



IMMIGRATION

The bill would direct the Homeland Security Department to grant applications for “parole” to immigrants living in the U.S. illegally who arrived before Jan. 1, 2011, and have resided in the country continuously since then. Individuals who are inadmissible because of criminal activities, national security risks, human smuggling, or certain other reasons wouldn’t be eligible.

Applicants would have to complete background checks and pay a fee. Individuals paroled under the bill would receive employment and travel authorization and would be eligible for driver’s licenses or other state-issued identification cards. Parole would be granted for five years or until Sept. 30, 2031, whichever is earlier. DHS couldn’t revoke parole unless the individual has become disqualified based on the policies in place when they were granted parole, and extensions would have to be granted through Sept. 30, 2031.

The bill wouldn’t award permanent residency, and those paroled under the bill wouldn’t be counted against the annual caps on the number of green cards that can be issued.

The measure would roll over and convert unused employer-sponsored green cards to family-sponsored visas each year, allowing for additional immigrant visas to be issued when the numerical cap on employer-sponsored immigration visas isn’t reached — as happened during the Covid-19 pandemic. Any unused family- and employer-sponsored green cards from fiscal 1992 through 2021 would be made available going forward.

The bill would allow individuals selected in the annual diversity green card lottery — which awards immigration visas to individuals from countries underrepresented in U.S. immigration — from fiscal 2017 through 2021, but who weren’t granted visas due to Trump-era executive orders or the Covid-19 pandemic, to reapply and be granted green cards.

Individuals whose green card applications have been approved but are awaiting sufficient numbers of visas to become available could pay a \$1,500 fee to apply to the the Homeland Security Department to adjust their status to lawful permanent residency.

Those with approved green card applications who haven't been able to obtain visas for more than two years due to per-country or worldwide caps on family- or certain employer-sponsored green cards could apply for exemptions. Application fees would be \$2,500 for family-sponsored visas, \$5,000 for most employer-sponsored visas, and \$50,000 for investor immigrant visas.

The measure also would create supplemental fees for several types of visa petitions and other applications related to immigration status.

It would provide \$2.8 billion to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to address visa processing backlogs.