

BILL ON IMMIGRANT WORKERS DIES

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Body

Legislation to allow nearly twice as many computer-savvy foreigners and other high-skilled immigrants into the country next year apparently has died in Congress.

The House passed the compromise measure last month, 288-133, but Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, had blocked a vote when in the Senate. The proposal, backed by high-tech companies, would raise the limit of so-called H-1B visas granted each year to skilled workers from abroad. Only 65,000 visas are now granted each year; the bill would raise the annual cap to 115,500 for the next two years and to 107,500 in 2001. The ceiling would return to 65,000 in 2002.

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