

COMPARISON OF THE ESTIMATED NUMERICAL IMPACTS OF THE IMMIGRATION BILLS THAT COULD COME BEFORE THE SENATE

March 20, 2006

	S. 1033 McCain	S. 2454 Frist	S. ____ Specter	H.R. 4437 Sensenbrenner
TOTAL ANNUAL INCREASE IN TEMPORARY WORKER VISAS	400,000+	100,000+	500,000+	N/A
Total Annual Increase in F-4 Student/Worker Visas	N/A	Unknown	Unknown	—
Total Annual Increase in H-1B Worker Visas	N/A	100,000+	100,000+	—
<i>Increase in Annual Cap</i>	—	50,000+	50,000+	—
<i>New Exemptions from Annual Cap-adv. deg. in math/tech/eng/sci (est.)</i>	—	50,000	50,000	—
Total Annual Increase in New Guestworker Visas—H-5A/H-2C (est.)	400,000+	N/A	400,000+	—
TOTAL ONE-TIME-ONLY PERMANENT/INDEFINITE INCREASE	11,013,000	313,000	10,513,000	N/A
Total Amnesty Increase	10,700,000	N/A	10,200,000	—
<i>Total Illegal-Alien Workers</i>	7,100,000	—	6,700,000	—
<i>Total Illegal-Alien Spouses/Children</i>	3,600,000	—	3,500,000	—
Total “Unused” Family-Preference, 2001-2005 (estimated)	115,000	115,000	115,000	—
Total “Unused” Employment-Based, 2001-2005 (estimated)	195,660	195,660	195,660	—
<i>“Unused” employment-based visas</i>	90,000	90,000	90,000	—
<i>Exempt family of “unused” employ.-based visa holders</i>	105,660	105,660	105,660	—
TOTAL ANNUAL INCREASE IN PERMANENT IMMIGRANT VISAS	404,000	1,008,660	1,008,660	-50,000
Total Annual Increase in Family-Preference Visa Cap	254,000	254,000	254,000	N/A
Total Annual Increase in Employment-Based Visas	150,000	754,660	754,660	N/A

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<i>Increase in annual cap</i>	150,000	150,000	150,000	—
<i>Exempt family of 290,000 employment-based immigrants¹</i>	—	340,460	340,460	—
<i>Exempt post-secondary foreign students in math/tech/eng/science (est.²)</i>	—	200,000	200,000	—
<i>Exempt nonimmigrants w/ adv.deg. in math/tech/eng/science (est.²)</i>	—	50,000	50,000	—
<i>Exempt extraordinary ability workers (est. based on past four years' average)</i>	—	3,600	3,600	—
<i>Exempt outstanding profs/researchers (est. based on past four years' average)</i>	—	3,900	3,900	—
<i>Exempt Special Immigrants (est. based on past four years' average)</i>	—	6,700	6,700	—
Total Annual Increase in Lottery Visas	N/A	N/A	N/A	-50,000
TOTAL ANNUAL PERMANENT LEGAL IMMIGRATION = CURRENT LAW + ENACTMENT OF:³	2,500,000	2,000,000	3,100,000	950,000
TOTAL PERMANENT LEGAL IMMIGRATION OVER 10 YEARS = CURRENT LAW + ENACTMENT OF:³	25.5 MILLION	20.4 MILLION	30.6 MILLION	9.5 MILLION

Please contact Rosemary Jenks, Director of Government Relations at NumbersUSA, at (202) 543-1341 if you have questions about this chart or the accuracy of anything in it.

¹ Assumes that the ratio of workers to family members within the employment-based category remains the same as the average ratio from 2001-2004.

² Based on Department of Education data on the number of nonresident aliens attending and graduating from post-secondary math, technology, engineering, and science programs in the 2003-2004 school year.

³ Estimates do NOT account for the fact that the McCain, Frist, and Specter proposals would allow some or all of the new “temporary” workers to adjust to lawful permanent resident status. Estimates assume that:

1. “regular” legal immigration (i.e., that allowed under current law) will remain at about one million per year, despite the fact that the annual legal immigration level has been growing steadily since the 1965 Act;
2. the amnesty will be spread evenly over 10 years (following the 1986 amnesty, it took five years to legalize 2.7 million beneficiaries, so legalizing 10-11 million could take substantially longer); and
3. the “unused” family- and employment-based visas will be spread evenly over five years.