

## **U.S. Senate Passes Homeland Security Appropriations Bill**

The U.S. Senate has passed the Fiscal Year 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, which will now move to conference for reconciliation of differences in the House and Senate versions of the bill. The Senate bill includes the following immigration-related amendments:

- Sessions Amendment, permanently reauthorizing E-Verify and mandating the use of E-Verify by federal contractors and subcontractors.
- Grassley Amendment, permitting employers enrolled in E-Verify to use the system to verify the employment authorization of an existing workforce in addition to new hires.
- Vitter Amendment, attempting to counter the Obama Administration's decision to abandon the Social Security No-Match "Safe Harbor" Rule.
- Hatch Amendment, extending the Conrad 30 and Religious Worker programs for three years, and allowing certain foreign nationals to continue their lawful status and seek citizenship after the sponsoring U.S. citizen spouse/parent/child has died.
- DeMint Amendment, requiring the completion of at least 700 miles of reinforced border fencing along the U.S.-Mexico border by December 31, 2010.

Should these amendments survive conference, they will remain part of the bill that is ultimately sent to the President for signature, at which point surviving amendments would become law as part of DHS Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2010. As always, Foster Quan will monitor legislative activity in the area of immigration law and will continue to make updates available via our firm's [website](#) and in future Immigration Updates<sup>©</sup>.