

POLICY BRIEF

Immigration-Related Provisions of H.R. 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act

July 2025

Guillermo Martinez

rockinst.org/iii

Contents

Foreword	3
Introduction	3
Key Provisions	5
1. Expanded Enforcement and Detention Capacity	5
2. Imposition of New Immigration Fees	5
3. Increased Immigration Court and Legal Staffing	6
4. Border Wall, Surveillance, and Technology Expansion	6
5. Legal and Policy Shifts in Asylum & Parole	7
6. Funding Structure and System Orientation	7
Conclusion	8
Appendix A	11
Border Security and CBP (Title VI)	11
Immigration Fees (Title VII, Judiciary - Subtitle A, Part 1)	11
Other Immigration Programs and Enforcement (Title VII, Subtitle A, Part 2)	14
Annendix R	16

Foreword

H.R. 1—The One Big Beautiful Bill Act—is a sweeping package of new laws merging major tax cuts and business incentives for high earners, deep cuts and requirements in health and nutrition programs, massive new defense spending, rollback of clean-energy policies, and overhauls immigration enforcement—mandating border wall construction, expanding detention, and curbing asylum and parole, all while increasing the federal deficit and debt ceiling. The immigration-related provisions in H.R. 1 (119th Congress) will have broad and significant impacts across the U.S. immigration system now that it has been signed into law on July 4, 2025. It will provide an unprecedented investment in federal immigration enforcement, allocating approximately \$140 billion over the next five years through FY 2029. In this brief, we provide analysis of impacts of the bill on immigrant enforcement and the immigration system.

Introduction

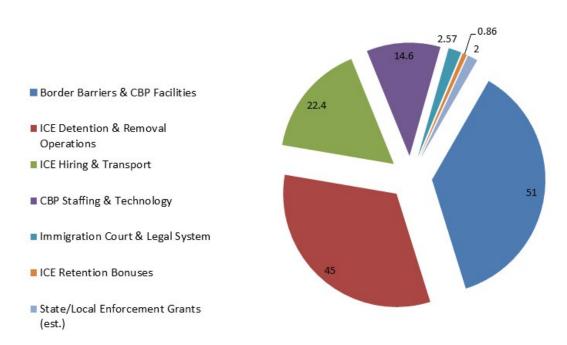
H.R. 1 (119th Congress), commonly referred to as the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," is a 870 page new law aimed in part at transforming the federal government's approach to immigration enforcement, border control, and adjudication. Introduced as part of broader efforts to address unauthorized border crossings and narcotics trafficking, the bill directs hundreds of billions of dollars toward expanding border infrastructure, hiring thousands of new personnel for Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and enhancing surveillance technologies including biometric and Al-driven systems. It also dramatically increases funding for detention facilities, immigration court operations, and removal mechanisms. Supporters of the bill frame it as a necessary response to ongoing operational strain on the U.S. immigration system and a vital step toward restoring after years of record-setting crossing at the southern border.

Yet the legislation's scope reaches far beyond traditional border enforcement.

H.R. 1 restructures key elements of the immigration system by imposing a wide range of new application and processing fees on asylum seekers, parole applicants, sponsors of unaccompanied minors, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) recipients, and others—costs that could deter or exclude low-income individuals from lawful relief pathways. These financial and procedural changes, combined with substantial expansions in detention and deportation authorities, represent a decisive shift toward a system oriented around deterrence and enforcement rather than protection or integration.

While the stated goals of the bill emphasize operational readiness and control of U.S. borders, its immigration provisions raise significant concerns about due process, equity, and the humanitarian obligations of the United States under both domestic and international law. The cumulative effect of the bill could be to harden the legal and logistical barriers faced by migrants and asylum seekers, reshape long-standing humanitarian programs, and institutionalize a security-first framework that fundamentally alters the U.S. immigration landscape.

Allocated Immigration Enforcement Spending in H.R. 1 (119th Congress) (spending in billions)



Source: American Immigration Council: https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.
org/fact-sheet/house-reconciliation-bill-immigration-border-security/

Key Provisions

The immigration-related provisions in H.R. 1 (119th Congress) will have broad and significant impacts across the U.S. immigration system now that it has been signed into law on July 4, 2025. These impacts fall into several key categories and with significant federal spending which will provide an **unprecedented investment in federal immigration enforcement**, allocating approximately **\$140 billion** over the next five years through FY 2029:

1. Expanded Enforcement and Detention Capacity

Potential Impact:

- Massive increase in detention: With over \$45 billion allocated to ICE detention (Sec. 70101), this bill could lead to unprecedented expansion of the U.S. immigration detention system, including new family residential centers.
- **Greater removals and expedited processing**: Billions in funding for ICE's Transportation and Removal Operations (Sec. 70105), along with fast-tracked removal policies, suggest a shift toward more aggressive enforcement and deportation, including for non-criminal immigrants.
- **Return-to-contiguous-territory programs** (Sec. 70113) echo elements of the now-ended "Remain in Mexico" policy, possibly detaining or relocating asylum seekers at the border before court decisions.
- Expanded gang and criminal screening for children (UACs) (Sec. 70116-70117) and intense vetting of sponsors (Sec. 70118) may delay reunifications, increase denials, and reduce the number of children placed with families.

2. Imposition of New Immigration Fees

Potential Impact:

- **Financial barriers to legal relief**: New fees (e.g., \$1,000 for asylum; \$500 for TPS; \$1,500 to adjust status in court) will discourage or prevent low-income immigrants—including those fleeing persecution—from applying for protection or regularizing their status (Sec. 70002-70016).
- Increased backlog and unrepresented applicants: Individuals unable to pay
 may forgo legal relief or legal counsel, leading to more deportation orders in
 absentia or denials.

- **Discouraging sponsors and humanitarian actors**: High new fees for family sponsors of UACs—\$3,500 or \$5,000 in some cases—may discourage U.S. residents (often relatives) from helping children released from federal custody (Sec. 70007, Sec. 70020).
- **Revenue generation for enforcement**: Many fees are redirected to ICE, CBP, or DOJ enforcement programs. This tilts the immigration system further toward punitive rather than humanitarian or administrative priorities.

3. Increased Immigration Court and Legal Staffing

Potential Impact:

- Faster processing of removal cases: Funds to expand the immigration courts (Sec. 70100), ICE trial attorneys (Sec. 70112), and EOIR case fees (Sec. 70016) are designed to clear existing backlogs.
- **Unbalanced legal representation**: While ICE attorneys are heavily funded, no equivalent is provided for legal aid or defense for immigrants, creating a growing disparity between enforcement and due process.

4. Border Wall, Surveillance, and Technology Expansion

Potential Impact:

- **Resurgence of physical border barriers**: Over \$46 billion in wall construction and surveillance (Sec. 60001–60003) will physically reshape the U.S.-Mexico border and reintroduce Trump-era strategies.
- Increased surveillance and data tracking: Al tools, facial recognition, and biometric systems (Sec. 60003) expand the digital infrastructure of immigration enforcement, raising civil liberties and privacy concerns, especially for border-area communities.
- More border agent hires, fewer humanitarian roles: Funding explicitly excludes "processing coordinators" and humanitarian staff, signaling a harder enforcement posture over border management (Sec. 60002).

5. Legal and Policy Shifts in Asylum & Parole

Potential Impact:

- Shift from "shall" to "may" in asylum processing (Sec. 70023) weakens current law that mandates asylum fee waivers and support. Making fees mandatory while capping or removing waivers may violate international obligations under the Refugee Convention.
- Parole, TPS, and asylum protections narrowed by costs: Individuals seeking
 these lawful protections may be priced out of the system, increasing
 undocumented populations, and creating new avenues for exploitation or
 deportation.
- Reduces flexibility in emergencies: High parole fees and narrow exemptions (Sec. 70004) limit DHS's ability to quickly respond to humanitarian crises (e.g., for Afghans, Ukrainians, or Haitians).

6. Funding Structure and System Orientation

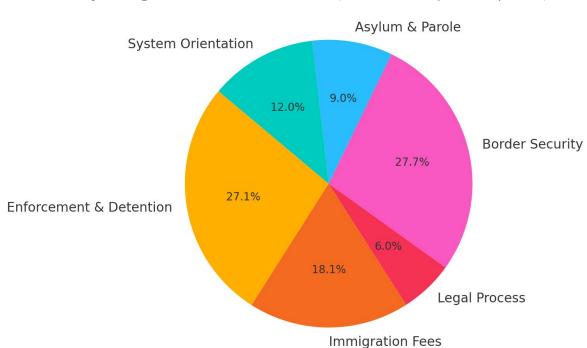
Potential Impact:

- Fees fund enforcement, not integration: Immigration fees now fund detention, border walls, and ICE salaries, not services for integration, education, or legal support.
- Long-term shift in immigration policy: The bill reframes the immigration system primarily as a national security and law enforcement challenge, rather than a humanitarian, economic, or demographic opportunity.

Category	Potential Impact
Enforcement & Detention	Unprecedented growth in ICE capacity and border militarization
Immigration Fees	Major financial barriers for asylum seekers, parolees, TPS holders, and sponsors
Legal Process	Faster court processing but imbalanced representation
Technology & Surveillance	Expanded biometric tracking and AI surveillance at borders
Asylum & Parole	Reduced access, narrowed discretion, weakened humanitarian protections
System Orientation	Enforcement-centric funding structure shifts immigration policy priorities

Conclusion

The "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" overhauls U.S. immigration and border security by mandating the construction of hundreds of miles of border wall, expanding migrant detention capacity, and sharply limiting access to asylum and humanitarian parole. It eliminates key protections for unaccompanied minors and fast-tracks deportations, while limiting access to emergency food assistance and ending health care access for DACA recipients. Overall, the immigration and immigration enforcement sections of the new law represent one of the toughest sets of immigration enforcement policies in decades.



Key Immigration Provisions in H.R. 1 (Estimated Impact Emphasis)

The chart above visually summarizes the **relative emphasis of immigration-related provisions in H.R. 1**. Those proportions based on a combination of the following criteria:

Methodology for Weighing Provisions in the Chart

Category	Criteria Used	% in Chart
Border Infrastructure & Surveillance	Based on \$51B+ in proposed funding for wall construction, tech, and port upgrades ([Sec. 60001-60003])	~31%
ICE Detention & Re- moval Operations	\$45B+ dedicated to detention space, transport/removal, family centers, and 287(g)/SCAAP expansion	~27%
ICE Hiring & Enforce- ment Capacity	\$8B for hiring + \$14.4B for removals + \$858M in bonuses (Sec. 70105-70112)	~15%
CBP Staffing, Vehicles, and Surveillance	Over \$6B in sensors, drones, AI; 8,500+ new hires ([Sec. 60002-60003])	~10%
Legal System Expansion (EOIR, OPLA)	\$1.25B for immigration court expansion, \$1.32B for ICE trial attorneys	~4%
Immigration Fees & Cost Shifting	Impact, not funding-based: included due to system-wide changes affecting access and cost burdens	~7%
Parole/Asylum Restrictions & Policy Shift	Based on major legal/policy implications (e.g., fee mandates, discretion limits, INA Sec. 235 returns)	~6%

Weighting Rationale

1. Budget-Based Weighting:

For categories where dollar amounts were specified, the weighting reflects proportional federal spending (e.g., \$51B for walls vs. \$1.25B for courts).

2. Policy Impact Weighting (Non-budgeted):

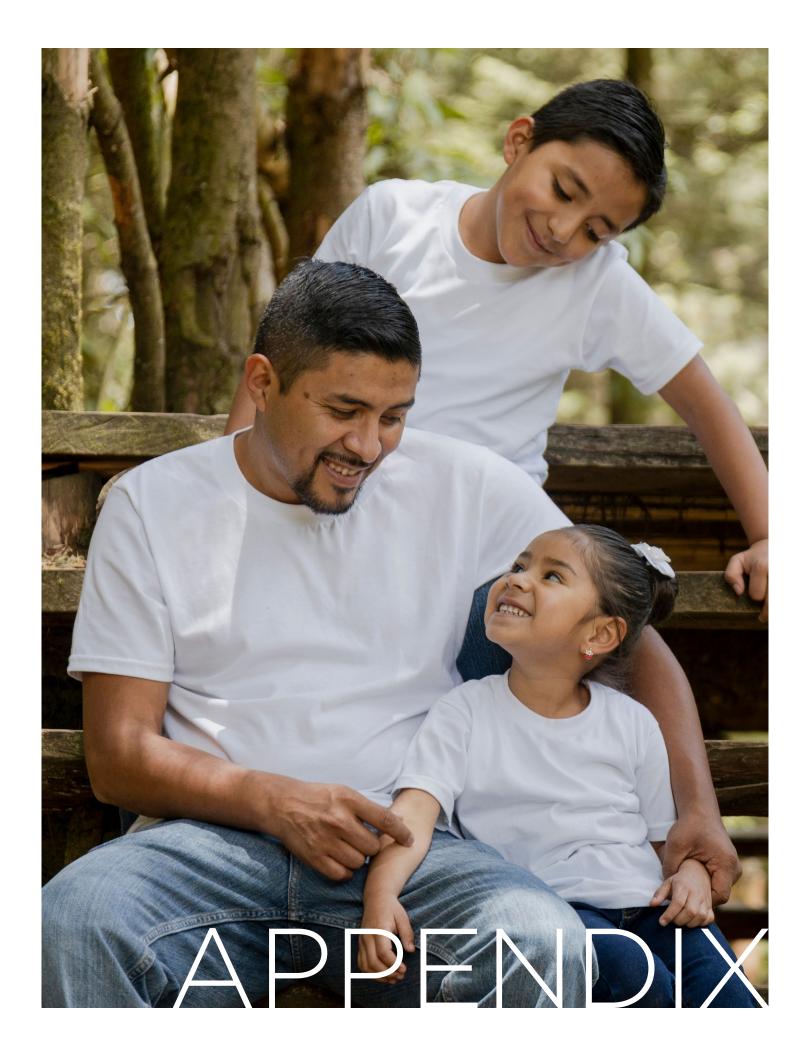
Some provisions—like mandatory fees for asylum and parole—carry high systemic impact despite no direct budget line, so they were assigned smaller but meaningful proportions (~7%).

3. Overlap Consideration:

ICE hiring, detention, and legal operations often overlap, but were separated to reflect their distinct operational focus and budget allocations.

4. Simplification for Clarity:

The chart rounds to the nearest whole number and uses simplified category names for readability by a general audience.



Appendix A

Immigration-related provisions in H.R.1 (119th Congress) signals a broader enforcement-first approach to immigration that may shape future policy debates, including benefit access. Specific sections outlined in the new law and used to create this brief can be found here: <u>Source</u>

Border Security and CBP (Title VI)

- 60001 (p. 460): Appropriates \$46.5 B (FY2025) for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to construct and improve border barriers (primary/secondary barriers, roads, cameras, sensors, etc.); \$50 M to remove invasive plants (carrizo cane, salt cedar) impeding operations along the Rio Grande; and \$5.0 B for CBP facilities and checkpoints in southwest, northern, and maritime borders. Source
- 60002 (pp. 460-461): Appropriates \$4.1 B to hire and train additional CBP personnel (Border Patrol, field ops, air/marine agents with restrictions that none be used for "processing coordinators"); \$2.05 B for CBP retention/hiring bonuses; \$813 M for patrol vehicles; \$285 M and \$465 M for Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (new DHS training and facility upgrades); and \$600 M for CBP marketing/recruitment programs. Source
- 60003 (pp. 462-464): Appropriates funds for CBP technology and other border enhancements: \$1.076 B for new non-intrusive inspection (NII) equipment, AI and machine-learning tools, and related works; \$2.766 B for border surveillance systems (upgraded towers, radars, sensors with a proviso that any new towers must be tested and accepted); \$673 M for deploying the biometric entry/exit system; \$1.234 B for CBP Air and Marine operations (new aircraft and rapid-response platforms); \$16 M for CBP's National Vetting Center (expanding foreign criminal-history databases); \$500 M to DHS for anti-narcotics border security (targeting fentanyl and trafficking); and \$1 M for commemorative border security projects. Source

Immigration Fees (Title VII, Judiciary - Subtitle A, Part 1)

- **70001 (p. 468)**: Clarifies that all fees imposed under this subtitle apply "notwithstanding any other provision" of the immigration laws.
- **70002 (p. 468)**: Imposes an **asylum application fee** (new INA 208(d) fee) of at least **\$1,000** per applicant (FY2025 rate), with CPI inflation adjustments each year. <u>Source</u>

- **70003 (p. 469)**: Imposes a fee on each initial work-authorization application filed by an asylum applicant (new INA 208(d)(2) fee). The fee is at least **\$550** (FY2025 rate) and grants up to 6 months' employment authorization; it is adjusted for inflation annually.
- 70004 (pp. 480-481): Imposes a parole application fee (for aliens granted parole) of at least \$1,000 (FY2025 rate). Many exceptions apply (fee is waived for medical emergencies, urgent family reasons, organ donation, certain Cuban/Haitian entries, lawful travel on cancellation, etc. as listed). Source
- **70005 (p. 482)**: Imposes a fee (min **\$500**, FY2025) on special immigrant juvenile status (SIJS) petitions (INA 101(a)(27)(J)).
- **70006 (p. 483)**: Imposes a fee (min **\$500**, FY2025) on Temporary Protected Status (TPS) applications.
- 70007 (p. 484): Imposes a \$3,500 fee (FY2025) on sponsors of unaccompanied alien children (UACs) for services provided during the child's custody period. (25% of receipts go to HHS for sponsor background checks; remainder to general fund.)
- **70008 (p. 485)**: Imposes a **\$250 fee** (FY2025) on each nonimmigrant visa issuance ("visa integrity fee"). A portion is refundable if the visa is never used.
- 70009 (p. 486): Imposes a \$24 fee (FY2025) for issuing Form I-94 arrival/ departure records. CBP retains 20% for processing services; 80% goes to the Treasury.
- **70010 (p. 487)**: Imposes a **\$100 annual fee** (FY2025) for each year an asylum application is pending. (50% goes to EOIR, 50% to USCIS for asylum processing.)
- **70011 (p. 488)**: Imposes a **\$100 fee** (FY2025) for granting a continuance in an immigration court case (no fee if continuance is for "exceptional circumstances"). (Proceeds go to EOIR.)
- **70012 (p. 492)**: Imposes a **\$550 renewal fee** (FY2025) for extending work authorization of parolees. <u>Source</u>
- **70013 (p. 493)**: Imposes a **\$550 renewal fee** (FY2025) for asylum applicants' work authorization. Also provides that work authorization automatically terminates if asylum is denied (with limited judicial-remand exception).
- **70014 (p. 494)**: Imposes a **\$550 renewal fee** (FY2025) for TPS recipients' work authorization.

- 70015 (pp. 494-495): Imposes a \$400 fee (FY2025) on Diversity Visa (DV) lottery applications and a \$250 fee on DV lottery registrations. Of proceeds, 10% is dedicated to DOS fraud prevention, 10% to ICE enforcement, and the remainder to the Treasury.
- 70016 (pp. 500-508): Establishes several EOIR (immigration court) fees (all inflation-indexed): Source
 - Adjustment of status in court: \$1,500 (FY2025); (up to 50% can be credited to EOIR). Source
 - Waiver of inadmissibility in court: \$1,050.
 - TPS application in court: \$500.
 - Appeal from immigration judge: \$900.
 - Appeal from DHS decision: \$900.
 - Practitioner appeal (attorney disciplinary): \$1,325.
 - Motions to reopen/reconsider: \$100 (FY2025).
 Each allows EOIR to retain up to 25% of receipts; remainder to Treasury.
- 70017 (p. 519): Amends the ESTA (Visa Waiver) fee. Adds a \$13
 fee component (so total per-application fee rises to ≈\$17); caps ESTA receipts
 under INA 217 at \$20 M/year (excess credited to Treasury); makes the \$13
 tranche Treasury offset receipts; and authorizes inflation adjustment. Extends
 ESTA authority to 2034. Source
- **70018 (p. 520)**: Increases the general INA 286 immigration/user fee (used for processing visas, filings, etc.) from \$7 to **\$10** (FY2025) with inflation adjustment.
- **70019 (p. 523)**: Imposes a **\$30 fee** (FY2025) on each enrollment in the EVUS program (electronic visa update for certain Chinese visa holders). \$5 of each goes to Treasury; remainder funds CBP's EVUS account. <u>Source</u>
- 70020 (p. 525): Imposes a \$5,000 fee on a sponsor of a UAC if the child fails to appear at immigration court. (HHS may reimburse the sponsor if the sponsor fulfilled his obligations.) Source
- **70021 (p. 527)**: Imposes a **\$5,000 fee** on any alien removed in absentia under INA 240(b)(5) who is later arrested by ICE.
- **70022 (p. 529)**: Imposes a **\$5,000 fee** on any inadmissible alien apprehended by CBP between ports (e.g. in the border "brush"); subject to annual inflation adjustment.

• **70023 (p. 529)**: Amends INA 208(d)(3) to make the asylum fee mandatory ("may" "shall") and removes any statutory cap on asylum fees. Also clarifies that nothing restricts the Attorney General from setting additional asylum fees under INA 286(m).

Other Immigration Programs and Enforcement (Title VII, Subtitle A, Part 2)

- **70100 (p. 530)**: Appropriates **\$1.25 B** (FY2025) to the Executive Office for Immigration Review for FY2025-2029. Funds may be used only to hire judges and staff, and expand courtroom capacity, for immigration courts.
- **70101 (p. 530)**: Appropriates **\$45.0 B** (FY2025) to ICE for FY2025-2029 to expand adult detention and family residential center capacity (to house removable aliens). Source
- 70102 (p. 533): Appropriates \$858 M (FY2025-2029) to ICE for retention and signing bonuses. ICE may pay two-year retention bonuses and five-year signing bonuses to officers, agents, and attorneys who commit to additional service. Source
- **70103 (p. 534)**: Appropriates **\$8.0 B** (FY2025-2029) to ICE for hiring additional personnel (officers, agents, support staff). Specifies minimum hiring targets (2,500 new ICE staff in FY2025; 1,875 in each FY2026-2029).
- **70104 (p. 534)**: Appropriates **\$600 M** (FY2025-2029) to ICE to improve recruitment and hiring (including IT, marketing, and outreach).
- 70105 (p. 534-535): Appropriates \$14.4 B (FY2025-2029) to ICE for Transportation and Removal Operations (TRO). Funds may only be used for transporting/removing aliens (including UACs) and ensuring aliens depart the U.S.
- **70106 (p. 535)**: Appropriates **\$700 M** (FY2025-2029) to ICE for information technology investments supporting enforcement and removals (e.g. case management systems, fine/penalty collection).
- **70107 (p. 536)**: Appropriates **\$550 M** (FY2025-2029) to ICE for facilities upgrades (detention centers and enforcement facilities). <u>Source</u>
- **70108 (p. 536)**: Appropriates **\$250 M** (FY2025-2029) to ICE for fleet modernization (vessels and aircraft).

- **70109 (p. 537)**: Appropriates **\$20 M** (FY2025-2029) to ICE for "promoting family unity." Funds must be used to detain, together with their minor children, aliens (charged only with a misdemeanor under INA 1325(a)) who entered the U.S. with children. Source
- **70110 (p. 537)**: Appropriates **\$650 M** (FY2025-2029) to ICE for State and local 287(g) immigration enforcement partnerships.
- 70111 (p. 538): Appropriates \$950 M (FY2025-2029) to the Department of
 Justice for state/Local "SCAAP" payments. Funds compensate states for
 incarcerating criminal aliens (those convicted of a felony or ≥2 misdemeanors)
 who entered unlawfully or were removable at time of custody. Source
- 70112 (p. 540): Appropriates \$1.32 B (FY2025-2029) to ICE's Office of the Principal Legal Advisor for hiring attorneys and staff to represent DHS in immigration court proceedings.
- **70113 (p. 540)**: Appropriates **\$500 M** (FY2025-2029) to DHS for returns under INA 235(b)(2)(C). Funds must be used to remove aliens arriving from contiguous territories (expedited removal to Mexico/Canada).
- **70114 (p. 540)**: Appropriates **\$787 M** (FY2025-2029) to ICE to support state/local efforts against gangs and smuggling and other border security activities (including reimbursements for participating agencies). <u>Source</u>
- 70115 (p. 542): Appropriates \$3.0 B (FY2025-2029) to HHS (Office of Refugee Resettlement) for UAC care. Funds may be used only to house, transport, and supervise unaccompanied alien children in ORR custody under the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act. Source
- **70116 (p. 542)**: Appropriates **\$20 M** (FY2025-2029) to CBP for criminal/gang screening of UACs (age ≥12) encountered at the border. DHS must contact consulates for criminal records.
- 70117 (p. 543): Appropriates \$20 M (FY2025-2029) to HHS/ORR for criminal/ gang screening of UACs (age ≥12) in ORR custody. Funds must be used to check consular criminal records and for tattoo/examination. Source
- 70118 (p. 544): Appropriates \$50 M (FY2025-2029) to HHS/ORR for information on sponsors and adult household members of UACs. Before placing a child, ORR must provide DHS with names, SSNs, DOBs, validated addresses, immigration status, contact info, and fingerprint-based criminal history (including sex-offender checks) for the sponsor and any adult residents. Source

Appendix B

Rationale for Immigration Spending Emphasis Chart in H.R. 1 (119th Congress)

The pie chart titled "Key Immigration Provisions in H.R. 1 (Estimated Impact Emphasis)" on page 7 reflects a weighted analysis of the immigration-related sections of H.R. 1, based on both estimated funding levels and the substantive impact of proposed legal and administrative changes. The methodology incorporates budgetary data where available, combined with proportional significance based on policy and operational scope.

1. Border Infrastructure & Surveillance (~31%)

Includes approximately \$46.5 billion for new and resumed construction of the southern border wall and additional funds for CBP facility modernization and surveillance towers.¹

2. ICE Detention & Removal Operations (~27%)

Reflects more than \$45 billion allocated to expanding detention capacity, transportation/removal programs, and the use of family residential centers.²

3. ICE Hiring & Enforcement Capacity (~15%)

Composed of approximately \$8 billion for hiring 10,000+ ICE personnel, \$14.4 billion for Transportation and Removal Operations, and \$858 million for retention bonuses.³

4. CBP Staffing, Vehicles & Surveillance (~10%)

Covers funding to hire 8,500+ CBP officers and Border Patrol agents, as well as billions in inspection technology, biometric scanners, and vehicle fleet modernization.⁴

5. Immigration Court & Legal Infrastructure (~4%)

Includes \$1.25 billion to expand the immigration court system (EOIR), \$1.32 billion for ICE trial attorneys (OPLA), and funding for court modernization.⁵

6. Immigration Fees & Cost Shifting (~7%)

While not a budget line, this represents the systemic impact of mandatory fees imposed on asylum seekers, parole applicants, and sponsors of unaccompanied children.⁶

7. Parole/Asylum Restrictions & Policy Realignment (~6%)

Captures major legal shifts: narrowed DHS discretion, the codification of return-to-contiguous-territory authority, and INA §235 changes affecting asylum seekers.⁷

Footnotes:

- 1. H.R. 1, Sec. 60001-60003; FAIRUS summary of Title VI.
- 2. H.R. 1, Sec. 70101-70107; DHS appropriations tables (FY2025-2029).
- 3. H.R. 1, Sec. 70110-70112, 70115.
- 4. H.R. 1, Sec. 60002-60003.
- 5. H.R. 1, Sec. 70100; DOJ FY2025 budget proposal; H.R. 1, Sec. 70112.
- 6. H.R. 1, Sec. 70002-70022 (asylum, parole, TPS, SIJS, EOIR fees).
- 7. H.R. 1, Sec. 70113; changes to parole discretion, asylum fee waivers, and return authority under INA §235.

About the Author



Guillermo Martinez is deputy director and intergovernmental liaison at the Institute on Immigrant Integration Research and Policy.



The Institute on Immigrant Integration Research and Policy seeks to advance the economic, social, and political integration of foreign-born New Yorkers and to promote responsive policies and practices.

rockinst.org/iii | @RockImmigration