

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
LEGISLATIVE COMMUNIQUE**

**BILL IDENTIFICATION:**

- **Legislative Body:** Congress **Bill Number:** H.R. 4437
  - **Committee/Subcommittee:** Committee on the Judiciary
  - **Name:** Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005
  - **Primary Sponsor(s):** Rep. Sensenbrenner (R-WI)
  - **Status of Bill:** Passed House 239-182. Referred to Senate Committee on the Judiciary; read twice.
  - **Next Major Action Expected or Proposed:** Unknown
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**PURPOSE OF BILL:** Authorizes the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Social Security Administration to expand/create a system to verify the eligibility of immigrants for employment in the United States. The bill would require DHS to reimburse counties along the southern U.S. border for costs relating to the detention of illegal aliens, increase the number of border inspection personnel, deploy radiation portal monitors at ports of entry, and establish an Office of Air and Marine Operations within DHS. Furthermore, it warrants mandatory minimum prison sentences, in criminal and civil violations, for a number of offenses relating to illegal entry into the United States and offers additional amendments to current law and DHS procedures that would increase border security.

**BILL IDENTIFICATION:**

- **Legislative Body:** Senate **Bill Number:** S 1033/H.R. 2330
  - **Committee/Subcommittee:** Committee on the Judiciary/Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship Subcommittee
  - **Name:** The Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act of 2005
  - **Primary Sponsor(s):** Sen. Kennedy (D-MA), Sen. McCain (R-AZ), Rep. Kolbe (R-AZ)
  - **Status of Bill:** Referred to Senate Committee on the Judiciary; read twice. H.R. 2330 referred to the Subcommittee on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Competitiveness.
  - **Next Major Action Expected or Proposed:** Unknown
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**PURPOSE OF BILL:** Requires DHS to develop a national strategy for border security that will include a security plan to enhance the Border Patrol. It focuses on the need to secure US borders; the contributions of immigrants and the need for US immigration policies to reflect the tradition of the US as a nation of immigrants; the need for a comprehensive approach to solving immigration problems, including the provision of adequate channels for legal immigration and strong enforcement of laws that serve our economic, social and security interests.

**RELATED LEGISLATION:** Several bills have been introduced which would have a significant impact on state and local governments, specifically the National Capital Region which continues to experience increased numbers of immigrants coming to the area. These bills would not only increase federal enforcement of immigration laws, but would authorize state and local officials to assist in this enforcement as well as provide those agencies with financial assistance for their efforts. (H.R. 3137, S 1362, S 2377)

Most of the introduced immigration bills have indirect, if not direct, implications for undocumented workers and their employers. In addition, one bill H.R. 1587 would reduce the number of issued H-2B visas, which allow seasonal immigrants the opportunity to work in this country for specified periods of time, and require that willing United States workers be offered jobs before the recruiting process began for immigrant workers.