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U.S. House of Representatives Immigration Bills 2013

Bill Info	Summary
<p>Bill Number: H.R. 2278</p> <p>Title: Strengthen and Fortify Enforcement (SAFE) Act</p> <p>Sponsor: Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.)</p> <p>Date of Introduction: June 6, 2013</p> <p>Status: Referred to House Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy, and Forestry</p> <p>NCSL Position: Opposes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Shifts responsibility and costs of civil immigration enforcement to states and localities<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 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 from becoming naturalized
<p>Bill Number: H.R. 1772</p> <p>Title: Legal Workforce Act</p> <p>Sponsor: Lamar Smith (TX)</p> <p>Date of Introduction: April 26, 2013</p> <p>Status: Reported 22-9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ 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<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 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<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 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

<p>Bill Number: H.R. 1773 Title: Agriculture Guest Worker Act Sponsor: House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte Date of Introduction: April 26, 2013 Status: Reported 20-16</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Designates the U.S. Department of Agriculture to administer relevant Visas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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
<p>Bill Number: H.R. 2131 Title: Skills Visa Act Sponsor: Representative Darrell Issa (R-CA) Introduction: May 23, 2013 Status: Reported 20-14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Allocates 55,000 Green cards to foreign-born graduates of U.S. Universities with degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math fields, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 10,000 available visas to those who attract investment and create 3+ jobs ❖ Strengthening of Investor Visa program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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
<p>Bill Number: H.R. 1417 Title: Border Security Results Act of 2013 Sponsor: Michael McCaul (R-TX) Introduction: April 9, 2013 Status: 113-8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Strategic plan will be published to maintain control over border security ❖ Complete operational control over border expected after 5 years ❖ Increases use surveillance technologies at the border ❖ Promotes information sharing between relevant departments ❖ Assesses appropriate staffing requirements at ports and at the northern and southern border ❖ Implementation of biometric exit capability at ports under the US-VISIT program ❖ Prohibition on Land Border Crossing Fee Study

Prepared by: Emily German and Ryan Vaswani; NCSL 2013 Summer Fellows
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For further information, please do not hesitate to contact NCSL staff Sheri Steisel (sheri.steisel@ncsl.org) or Susan Frederick (susan.frederick@ncsl.org) or by calling 202-624-5400.