



Section-by-Section Summary

SEC. 1 EXPANSION OF PREMIUM PROCESSING

(a) IN GENERAL. Amends section 286(u) of the Immigration and Nationality Act as follows:

- For immigration benefits already designated for premium processing, the premium fee is increased from \$1,440 to \$2,500, except that fees for H-2B and religious worker (R visa) petitions are set at \$1,500.
- Premium processing services must be made available to the following additional immigration benefits, with fees and timeframes set through rulemaking:
 - employment-based nonimmigrant petitions not already subject to premium processing;
 - certain employment-based green card petitions (EB-1, EB-2, and EB-3) not already subject to premium processing;
 - applications to change or extend nonimmigrant status;
 - applications for employment authorization; and
 - other immigration benefit requests as USCIS deems appropriate.
- USCIS may make biennial adjustments of premium fees to account for inflation.
- Collected fees may already be used to fund premium processing operations and infrastructure improvements. USCIS may now also use fees to reduce case processing backlogs and offset the cost of providing adjudication and naturalization services.
- USCIS may only suspend premium processing if circumstances prevent the completion of a significant number of premium requests within the required processing time.
- Premium processing requestors shall have direct and reliable access to current case status information and the ability to communicate with the premium processing service units.

(b) EXPANSION TO NEW BENEFIT REQUESTS. Permits USCIS to set premium fees for new benefit types without rulemaking if such fees are consistent with the following:

- For EB-1 petitions for multinational executives and managers and EB-2 petitions involving a national interest waiver, fees are less than \$2,500 and processing times are less than 45 days.
- For applications to change nonimmigrant status to F (academic student), J (exchange visitor), or M (vocational student), fees are less than \$1,750 and processing times are less than 30 days.
- For applications to change or extend status as the dependent of an E (treaty trader or investor), H (temporary worker), L (intracompany transferee), O (extraordinary ability), P (artist or athlete), or R (religious worker), fees are less than \$1,750 and processing times are less than 30 days.
- For applications for employment authorization, fees are less than \$1,500 and processing times are less than 30 days.

Required processing times do not start until the date that all prerequisites for adjudication are received.

(c) OTHER BENEFIT REQUESTS. Requires USCIS to take steps to ensure that processing of immigration benefit requests is not adversely affected by the availability or expansion of premium services.

SEC. 2 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. Requires USCIS to develop a 5-year plan to implement electronic filing procedures for all benefit requests, accept electronic payments, correspond with benefit requestors electronically, and reduce processing timeframes for all immigration and naturalization benefit requests. Requires semi-annual briefings to appropriate congressional committees.