

Breakdown of House Judiciary Title, Subtitle A “Immigration Matters”

National Immigration Law Center Analysis of [bill posted 4/28/25](#)

**This breakdown does not include Subtitle B on Regulatory Matters or Subtitle C which touches on “Other Matters” including antitrust enforcement, donations made pursuant to settlement agreements, and a very dangerous provision restricting the use of appropriated funds to enforce a judicial contempt citation for failure to comply with an injunction or temporary restraining order if no security was given when the order issued.*

In short, this bill: 1) subverts the reconciliation process to try to reshape U.S. immigration policy by inserting Trump / Miller wishlist items like “Return to Mexico” and other measures that are flatly contradictory to existing federal law; 2) provides nearly \$80 billion in largely unrestricted funds for the administration to expand their violent immigration enforcement agenda; and 3) imposes prohibitively expensive new penalties (described as fees) for immigration application forms including for humanitarian protection.

A detailed section by section breakdown is below. Some of the most alarming provisions include:

- **Family detention and jailing of immigrants on an unimaginable scale:** The bill provides \$45 billion to build immigration jails for families and adults – more than 13 times ICE’s FY24 detention budget. Shockingly, the bill attempts to **dismantle the Flores settlement** (which provides baseline protections for immigrant children in U.S. custody) by explicitly eliminating any restrictions on how long the government can jail a child. Detention at this scale will mean horrific conditions and frequent deaths; we know this because of [how quickly conditions are deteriorating](#) at the administration’s current rate of expansion. The Trump administration is already counting its chickens, having recently put out a [request for bids for contractors](#) using this exact dollar amount.
- **Tens of billions for disappearances:** The bill provides upwards of \$27 billion for immigration agents and operations related to enforcement and removal. This is a slush fund for the Trump administration to kidnap [more students](#) and [community members](#) and experiment with ways to disrupt communities on an increasingly massive scale.
- **Cruel targeting of unaccompanied children:** Simply put, this bill is out to get children. The bill provides CBP with dramatic authority to coerce young children who arrive at the U.S. border without a parent to return back to the country they fled, alone. It sets aside \$20 million for CBP agents to conduct invasive and

potentially traumatizing physical examinations of children as young as twelve. And it includes provisions – including fee assessments and onerous processes – that will make it impossible for most people to step forward and sponsor an unaccompanied child, leaving them in prolonged government custody.

- **Asylum penalty:** A person seeking asylum in the United States will have to pay an “application fee” of at least \$1,000 and at least another \$550 every six months to get work authorization. The bill prohibits any fee waivers. Imagine fleeing for your life, arriving at a new country with your young children, and choosing between paying for your children’s medical bills or your asylum application.
- **Blatant subversion of reconciliation process to rewrite immigration law and policy:** The bill includes numerous provisions that blatantly attempt to rewrite immigration law and policy through a reconciliation bill. One provision, for example, provides funds for immigration agents to apply “expedited removal” (a form of fast-tracked deportation) in a manner that is completely at odds with the Immigration and Nationality Act. The unaccompanied children provisions, described above, would essentially rewrite the legal regime governing the care and custody of unaccompanied children. And the “fee structure” provided is so draconian as to undermine the basic tenet of U.S. law that all people should have access to seek asylum.

Detailed Breakdown of Subtitle A Immigration Matters

Part 1 Fees:

This section provides exorbitant “fees” for immigration related applications including punishingly steep fees for applications for humanitarian protections such as asylum. Note that each of these fees are *minimums*, and the bill provides for regular annual increases across the board. For every fee, the bill provides that *no fee waivers* shall be granted.

The fees provided are as follows (and note that the bill language suggests these fees may be added to existing fees):

- Asylum: \$1,000 (*no current fee*)
- Employment Authorization Document (based on asylum applications, parole, and Temporary Protected Status: \$550 (and only valid for 6 months) (*current fee is \$0 for asylum applicants and \$470 for other online filings, with longer duration*)
- Employment Authorization renewal and extensions (based on asylum applications, parole, and Temporary Protected Status: \$550 (renewals limited to validity of 6 months, and provides that EAD terminates when asylum application is denied)
- Parole: \$1,000 (exception build in for people paroled on basis of medical emergency or organ or tissue transplant; travel to U.S. for imminent death of a

family member; parole for a funeral; parole for urgent medical condition while awaiting adoption-related visa; parole for adjustment applicant; parole to attend hearing during MPP or similar program; national of Cuba and approved visa petitioner; parole to assist law enforcement officer) (*current fee is \$630, with many fee waivers available*)

- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status: \$500 (to be applied for any person applying for SIJS if reunification with 1 parent or legal guardian is viable) (*no current fee*)
- Temporary Protected Status: \$500 (*current fee is \$50 with additional \$30 for biometrics*)
- Sponsorship of Unaccompanied Child: \$3,500 (to be collected before the child can be placed with the sponsor) (*no current fee*)
- Fee for sponsor of unaccompanied child failure to appear in immigration court: \$5,000 (opportunity for reimbursement if removal order was issued in absentia due to lack of notice) (*no current fee*)
- "Visa integrity" (issuance of non-immigrant visa): \$250 (reimbursement permitted if upon visa expiration the person can show that they did not seek admission during the visa's period of validity and the person complied with all terms of the visa and departed within 5 days of expiration or filed to extend, change or adjust status) (*current fee depends on type of visa*)
- Form I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record): \$24 (*current fee is \$6*)
- Yearly asylum fee: \$100 (imposed on asylum seekers for every year that their asylum application remains pending) (*no current fee*)
- Immigration court continuances: \$100 (imposed every time a person requests and is granted a continuance in immigration court) (*no current fee*)
- Diversity Immigrant Visa fees: \$400 application fee and \$250 registration fee (*current fee is \$235 plus additional costs*)
- Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR, the immigration court system) fees:

**Note that this section (Sec. 70016) includes a blanket prohibition on use of EOIR fees to fund the Legal Orientation Program or successor programs*

- Application to adjust to lawful permanent residence: \$1,500 (*current fee is \$1,140*)
- Application for waiver of grounds of inadmissibility: \$1,050 (*current fee is \$715*)
- Application for TPS with immigration court: \$500
- Appeal to Board of Immigration Appeals: \$900 (*current fee is \$110*)
- Appeal of DHS decision: \$900 (*current fee is \$110*)
- Appeal from decision of Adjudicating Officer in practitioner disciplinary case: \$1,325 (*current fee is \$675*)
- Application for motion to reopen or motion to reconsider: \$900 (exception for motion to reopen in absentia removal order based on improper notice) (*current fee is \$110 before the BIA or \$145 before the IJ*)
- Application for suspension of deportation: \$600 (*current fee is \$130*)
- Application for cancellation of removal: \$600 (*current fee is \$130*)

- Application for cancellation of removal for non-permanent residents: \$1,500 (*current fee is \$130*)
- Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA): increasing the Visa waiver program travel authorization fee to a total of \$23 (*current fee is \$17*)
- Immigration user fees: increasing the inspection fee for each passenger arriving at a port of entry to \$10 (*current fee is \$7*)
- EVUS fee: \$30 fee for enrollment in Electronic Visa Update System (*current fee is \$8*)
- Fee for people ordered removed in absentia (and subsequently arrested by ICE): \$5,000 (exception if due to lack of notice) (*no current fee*)
- Fee for any person apprehended between ports of entry and determined inadmissible: \$5,000 (*no current fee*)

Part 2 – use of funds (nearly \$80 billion that can be used for immigration enforcement, available through the end of FY2029):

This section purports to be about funds but includes numerous draconian policy measures.

- \$1.25 billion for EOIR for:
 - Hiring immigration judges and support staff
 - Expanding courtroom capacity and infrastructure
- \$45 billion for adult and family immigration detention
 - Provides unlimited authority for duration of detention of families pending a removal decision (note that this provision is a blatant attempt to supercede the Flores settlement, a settlement agreement in place since 1997 that requires protections for immigrant children in government custody including a limit on the duration of family detention; more [here](#))
 - Defines family detention center not to require state licensing
 - Gives DHS Secretary sole discretion to set standards for detention of adults
- \$858 million for retention and signing bonuses for ICE agents, officers and attorneys
- \$8 billion for hiring more ICE officers, agents and support staff (minimum of 2,500 people to be hired in FY 2025 and 1,875 each subsequent year through 2029)
- \$600 million for recruitment, hiring, and onboarding of new ICE personnel
- \$14.4 billion for transportation and removal operations
- \$700 million for information technology investments “to support enforcement and removal operations, including to streamline fine and penalty collections”
- \$550 million to upgrade facilities to support enforcement and removal
- \$250 million for ICE fleet modernization to support enforcement and removal
- \$20 million for more family detention – here, to detain parents with their children while parent is prosecuted for unauthorized entry
- \$650 million to facilitate and implement 287(g) agreements

- \$950 million to compensate states or localities for incarceration of non-citizens who entered without inspection, were convicted of certain crimes, and were in removal proceedings when taken into local or state custody (funds not available to localities that do not cooperate with federal law enforcement)
- \$1.32 billion for hiring staff and attorneys for ICE Office Principal Legal Advisor
- \$500 million for the MPP or "Return to Mexico" program
- \$787 million to fund state and local law enforcement participation in DHS enforcement efforts
- \$3 billion to Office of Refugee Resettlement for housing, transportation and supervision of unaccompanied immigration children
- \$20 million to CBP to conduct "examinations" of unaccompanied children *12 years and older* for tattoos and to request criminal records
- \$20 million to ORR for the same
- \$50 million to ORR to investigate and share information with DHS regarding possible sponsors of unaccompanied children prior to placement with sponsor, including the immigration status of all adult residents of the sponsor's household
- \$100 million to fund repatriation of unaccompanied children after withdrawal of application for admission
- \$1 billion for U.S. Secret Service
- \$500 million to DOJ "for efforts to combat drug trafficking, including use of fentanyl and its precursor chemicals, and illegal drug use"
- \$600 million to DOJ to prosecute migration-related offenses including failure to register
- \$75 million to DHS to apply expedited removal to people who are inadmissible under the criminal or terrorism related grounds of inadmissibility regardless of how long they've been in the U.S. (in direct contravention of the statutory text at INA 235)
- \$25 million for DHS to deprive due process and subject people arriving at a border or port to expedited deportation if an immigration adjudicator "suspects" they may be subject to a criminal or terrorism related ground of inadmissibility