

The National Organization of Portuguese-Americans
Legislative Alert
October 6, 2009

Week of July 13 to 17

House of Representatives

H.R. 3249 - The 'Strengthen and Unite Communities with Civics Education and English Skills Act of 2009' was introduced and referred to the House Committees on Education and Labor, and Ways and Means. This bill aims to build stronger communities through expansion of English literacy, US history and civics education. Furthermore, it aims to give support to Adult English education programs in the workforce. [Click here for this bill's text.](#)

Week of July 20 to 24

No major action to report.

Week of July 27 to 31

No major action to report.

Weeks of August 3 to September 4

Senate

In session August 3 to 7, with no major action to report. Not in session remaining weeks.

House of Representatives

Not in session.

Week of September 7 to 11

Senate

S. 1023 - The 'Travel Promotion Act of 2009' aims to create a non-profit corporation which will "promote leisure, business, and scholarly travel to the United States." It will be led by members of the various tourism sectors. The corporation will work to serve as a source of information for foreign individuals in order to better promote travel to the United States. [Click here for the bill's text.](#)

This bill was passed in the Senate on 9/9/2009.

This bill is related to the House of Representatives' H.R. 2935, and is currently still in committee.

House of Representatives

H.R. 3546 - The 'Small Business Lending Promotion Act of 2009' was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Small Business on September 9. This bill aims to make the Community Express Program permanent.

The Community Express Program serves to give financial assistance, through loans, and technical assistance to small businesses in underserved communities. For more information on the Small Business Administration's Community Express Program, please visit [SBA's website](#). In order to find out if your community is eligible for the program, please visit the [map page](#).

Week of September 14 to 18

House of Representatives

H.R. 3604 - The 'Senior Citizenship Act of 2009' was introduced and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. This bill aims to exempt persons sixty-five or older from the naturalization requirements of understanding of the English language and the history of the United States. It also aims to allow certain individuals to take the naturalization examination in a language of their choosing. [Click here for this bill's text.](#)

Week of September 21 to 25

House of Representatives

H. Res. 775 - "A resolution expressing appreciation to Portugal for accepting two detainees released from Guantanamo Bay prison; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs."

Week of September 28 to October 2

Senate

S. 1736 - This bill was introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on October 1. It aims to "provide the spouses and children of aliens who perished in the September 11 terrorist attacks an opportunity to adjust their status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence." [Click here for this bill's text.](#)
Recently introduced legislation may take several days to be updated on the THOMAS system.

House of Representatives

H.R. 3687 - This bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on October 1. It aims to eliminate the diversity immigrant program by amending the Immigration and Nationality Act. This bill would also award those visas to other working immigrants currently studying for an advanced degree in the United States. [Click here for this bill's text.](#)

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.

You will find a PDF file of this and other alerts at our [website](#). If you have any questions about this or other legislation, please contact paulo.araujo@nopa-us.org.