



Cosponsor the PERM Backlog Reduction Act

Background:

The Department of Labor's (DOL) Program Electronic Review Management (PERM) system—required for most employer-sponsored green card pathways—has experienced severe processing delays in recent years. Despite consistent funding levels and stable application volumes, adjudication times for both prevailing wage determinations (PWDs) and PERM labor certifications have grown dramatically.

These delays hinder employers' ability to meet long-term workforce needs, worsen existing labor shortages, and create uncertainty for businesses planning future hiring. Employers face months or years of waiting before they can move forward with legal immigration processes, slowing economic growth and limiting productivity. Meanwhile, DOL lacks the dedicated resources needed to modernize systems, hire adjudicators, and reduce backlogs.

Summary:

The ***PERM Backlog Reduction Act*** establishes an optional premium processing program at DOL to expedite processing of **Form ETA-9089 – PERM Labor Certifications** for employers seeking permanent labor certifications.

Under the bill, DOL must:

- Process **ETA-9089 within 30 days**
- Process any application that is the subject of a request for information within **15 calendar days** of receiving the request.
- Charge a **\$1,200 premium processing fee for Form ETA-9089**, adjusted annually for inflation beginning in FY2028.

Fees collected pursuant to this bill shall be deposited into a separate account in the Treasury **DOL PERM Premium Processing Fee Account** to ensure all fees are used exclusively for program operations and modernization.

If you have any questions or would like to cosponsor, please reach out to Lauren.Fricks@mail.house.gov in Rep. Grothman's Office.