$0 for asylum or paroled refugees;</li> <li>• \$470 online or \$520 by mail for parole and TPS, waivable</li> </ul>	<b>\$550</b>	Not for initial asylum or paroled refugee work permits, but <a href="#">USCIS is layering</a> the new fee on top of its prior fees for TPS and parole work permits, totaling <b>\$1,020</b> online or <b>\$1,070</b> by mail.	No
	Renewal I-765s based on asylum, parole and TPS	\$470 online or \$520 by mail, waivable	<b>\$275</b>	Yes. <a href="#">USCIS is layering</a> the new fee on top of its prior fees, totaling <b>\$745</b> for online or <b>\$795</b> for paper filings.	No
<b>Parole For humanitarian entry</b>	Parole (I-131)	\$630, waivable	<b>\$1,000</b>	Not yet. USCIS will issue a separate notice given H.R.1's changes to parole eligibility.	No

Category	Application	Prior Fee	New H.R. 1 Fee	Increased by EOIR and/or USCIS?	Waivable?
<b>Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)</b>	<b>NEW</b> fee for all SIJS applicants (I-360)	\$0	<b>\$250</b>	No, but <a href="#">USCIS is refusing</a> to allow fee waivers, unlike H.R.1.	<a href="#">Not per USCIS.</a>
<b>Temporary Protected Status (TPS)</b>	TPS applicants (I-821) filed with USCIS	\$50, waivable	<b>\$500</b>	No; however <a href="#">USCIS will apply</a> the biometric fee, totaling <b>\$530</b> .	<a href="#">No</a>
	TPS applications (I-821) filed in court	\$50, waivable	<b>\$500</b>	<a href="#">Not per EOIR</a> ; however USCIS will separately collect the biometric fee, totaling <b>\$530</b> .	Yes
<b>Nonimmigrant Visas</b> <i>For survivors of crimes and domestic violence</i>	<b>NEW</b> “Visa integrity fee.” Likely to apply to U visa and T visa applicants abroad	\$0	<b>\$250</b>	Not yet. USCIS will issue a separate notice given the need to coordinate with other agencies.	No, but may be reimbursed in some cases
<b>I-94</b> <i>Issued upon entry or relief obtained</i>	<b>NEW</b> fee on all I-94s	\$0	<b>\$24</b>	Not yet. USCIS will issue a separate notice given the need to coordinate with other agencies.	No
<b>Adjustment of Status</b> <i>Access to lawful permanent residence, or LPR</i>	All I-485s filed in court	Varies, waivable	<b>\$1,500</b>	Yes. <a href="#">EOIR is layering</a> its prior fee on top of H.R.1’s fee, totaling <b>\$2,940</b> for some applications.	Yes
	All I-601 waivers filed in court	\$1050, waivable	<b>\$1,050</b>	Yes. <a href="#">EOIR is layering</a> its prior fee on top of H.R.1’s fee, totaling <b>\$2,100</b> .	Yes
<b>Cancellation of Removal</b>	LPR cancellation (EOIR-42A)	\$100, waivable	<b>\$600</b>	Yes. <a href="#">EOIR is layering</a> its prior fee on top of H.R.1’s fee, totaling <b>\$700</b> .	Yes

Category	Application	Prior Fee	New H.R. 1 Fee	Increased by EOIR and/or USCIS?	Waivable?
<b><i>Allowing long-time neighbors to gain permanent status</i></b>	Non-LPR cancellation (EOIR-42B)	\$100, waivable	<b>\$1,500</b>	Yes. <a href="#">EOIR is layering</a> its prior fee on top of H.R.1's fee, totaling <b>\$1,600</b> .	Yes
<b>Appeal &amp; Motions</b>	Appeal of Immigration Judge (IJ) decision (EOIR-26) (Does not apply to bond appeals)	Varies, waivable	<b>\$900</b>	Yes. <a href="#">EOIR is layering</a> its prior fee on top of H.R.1's fee, totaling <b>\$1,100</b> for some appeals.	Yes
	Appeal of DHS decision (EOIR-29)	\$110	<b>\$900</b>	Yes. <a href="#">EOIR is layering</a> its prior fee on top of H.R.1's fee, totaling <b>\$1,010</b> .	Yes
	Motions to Reopen or Reconsider of IJ or Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) decisions	Varies, waivable	<b>\$900</b>	Yes. <a href="#">EOIR is layering</a> its prior fee on top of H.R.1's fee, totaling <b>\$1,045</b> for some IJ motions, and <b>\$1,010</b> for BIA motions.	Yes
<b>Fee for missing court</b>	<b>NEW</b> Fee for most people arrested by ICE who have a prior "in absentia" removal order	\$0	<b>\$5,000</b>	Not at this time.	No, but may not apply in narrow cases
<b>Fee for entering between ports of entry</b>	<b>NEW</b> Fee for anyone who enters between ports of entry	\$0	<b>\$5,000</b>	Not at this time.	Yes

***Congress added additional fees on other visas and applications that were not included in this chart, which focused on fees on most common humanitarian relief applications. For a more detailed breakdown of the new fees, see the [National Immigration Project's Comparison Chart](#).***