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Mooers Immigration

today

COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE AND DEDICATED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE PRACTICE OF U.S. IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY LAW

IMMIGRATION REFORM DEBATE: Bipartisan Bill Survives First Test

When the U.S. Senate’s “Gang of Eight” unveiled their bipartisan Immigration Reform bill in April, sparks immediately began to fly from those on both the Left and the Right. Immigration advocates claim that the bill does not go far enough – immigration opponents say that the draft bill goes too far.

In May, the Senate Judiciary Committee amended the bill slightly and sent it on for consideration by the entire Senate. The Senate will begin debate on the proposed legislation in June. We remain confident that the Immigration Reform debate will rage through the coming summer and into the fall. Supporters of Immigration Reform believe that Congress must complete action on a bill before the 2014 Congressional election cycle

begins in earnest early next year. At this time, polls show the American people favoring Immigration Reform, including legalization of those without current immigration status, by a healthy margin.

The House of Representatives is also set to begin deliberating its own bill. In both the House and Senate, you will have the opportunity to watch a number of high-stakes battles between left and right, especially on the issues of border protection; employer sanctions; legalization of the estimated 11 million unauthorized immigrants; low-skilled workers; and family visas.

[Read the Mooers.net blog to get our take on the Congressional battle.]



Making a Difference Across America

Mooers Immigration has a long tradition of working to make a positive difference in the community. Immigration impacts every corner of our country, and our firm helps to educate policy makers, business and immigrant organizations, and attorneys in immigration law and policy matters. Don Mooers has been a frequent guest on television and radio programs to answer questions about immigration law matters. Our attorneys have delivered seminars and webinars to national, regional and local organizations across America. Take a look at our Facebook page to find out where we will be next, and let us know if you would like us to speak to your group or organization. MI@Mooers.net





From My Perspective

Don Mooers, Founder and Managing Partner of Mooers Immigration, shares his thoughts and views. We invite you to share your thoughts with us as well. Contact us on Facebook or at MI@Mooers.net.



Mooers Immigration is celebrating its 10th Anniversary in 2013. These ten years have been exciting, challenging and rewarding, and have provided me with the opportunity to use the experience gained on Capitol Hill, in the State Department, at other organizations, and work completed in nearly 100 countries in client service.

I love practicing Immigration Law. Not a day has gone by that has not given me an opportunity to make a positive difference in people's lives. As work to serve our clients, my colleagues and I feel that our lives have been enriched by our work with individuals and companies in the fields of Health Care, Marketing, Communications, Education, Environment, Professional Sports, Services, Food Processing, Law, Architecture, International Development, and many others. We are grateful for these opportunities.

We only know one way to fully represent our clients. We work with clients to understand their long-term goals, and then develop a specific plan to help them achieve success. Immigration Law, considered the most complex and convoluted area of US law, provides both challenges (largely through constantly-evolving regulations, legislation, court decisions and administrative fiats), as well as great opportunities to develop successful solutions to meet client needs..

Most of all, these ten years have given us the opportunity to do what we enjoy doing best. We help businesses and organizations obtain the international talent they require to succeed, and we assist individuals coming to our country to achieve their American dreams. We love what we do, and we look forward to continuing to try to provide a high level of service, expertise, and success.

At Mooers Immigration, every day centers on helping individuals, companies and organizations work through the maze of laws and government agencies governing immigration.

Our clients are located in every corner of the US, and we help their employees and family members who come from all over the globe to achieve their American dreams.

BIPARTISAN SENATE IMMIGRATION BILL FOCUS: EMPLOYMENT AND FAMILY VISAS



The Senate Immigration bill (S.744), in addition to addressing the 11 million unauthorized immigrants in the country, also tries to strengthen border protection, make it more difficult for employers to hire unauthorized individuals in the future, and make changes in the laws governing the flow of legal immigrants. The bill contains several proposed changes affecting Green Cards and temporary visas. As passed by the Senate Judiciary Committee, the bill will:

- Significantly increase the number of H-1B visas
- Increase government fees for H-1B visa petitions and salaries of H-1B workers
- Create a new "W" temporary visa for low-skilled workers
- Create a new "Entrepreneur" temporary visa, with an opportunity to move to a Green Card
- Create new visas for "retiree" and for Irish professionals
- Reduce the current Green Card backlog
- Create a new "points system" for some Green Cards
- Eliminate both the Diversity Visa Lottery and Siblings Green Cards
- Lower the likelihood of significant future Green Card backlogs

These are just highlights from the legislation that will be debated by the Senate in June [Elsewhere in this issue we provide highlights of the bill's legalization provisions]. What do you think of these provisions? Please let us know at MI@Mooers.net.



Recent Postings by Mooers Immigration

Mooers Immigration is committed to educating the community and our clients about immigration and nationality law. We have tried to make it as easy as possible for our clients, organizations and others to learn about topics such as immigration reform, upcoming events, and other topics of interest. Here are recent Mooers Immigration postings on the Mooers.net Blog, as well as Twitter and Facebook.

What is on your mind? We welcome your feedback.

Mooers Immigration
al Servicio de la
Comunidad
www.mooers.net



Twitter

@MooersLawFirm

“The Committee introduced a provision that could revoke legal status from certain asylum seekers...”

“El Comité ha introducido una disposición que podría revocar el estatus legal de algunos solicitantes de asilo...”

Follow us on Twitter for more updates.



Facebook

Mooers Immigration

“. . . Mooers Immigration has launched an updated website where visitors can learn about the services our firm provides. The website also provides information about key immigration topics of interest to individuals, organizations and companies. It also provides a quick and easy way to communicate with us . . .”

Visit our Facebook page.



Blog

www.Mooers.net

“. . .The Senate Judiciary Committee gave the green light to a bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill, while Speaker John Boehner “promised” that the House of Representatives will pass its own immigration reform bill. . . .”

See our blog for our thoughts on the likely timeline for reform.



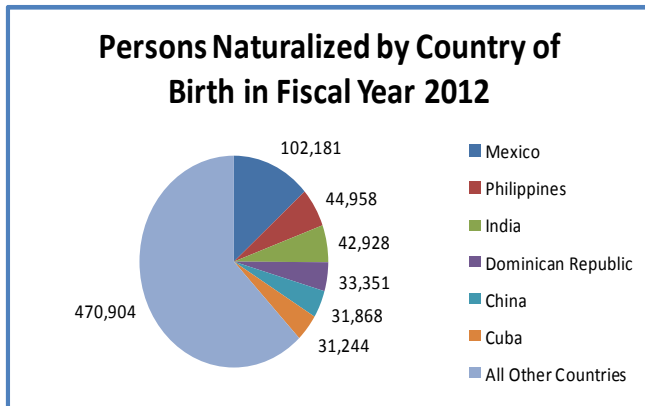
Mooers Immigration, una firma de abogados fundada hace más de 10 años, dedicada exclusivamente a la práctica de Derecho de Inmigración y Nacionalidad.

Contáctenos llamando al 301.652.4488

Síguenos en Twitter @MooersLawFirm

U.S. Naturalization Applications: Who Wants to be an American?

In each issue of Mooers Immigration Today, we try to share an item of general interest to our readers. This week’s “factoid” involves Naturalization to the United States. The chart below provides data on where America’s newest Citizens are coming from. In FY 2012, citizens of Mexico, Philippines, India, Dominican Republic and China led the way in applications to become US Citizens. Which countries will be in the lead in 2020? 2030? 2040? Only time will tell.



Source: US Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics

Visas for Business and Tourism: Know the Law

Millions of people come to the US in visitor status, either for business or tourism. The “B visa” category covers these visitors. Citizens of some countries can come as visitors just using their passports – most, however, must first apply for a B visa at a United States Consulate overseas.

Applying for a visitor visa can be a very frustrating experience, especially when the visa is denied. However, in many cases, knowing the law and what Consulates are looking for can help make the process easier and more successful for all concerned. Here are some pointers:

- Don’t expect US Consular Officers to be helpful. Their job is to evaluate the visa application, and determine whether the person is likely to depart the US at the end of the visit and will not violate the terms of the visa.
- Pay attention to details. Is there an itinerary for the trip? Who is paying the costs? What are the applicant’s connections to the country of citizenship? Has there been a prior denial?
- If there are issues, seek out a qualified immigration attorney PRIOR to the interview. It is better to resolve issues ahead of time. Denials go on the record forever.



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ABOUT MOOERS IMMIGRATION

Mooers Immigration is a law firm committed to excellence and dedicated exclusively to the practice of U.S. Immigration and nationality law. We strive to provide our clients with exceptional service while helping them navigate the complex system of immigration law.

In today's increasingly global economy, Mooers Immigration makes complex immigration laws and regulations understandable for our clients. We help employers hire the best and the brightest in the field to enhance the success of their American business, college or non-profit organization. We also help unite families and navigate the path to citizenship for qualifying foreign-born nationals.

Let us know how we can we can assist you. Send us an email to MI@Mooers.net.

Meet The Mooers Team: Libby Williams

When Libby Williams decided to rejoin the workforce after a family hiatus, she wanted an opportunity to apply her management skills while making a positive impact on the community. Joining Mooers Immigration was the perfect solution. She has enjoyed being a part of the firm's growth while helping hundreds of individuals and organizations solve critical immigration issues.

The mother of two teens, Ms. Williams is used to changing gears quickly, and after six years with Mooers Immigration, she has learned there is never a slow day on the job. When not in the office she can be found cheering on the Cavalier Marching Band or her daughter's rowing team, preferably behind a camera lens.



A native Washingtonian, Ms. Williams and her husband escape the city when they can to a rustic cabin off the grid in New Hampshire.

BIPARTISAN SENATE IMMIGRATION BILL FOCUS: PATH TO LEGALIZATION

The Senate Immigration Reform bill (S.744) lays out a path to citizenship for the roughly 11 million undocumented immigrants currently residing in the US. It will be a long and complicated process designed to bring people out of the shadows. In order to be eligible, individuals must meet several requirements. The individual must:

- Have arrived in the United States on or before 12/31/2011
- Have been present in US from 12/31/2011 until the new legal status is granted
- Possess a "mostly-clean" criminal record
- Have paid current and past taxes
- Not pose a national security threat
- Not have committed a violation that permanently bars him or her from the US

These are just some highlights of the proposed bill. Under the draft law, the path to legalization is a minimum of 10 years (5 years if person arrived came as minor). The individual's spouse and children will also likely qualify if they were present in US on or before the end of 2012.

[Keep up on the Immigration Reform debate at www.Mooers.net.]