U.S. House of Representatives Immigration Bills 2013

Bill Info	Summary

Bill Number: H.R. 1772 **Title:** Legal Workforce Act **Sponsor:** Lamar Smith (TX) **Date of Introduction:** April 26, 2013	❖ Repeal of the paper-based I-9 system and replaces it with an e-verify type system.
	 ❖ Gradual phase-in of mandatory E-Verify participation
	    o Six month increments over two years, beginning with businesses from 10,000+, to companies having 1 to 19 employees; Ag sector subject to an E-Verify checks 24 months after enactment
	 ❖ State enforcement encouraged by allowing states to retain fines from employer violations; State or Local laws are pre-empted
	 ❖ Employers granted a safe harbor from prosecution an incorrect eligibility confirmation occurs while using the system in good faith.
	 ❖ Allows for citizens or guardians of minors to block SSN to prevent abuse
	    o SSN owner alerted if the SSN registers unusual multiple use
	 ❖ Reverification required if the worker is a federal, state or local government employee, requires a federal security clearance, or has been assigned to work in the United States under a federal or state contract

Bill Number: H.R. 1773 **Title:** Agriculture Guest Worker Act **Sponsor:** House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte **Date of Introduction:** April 26, 2013	❖ Designates the U.S. Department of Agriculture to administer relevant Visas
	    o 500,000 H-2C cap may be raised or lowered by the Secretary of Agriculture
	 ❖ Growers must petition for an H-2c worker before they are admitted to the U.S.
	    o Petition not required for at-will employment, worker must be previously admitted through H-2C program (as E-Verify becomes required by all employers)
	 ❖ Eliminates employer provision of housing and travel reimbursement
	 ❖ Temporary or season workers can stay in the U.S. for a maximum 18 mos.; mandatory 3 month leave
	    o Permanent workers can work for 36 months, with a max. 3 month leave
	 ❖ H-2C workers to be paid the greater of prevailing industry wage and state minimum wage; employers shall withhold 10% of pay to ensure adherence to stay limitations
	 ❖ H-2C workers may be subject to binding arbitration and mediation of grievances as a condition of employment to discourage frivolous litigation against growers
	 ❖ H-2C workers are not eligible legal assistance or public benefits, including refundable tax credits such as the Earned Income and Child Tax Credits.
	 ❖ H-2C workers may not bring spouses or minor children

Bill Number: H.R. 2131
 Title: Skills Visa Act
 Sponsor: Representative Darrell Issa (R-CA)
 Date of Introduction: May 23, 2013
	❖Allocates 55,000 Green cards to foreign-born graduates of U.S. Universities with degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math fields,
	    o Allocates an additional 10,000 visas for spouses and minor children
	 ❖Increases H1-B visas, repeals employment based per-country caps
	 ❖Establishment of Entrepreneur Visa program
	    o 10,000 available visas to those who attract investment and create 3+ jobs
	 ❖ Strengthening of Investor Visa program
	    o Indexes investment requirements for inflation, adds anti-fraud protection
	 ❖Repeals the Diversity Lottery Green card program, and the Siblings of U.S. Citizens Green Card program

Bill Number: H.R. 2278 **Title:** Strengthen and Fortify Enforcement (SAFE) Act **Sponsor:** Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) **Date of Introduction:** June 6, 2013	❖Grants states and localities the ability to enforce federal and state immigration laws, so long as they are consistent with federal laws o Withholds grants from sanctuary cities ❖Facilitates and expedites removal of criminal aliens ❖Expands the Visa Security Program to additional high risk posts; authorizes Department of Homeland Security & State Department to revoke visas if in the security or foreign policy interests of the U.S ❖Extends the authority of ICE officers to include arrests for immigration violations, federal felonies, federal criminal offenses for bringing in and harboring unlawful immigrants, and offenses against the U.S. ❖Requires an annual report to Congress regarding the abuse of prosecutorial discretion by the Administration ❖Prohibits the Department of Interior and Agriculture from preventing Border Patrol agents access to lands within 100 miles of the border ❖Bars illegal immigrants who threaten national security form becoming naturalized