

MIGRATION-RELATED POLICIES ON CARES ACT, H.R. 748/ S. 3548

On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, H.R. 748/ S. 3548 became law. The \$2.2 trillion, 880-page supplemental appropriations bill includes a range of measures to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. This document highlights some of the major migration provisions.

Migration-Related Provisions Included in CARES:

- As a general rule, CARES leaves in place the ineligibility of the undocumented and other “non-qualified aliens” for cash assistance, including any cash assistance provided in CARES
- CARES prohibits anyone in a household from receiving the \$1,200-per-adult and \$500-per-child cash assistance if the household includes one or more undocumented immigrants. However, CARE covers resident immigrants who filed federal taxes in 2018 or 2019 or before and have a social security number and meet certain IRS residency requirements. This can include certain recently arrived refugees, asylees, and Cuban-Haitian Entrants.
- CARES appropriates \$350 million for Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA), to be used “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus” although it is uncertain if funding will be allowed for refugee resettlement.
- CARES appropriates \$258 million for International Disaster Assistance (IDA), to be used “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus”

Does the CARES Act help undocumented immigrants?

As a general rule, CARES leaves in place the ineligibility of the undocumented and other “not qualified aliens” for cash assistance, including any assistance involving cash (such as unemployment insurance).

Will there be additional legislation related to COVID-19?

There is likely to be further legislation for the mitigation of and recovery from COVID-19. We will continue working for greater inclusiveness and support for refugees and immigrants and to address gaps in healthcare and economic support.