

would, however, grant parole in special circumstances. Humanitarian parole applications are submitted on Form I-131 and must be filed at USCIS' Dallas Lockbox. The application is adjudicated by USCIS' International Operations Division in Washington, D.C. As of February 2019, the USCIS estimates that processing time for such applications is three months. If the application is granted, the USCIS notifies the U.S. consulate nearest where the applicant resides. The applicant must then schedule an appointment at the U.S. consulate to obtain a "boarding foil," which is placed in the applicant's passport. The boarding foil looks like a U.S. nonimmigrant visa and is designed to assure U.S. airlines that they are authorized to let the applicant board a flight to the United States. For further information on requesting humanitarian parole, see <http://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/humanitarian-parole>.

(3) *Private Congressional Immigration Bill*. In very compelling circumstances and after all administrative remedies have been exhausted, it has at times been possible to obtain admission for an adopted child through a private immigration bill. A private bill in effect exempts a particular alien from the general immigration laws. If the senator or congressperson who has been involved in the case agrees to initiate the process, a thorough presentation, similar to a brief, must be prepared for either the House or Senate Subcommittees on Immigration, Border Security and Claims, which in essence act like an equity court to grant special relief in individual cases.⁴⁸ Fewer than 15% of the private immigration bills introduced have actually been enacted, but they have been successfully employed for some adopted children in the past, particularly those who otherwise satisfy the orphan criteria and are adopted over the age of sixteen.⁴⁹ However, in recent years private bills declined significantly, and since 2007, only four private bills on any subject have been enacted.⁵⁰

B. Eligibility for Immediate Relative Status for a Hague Convention Adoption

Slightly over 65% of the children immigrating to the United States following or for an adoption emigrated from nations that are party to the Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention. The requirements for a Convention visa are very similar to those for an orphan visa, but the Convention and its implementing federal statutes and regulations have require some additional safeguards and procedures.

⁴⁸ See Sullivan, *supra* note 24, at n.327 and accompanying text.

⁴⁹ See Anna Marie Gallagher, Remedies of Last Resort: Private Bills and Pardons, 06-02 Immigr. Briefings 1 (2006).

⁵⁰ Congressional Research Service, *Private Bills: Procedure in the House*, May 15, 2019, at <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R45287.pdf>.