

HR 2489

Waiver Accountability and Transparency Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: May 2, 2019

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship. (May 31, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2489>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Cummings, Elijah E. [D-MD-7]

Party: Democratic • **State:** MD • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (43 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8]	D · MD		May 2, 2019
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		May 8, 2019
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3]	D · AZ		May 9, 2019
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		May 9, 2019
Rep. Payne, Donald M., Jr. [D-NJ-10]	D · NJ		May 9, 2019
Rep. Wasserman Schultz, Debbie [D-FL-23]	D · FL		May 9, 2019
Rep. Meeks, Gregory W. [D-NY-5]	D · NY		May 14, 2019
Rep. Omar, Ilhan [D-MN-5]	D · MN		May 14, 2019
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		May 14, 2019
Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12]	D · NJ		May 14, 2019
Rep. Bass, Karen [D-CA-37]	D · CA		May 17, 2019
Rep. Swalwell, Eric [D-CA-15]	D · CA		May 17, 2019
Rep. DeGette, Diana [D-CO-1]	D · CO		May 20, 2019
Rep. Garcia, Jesus G. "Chuy" [D-IL-4]	D · IL		May 20, 2019
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]	D · IL		May 20, 2019
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]	D · OR		May 22, 2019
Rep. Crow, Jason [D-CO-6]	D · CO		May 22, 2019
Rep. Hayes, Jahana [D-CT-5]	D · CT		May 22, 2019
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		May 22, 2019
Rep. Pressley, Ayanna [D-MA-7]	D · MA		May 23, 2019
Rep. Tlaib, Rashida [D-MI-13]	D · MI		May 23, 2019
Rep. Cárdenas, Tony [D-CA-29]	D · CA		Jun 3, 2019
Rep. Espaillat, Adriano [D-NY-13]	D · NY		Jun 3, 2019
Rep. Khanna, Ro [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Jun 3, 2019
Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]	D · NH		Jun 3, 2019
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]	D · CA		Jun 3, 2019
Rep. Kirkpatrick, Ann [D-AZ-2]	D · AZ		Jun 4, 2019
Rep. Torres, Norma J. [D-CA-35]	D · CA		Jun 4, 2019
Rep. Kennedy, Joseph P., III [D-MA-4]	D · MA		Jun 5, 2019
Rep. Castor, Kathy [D-FL-14]	D · FL		Jun 12, 2019
Rep. Davis, Danny K. [D-IL-7]	D · IL		Jun 12, 2019
Rep. Neguse, Joe [D-CO-2]	D · CO		Jun 18, 2019
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		Jun 19, 2019
Rep. Cartwright, Matt [D-PA-8]	D · PA		Jun 26, 2019
Rep. Cooper, Jim [D-TN-5]	D · TN		Jul 9, 2019
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]	D · FL		Jul 9, 2019
Rep. Brown, Anthony G. [D-MD-4]	D · MD		Jul 10, 2019
Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11]	D · CA		Jul 16, 2019
Rep. Peters, Scott H. [D-CA-52]	D · CA		Jul 16, 2019
Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9]	D · FL		Jul 16, 2019
Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]	D · VT		Jul 23, 2019

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Demings, Val Butler [D-FL-10]	D · FL		Aug 16, 2019
Rep. Kelly, Robin L. [D-IL-2]	D · IL		Aug 23, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	May 31, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of May 2, 2019)

Waiver Accountability and Transparency Act

This bill imposes requirements related to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) granting waivers to immigration detention facilities that do not meet certain standards.

ICE shall publicly post within three days of submission each waiver request, request justification, assessment, final decision, and rationale for whether the waiver was granted or denied.

ICE shall grade each waiver request from 1 to 3, with 3 being the most serious and including those with issues impacting due process, medical safety, and security. For grade 3 waivers, all parties involved, including ICE, must sign off on a corrective action plan, which shall include a timeline and plan to make the facility compliant with the relevant standards.

A waiver may not be approved for longer than 90 days, and waivers may be reapproved every 90 days. After one year, any reapproval shall be approved by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and ICE, and DHS and ICE shall jointly publish the justification for the reapproval.

ICE shall periodically report to Congress and publicly post online financial penalties imposed on a facility. DHS shall periodically report to Congress and publicly post online an analysis of sample of cases where facility failed to meet a standard but DHS declined to impose a penalty. The Government Accountability Office shall periodically conduct a study on the waiver process and the ability of DHS to hold contractors accountable.

Actions Timeline

- **May 31, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
- **May 2, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **May 2, 2019:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.