

# Starter

NEWS, NOTES AND QUOTES



## //THE LAW

# BORDER PATROL

## SENATE PASSES IMMIGRATION REFORM

BY BETH GERACI // Senior Editor

➔ The U.S. Senate on June 27 passed bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform that would, if signed into law, have a major impact on labor in the golf industry.

In a 68-32 vote led by Sens. John McCain, Chuck Schumer and other senators in the so-called "Gang of 8," the Senate passed groundbreaking legislation that would create a path to citizenship for the 11 million people living in the United States illegally.

In addition to increasing security at the U.S.-Mexico border, the legislation would create a mandatory E-verify system, make minor changes to the H-2B worker visa program, which the golf industry depends on for seasonal help, and more.

Those changes to H-2B would make returning H-2B workers exempt from the program's 66,000 annual cap through 2018, change the way H-2B worker wages are calculated and require employers to pay worker transportation costs.

The act also would create a new year-round "W-visa" program geared toward low-skilled foreign temporary workers and allow their spouses and

children to work in the United States for the same temporary period.

However, it appears highly unlikely that the legislation ever will reach President Obama's desk for a signature.

Republican leaders in the House have been slow to entertain immigration reform and have flatly refused to take up the Senate act at all, with House Speaker John Boehner telling the Washington press, "The House is not going to take up and vote on whatever the Senate passes. We're going to do our own bill, through regular order, and it'll be legislation that reflects the will of our majority and the will of the American people."



## //ONLINE LOOKING FINE

# GOLFDOM WEBSITE GETS A NEW DESIGN

We're not sure what we're more excited about, the fact that our blog has a new home, or that said home has just undergone a pretty sweet makeover.

That's right, the *Golfdom Daily*—which was just named best blog in the business by the Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association (TOCA), mind you—recently moved to the Golfdom website ([golfdom.com](http://golfdom.com)). With a brand new redesign, the website is looking better than ever, too.

Now Golfdom readers can get the same useful Web content they always have, but in one central place. And, the site features even more interactive elements to keep you engaged.

"I'm not going to say this is the greatest thing since sliced bread," said Golfdom Editor-in-Chief Seth Jones, "but given how user friendly it is, it's pretty

Check out [golfdom.com](http://golfdom.com) now to keep up with the latest news, get the scoop on what went down at the U.S. Men's and Women's Opens and see Seth's latest and greatest interviews.

## //HEADING OUT

# RICHARD KONZEM RESIGNS AS GCSAA COO

On June 19, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Chief Executive Officer Rhett Evans announced that Richard Konzem had resigned his post as the association's COO.

"I appreciate Richard's contributions to the association's operations and its members," Evans said. "We will miss him as a GCSAA team member, and wish him much success in his future endeavors."

Evans said that as is standard procedure, the position will be evaluated before any posting decisions are made.

Konzem was hired for the position in October 2011 and has a diverse background that includes fundraising and college athletics administration.