

HR 5319

Reduce Financial Barriers to Immigration and Citizenship Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Sep 21, 2021

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

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship. (Nov 1, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5319>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Torres, Norma J. [D-CA-35]

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

Cosponsors (20 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|---|---------------|------|--------------|
| Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large] | D · DC | | Sep 21, 2021 |
| Rep. Cárdenas, Tony [D-CA-29] | D · CA | | Sep 21, 2021 |
| Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27] | D · CA | | Sep 21, 2021 |
| Rep. Espaillat, Adriano [D-NY-13] | D · NY | | Sep 21, 2021 |
| Rep. Garcia, Jesus G. "Chuy" [D-IL-4] | D · IL | | Sep 21, 2021 |
| Rep. Gomez, Jimmy [D-CA-34] | D · CA | | Sep 21, 2021 |
| Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3] | D · AZ | | Sep 21, 2021 |
| Rep. Jones, Mondaire [D-NY-17] | D · NY | | Sep 21, 2021 |
| Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B. [D-NY-12] | D · NY | | Sep 21, 2021 |
| Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2] | D · MA | | Sep 21, 2021 |
| Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6] | D · NY | | Sep 21, 2021 |
| Rep. Ocasio-Cortez, Alexandria [D-NY-14] | D · NY | | Sep 21, 2021 |
| Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9] | D · FL | | Sep 21, 2021 |
| Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41] | D · CA | | Sep 21, 2021 |
| Rep. Vargas, Juan [D-CA-51] | D · CA | | Sep 21, 2021 |
| Rep. Velazquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7] | D · NY | | Sep 21, 2021 |
| Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3] | D · OR | | Sep 27, 2021 |
| Rep. Lieu, Ted [D-CA-33] | D · CA | | Sep 30, 2021 |
| Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [D-NY-9] | D · NY | | Oct 8, 2021 |
| Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1] | D · NV | | Oct 8, 2021 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|---------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|
| Judiciary Committee | House | Referred to | Nov 1, 2022 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Sep 21, 2021)

Reduce Financial Barriers to Immigration and Citizenship Act of 2021

This bill prohibits the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) from charging fees for certain immigration applications (or petitions), requires DHS to provide fee waivers to certain applicants, and addresses related issues.

DHS may not impose fees for certain applications for or related to (1) asylum or refugee status, (2) special immigrant juvenile status, (3) U or T non-immigrant visas (victims of certain crimes such as human trafficking), (4) the Violence Against Women Act, (5) special immigrant status for Afghan or Iraqi nationals employed by the U.S. government, or (6) immigration-related fee waivers.

DHS must also waive immigration-related application fees for an applicant who receives a means-tested benefit or meets certain conditions related to financial hardship. However, DHS is not required to provide fee waivers for applications for certain employment-based immigration benefits.

Receipt of a fee waiver may not be used as a factor (1) for determining whether an alien should be considered a public charge, or (2) when considering an affidavit of support filed by a sponsor.

The bill also requires all collected immigration-related adjudication fees to be used only to fund the adjudication and administration of immigration benefits and naturalization.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 1, 2022:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
- **Sep 21, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 21, 2021:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.