

### **The NOPA Legislative Alert**

*As a part of NOPA's mission to empower Portuguese-Americans, this Legislative Alert is sent out as pertinent developments occur in order to keep the community informed of legislative action at the national level. This objective, non-partisan report aims to educate those interested about action on Capitol Hill that may affect the Portuguese-American community at large.*

*The source for all Congressional legislation information on this report was the THOMAS system from The Library of Congress (<http://thomas.loc.gov/>). Links for each of the bills listed above direct readers to the THOMAS web page specific to the bill.*

*If you would like to download a PDF version of this alert, please visit our [website](#).*

### **Week of May 4 to 8**

#### **House of Representatives**

H.R. 2305 – The Security and Fairness Enhancement for America Act of 2009 was introduced and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on May 7. It aims to eliminate the Diversity Immigrant Visa Program which is a part of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

*NOPA will have further reporting on this bill in the future.*

#### **Senate**

S. 991 - The English Language Unity Act of 2009 was introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on May 6, and it aims to declare English as the official language of the United States. If passed, S. 991 would make English the official language to be used in all governmental functions. It would also require individuals wishing to become naturalized citizens to be able to read English well enough to understand the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the country's laws.

### **Week of May 11 to 15**

#### **House of Representatives**

H.R. 1728 - The Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act was passed in the House on May 7 and referred to the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. It aims to amend the Truth in Lending Act in order to reform practices in mortgage lending.

*NOPA will have further reporting on this bill in the future.*

H.R. 2363 - The Proud to Be an American Citizen Act was introduced and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on May 12. This bill aims to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to support oath of allegiance ceremonies (for legal immigrants becoming United States citizens) to be held around Independence Day by providing funding.

## **NOPA Legislative Alert**

**June 5, 2009**

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### **Week of May 17 to 22**

#### **House of Representatives**

H.R. 627 - The Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009 was signed by the President on May 22 and became Public Law the same day. This bill was passed with the aim to make credit card plan practices more transparent.

*NOPA will have further reporting on this bill in the future.*

#### **Senate**

S. 896 - The Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009 was signed by the President on May 20 and became Public Law the same day. This bill was passed with the aim to give homeowners greater access to mortgage credit as well as to stop foreclosures.

*NOPA will have further reporting on this bill in the future.*

### **Week of May 25 to 29**

*Congress in recess.*

### **Week of June 1 to 5**

#### **House of Representatives**

H.R. 2681 - The People Resolved to Obtain an Understanding of Democracy Act was introduced and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on June 3.

*NOPA will have further reporting on this bill in the future.*

H.R. 2709 - This bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on June 4. It aims to work towards family unity by amending the Immigration and Nationality Act.

*This bill will be included on the next Alert, as there is currently no more information.*

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