

On June 27, 2013, the U.S. Senate passed a comprehensive immigration reform bill, *Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013 (S. 744)*, by a vote of 68-32. While this bill creates some positive changes to the broken immigration system, it also raises several concerns.

	<i>Pros</i>	<i>Cons</i>
<b>Family-based immigration</b>	Reduces current family visa backlogs over a 10-year span. Current wait times can be as long as 24 years.	U.S. citizens can no longer sponsor their brothers and sisters to join them in the U.S.
	Reclassifies spouses and minor children of green card holders as “immediate relatives,” which allows for faster processing of visas.	U.S. citizens can no longer sponsor their married adult children who are 31 years of age or older.
		LGBT families do not receive the same benefits/protections as heterosexual families.
		Establishes a new points-based system that favors individuals with higher education and desired employment histories, and will disproportionately hurt lower-income families, women, and those in less developed countries.
<b>Path to Citizenship</b>	13-year path to citizenship that would allow individuals to apply for Registered Provisional Immigrant (RPI) status, with the possibility of adjusting to legal permanent resident (LPR) status after 10 years and applying for citizenship after three years of LPR status.	But this path to citizenship is long and difficult: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have been physically present in U.S. before Dec. 31, 2011;</li> <li>• Must apply for RPI status within 1 year of enactment;</li> <li>• Can get green cards after 10 years only if certain conditions are met (e.g., proof of continuous employment with gaps no longer than 60 days, record clean of certain criminal offenses, settle back taxes, etc.); and</li> <li>• Fines/penalties include \$1,000 when applying for RPI status and \$1,000 when applying for green card, in addition to application fees to be determined.</li> </ul>
<b>Dream Act</b>	There is an expedited 5-year path to citizenship for undocumented youth known as DREAMers, with no age cap. They are also exempted from fines.	Little DREAMers (DREAMers that are under the age of 13) will not qualify for the 5 year path.
<b>Immigrant Workers</b>	Provides some due process and worker protections for individuals who are victims of false positives within the E-Verify employment verification system.	Mandatory national implementation of an employment verification program called “E-Verify,” which has a high error rate, including for individuals legally authorized to work. Imposes a difficult burden on small businesses.
		People granted RPI status and those who overstayed a nonimmigrant visa cannot claim Social Security credit during any quarter that they were not authorized to work from 2004-2014.
<b>Deportation and Detention</b>	Provides access to an attorney in deportation proceedings for unaccompanied children, people with mental disabilities, and other vulnerable people.	Makes immigrants (including green card holders) deportable for having DUIs, domestic violence offenses and alleged gang membership, and does not allow consideration of positive factors like rehabilitation and family ties.
<b>Access to Public Benefits and Education</b>	Provides access to federal work-study and student loans for undocumented youth.	Individuals on the path to citizenship will be denied access to public benefits for 15 years, including while they are in RPI and LPR status.
	Restores Medicaid eligibility to Pacific Islanders from the Marshall Islands, Palau, Micronesia, or from the Compact of Freely Associated States.	
<b>Border</b>	Implements use-of-force policies and trainings for Border Patrol.	\$46 billion to increase enforcement at the already secure Southern border. Requires completion of 700 miles of fencing at the border, doubles number of Border Patrol agents, and increases presence of surveillance technology and drones.

*Adapted from information from the National Immigration Law Center, [www.nilc.org/s744goodbadtable.html](http://www.nilc.org/s744goodbadtable.html).*

# THE ROAD TO REFORM

**We have a bill, NOT a reform law.**

This chart explains the path the bill will take on the way to becoming law, and where it can be changed.

**The process begins here**

with an immigration reform bill introduced in the Senate or the House



## SENATE

## HOUSE

Immigration reform bill introduced in Senate

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Bill studied, revised, and approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee

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Entire Senate debates, amends and votes on bill. If bill gets passing vote, it goes to the House.

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Members of both chambers of Congress meet in Conference Committee to resolve differences between House and Senate versions of the bill.

Compromised bill goes back to House and Senate for final passage. Approved bill sent to President.

**If President signs the bill, the reform becomes law.**

Contents of the bill can be changed or amended at any point in the mark-up phases.

Only once the immigration reform bill completes this process will it be law. Until that happens, there is no application process. Do not give your money to lawyers or notarios that tell you otherwise!

REFORM IMMIGRATION FOR America

## We still have a long way to go.

- Now that the Senate has passed a bill, the House must pass its own version of an immigration reform bill. The Senate and House versions then must be reconciled and then voted on before a bill goes to President Obama to sign.
- We do **NOT** have a new immigration law and no application process for getting legal status in the U.S. Be careful of advertised services for immigration relief. **If and when** there is a new law, first seek a trusted nonprofit organization to receive advice and help.
- To prepare in case immigration reform does become law, **start gathering your documents to show that you have been in the U.S. since at least December 2011**, the proposed cut-off date for legalization in the Senate bill. **DO NOT LEAVE THE U.S.** or you may lose the opportunity to legalize.

## Know Your Rights and Take Action!

We must urge our Representatives in the House to introduce and pass its own immigration reform bill.

**Call (866) 940-2439 to be connected with your member of Congress.**

**You can also call the Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121 or find your Representative's contact info at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov).**

You can use this script below:

*"I support REAL immigration reform. I want Rep. \_\_\_\_\_ to call for a vote on real immigration reform for all immigrant families. Real immigration reform that includes:*

- A direct, affordable, and inclusive path to citizenship for all 11 million;
- An end to the human rights violations at the border;
- Strengthening family-based immigration by reducing the backlogs and protecting the brother/sister and adult married children categories;
- Guaranteeing immigration equality for LGBTQ families;
- Ending unjust detentions and deportations; and
- Protecting workers' rights for all workers

**If you have questions or would like assistance in applying for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or preparing family petitions to sponsor your brother, sister, adult married child, or same-sex bi-national spouse, please call:**

English: 888-349-9695  
 Chinese (需要協助嗎): 800-520-2356  
 Thai (ต้องการความช่วยเหลือ): 800-867-3126

Korean (도움이 필요하십니까): 800-867-3640  
 Vietnamese (Cần sự giúp đỡ): 800-267-7395  
 Khmer (ต้องการความช่วยเหลือ): 800-914-9583