



August 21, 2025

PA-2025-18

Policy Alert

SUBJECT: Reconciliation Bill (H.R.-1) and Submission of Fees

Purpose

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is updating the policy guidance in the [USCIS Policy Manual](#) to address fees not eligible for fee waivers in accordance with the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R.-1),¹ and applicable dates for determining the proper fees and filing deadlines for benefit requests.

Background

On July 4, 2025, the President signed H.R.-1, which establishes several new provisions and fees to the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).² On July 22, 2025, USCIS published a [Federal Register Notice](#) announcing new fees to be collected by USCIS.³ The new fees imposed by H.R.-1 are in addition to any other fees that are already authorized by existing laws and regulations.⁴ In accordance with H.R.-1, USCIS shall not waive or reduce the additional fees contained herein. However, where otherwise permitted by law,⁵ an alien may apply for a fee waiver of the remaining DHS fee⁶ by filing a Request for Fee Waiver ([Form I-912](#)) or a written fee waiver request. USCIS will reject any filings postmarked or electronically submitted on or after August 21, 2025, that lack the fees required by H.R.-1.⁷

In addition, this update affirms the date USCIS uses to determine applicable fees when a benefit request is submitted and the date a benefit request is considered received by USCIS for purposes of any regulatory or statutory filing deadlines. In general, USCIS considers a benefit request properly

¹ See H.R.1—One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R.-1), Subtitle A, Title X of [Pub. L. 119-21](#) (July 4, 2025).

² See Sections 100001 through 100018 of H.R.1—One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R.-1), Subtitle A, Title X of [Pub. L. 119-21](#) (July 4, 2025).

³ See [90 FR 34511](#) (July 22, 2025). The Notice did not address all the fees required or authorized by H.R.-1, some of which may be collected by other agencies within DHS or the Executive Officer for Immigration Review (EOIR) within the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

⁴ See [90 FR 34511](#) (July 22, 2025). See [8 CFR 106.2](#).

⁵ See [8 CFR 106.3](#). An alien or other benefit requestor seeking a fee waiver must establish his or her inability to pay the required fee through receipt of a means-tested benefit, household income at or below 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG), or extreme financial hardship. See [8 CFR 106.3\(a\)\(1\)](#). In general, fee waivers are only available for forms, and under conditions, specified at [8 CFR 106.3\(a\)\(3\)](#).

⁶ See [8 CFR 106.2](#).

⁷ See [90 FR 34511](#) (July 22, 2025).

filed when it is filed in accordance with the form instructions and with the appropriate fee.⁸ When USCIS updates a form or issues a new fee schedule, it generally considers the date of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) postmark as the date the request was submitted to USCIS when determining the correct form version and required fees. However, commercial couriers such as FedEx, DHL, UPS, and logistic couriers do not utilize postmark dates and may only print a shipping date on the shipping label before delivery. For purposes of any regulatory or statutory filing deadlines, including determining a priority date (if applicable), USCIS uses the USCIS received date as the submission date.

This guidance, contained in Volume 1 of the Policy Manual, is effective July 22, 2025, and applies to requests filed on or after that date. The guidance contained in the Policy Manual is controlling and supersedes any related prior guidance.

Policy Highlights

- Explains that USCIS cannot waive any fees required by H.R.-1 and that USCIS rejects any form postmarked or electronically filed on or after August 21, 2025, without the fees required by H.R.-1.
- Explains the remaining availability of fee waivers for fees already established by DHS.
- Affirms that for benefit requests sent through USPS, USCIS uses the postmark date to determine the correct form version and filing fees only.
- Affirms that, for benefit requests sent through commercial couriers, USCIS uses the shipping label date to determine the correct form version and filing fees only. If the label does not have a shipping date, USCIS uses the label's print date; if the label does not have a date, USCIS assumes that the postmark date is 10 days before USCIS received the package.
- Affirms that, for benefit requests sent by mail, USCIS uses the actual date a benefit request is received at a USCIS lockbox or facility as the received date for any regulatory or statutory filing deadlines, including to determine a priority date, if applicable.⁹
- Affirms that for benefit requests filed online, USCIS considers the date the benefit request is completed and submitted through myUSCIS as the date of submission and as the received date for purposes of determining proper fees and any regulatory or statutory filing deadlines.

Summary of Changes

Affected Section: Volume 1 > Part B > Chapter 4 > Section A, General

- Adds new paragraph to the end of Subsection 1.

Affected Section: Volume 1 > Part B > Chapter 4 > Section B, Forms Eligible for Fee Waiver

⁸ See [8 CFR 103.2\(a\)\(1\)](#).

⁹ See [8 CFR 103.2\(a\)\(7\)](#).

- Revises table in subsection 1 (General Fee Waivers).
- Revises first paragraph and table in subsection 2 (Conditional Fee Waivers).
- Revises first paragraph in subsection 3 (Humanitarian Fee Waivers).

Affected Section: Volume 1 > Part B > Chapter 6 > Section A, How to Submit.

- Adds new introductory sentence before Section A.
- Changes the title of subsection 1 (Traditional Mail) to “Submitting Request by Mail,” revises the first and second paragraph of subsection 1, and revises the first italicized subheading to read “Assembling and Submitting Benefit Request Package.”
- Changes the title of subsection 2 (Electronic Submission) to “Submitting Requests Online,” and revises content throughout.

Affected Section: Volume 1 > Part B > Chapter 6 > Section B, Intake Processing.

- Adds new paragraph after the sixth paragraph.

Affected Section: Volume 1 > Part B > Chapter 6 > Section C, Correct Fees and Form Versions

- Replaces Section C (Date of Receipt) in its entirety.

Affected Section: Volume 1 > Part B > Chapter 6 > Section D, Received Data (Filing Date)

- Adds new section and redesignates other sections accordingly.

Affected Section: Volume 1 > Part B > Chapter 6 > Section E, Filing Periods Ending on Weekends or Federal Holidays

- Revises the second paragraph.

USCIS may also make other minor technical, stylistic, and conforming changes consistent with this update.

Citation

Volume 1: General Policies and Procedures, Part B, Submission of Benefit Requests, Chapter 4, Fee Waivers and Fee Exemptions [[1 USCIS-PM B.4](#)] and Chapter 6, Submitting Requests [[1 USCIS-PM B.6](#)].