

## **Senate agrees to revive bill on immigration**

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**Byline:** Kathy Kiely and David Jackson

### **Body**

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WASHINGTON -- The **Senate** will resume debating **immigration** later this month, its Democratic and Republican leaders announced Thursday.

The deal to **revive** the **bill** came after a stepped-up lobbying effort by President Bush, who met with Republican senators during a rare visit to Capitol Hill on Tuesday.

**Senate** Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., had pulled the legislation from the **Senate** schedule, saying Republicans were trying to kill it with amendments.

Reid and **Senate** Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., tentatively **agreed to** limit the number of amendments that can be offered, putting the **bill** on track for a vote on final passage before the July 4 break.

The House will begin debating **immigration** in July, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has said.

White House spokesman Scott Stanzel said administration officials "are encouraged by the announcement from **Senate** leaders."

Hours before Reid's announcement, the president pledged \$4.4 billion for border security and enforcement of employment laws in a speech to Associated Builders and Contractors.

The move was designed to win over Republican skeptics. Only seven of Bush's fellow Republicans supported the **immigration bill** in a key vote last week.

In the days since, Bush has pressured senators to support the most sweeping rewrite of the nation's **immigration** laws in more than two decades.

The **bill** would beef up security along the border, increase penalties for hiring illegal aliens, expand opportunities for foreigners to work in the USA and, for the first time, make job skills a factor in determining who may **immigrate**. The most controversial provision would give an estimated 12 million illegal immigrants a chance at citizenship.

White House spokesman Tony Snow said the funds for border security would come from fines and penalties assessed against illegal immigrants under the **bill**.

Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., a presidential candidate and **bill** critic, accused Bush of backing "amnesty fees" and the administration of stalling construction of a U.S.-Mexican border fence "until the president gets his amnesty **bill**."

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