

April 4, 2006

Update on Immigration Reform Bill

On March 27, 2006, the Senate Judiciary Committee finalized a comprehensive immigration reform bill and forwarded the bill to the full Senate for debate. This bi-partisan bill contains measures to further secure United States borders and increase enforcement measures as well as “pro-immigrant” measures, including a guest worker program which would allow certain undocumented workers in the United States to legalize their status. This bill was co-sponsored by Senators McCain and Kennedy and is commonly referred to as “The Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act of 2005” or “the McCain-Kennedy bill.”

Please note that this reform bill is only proposed legislation. The measure may undergo significant changes in the coming weeks. The Senate is currently debating two separate immigration measures this week. In addition to the McCain-Kennedy bill, Senator Bill Frist has sponsored a bill which would only include enforcement, penalty and border security provisions.

Congress is likely to enact significant immigration reform prior to the end of this legislative session. Seyfarth Shaw will continue to keep you updated on immigration reform measures in Congress.

In the meantime, if you have any questions on the immigration reform please contact your Seyfarth Shaw attorney or any Business Immigration attorney on our website at www.seyfarth.com.