**[National E-Verify mandate creeps toward passage](http://www.hrmorning.com/national-e-verify-mandate-creeps-toward-passage/" \o "Permanent Link: National E-Verify mandate creeps toward passage)**

November 4, 2011 by Tim Gould

Looks like Congress is moving toward passing a nationwide mandate that all employers use the E-Verify system to make sure new hires are legally eligible to work.

The House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary recently approved a bill that would mandate E-Verify use by U.S. employers for all new employees, according to a post on the [Seyfarth Shaw website](http://www.seyfarth.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/publications.publications_detail/object_id/8b761699-2a47-4079-a853-47d74c8b5a51/ImmigrationInboxNewsYouCanUse-October2011.cfm).

It’s not yet known when the bill will come before the full House for a vote.

Attorneys [Angelo A. Paparelli](http://www.lexology.com/19414/author/Angelo_A_Paparelli/), [Jason E. Burritt](http://www.lexology.com/19414/author/Jason_E_Burritt/) and [John F. Quill](http://www.lexology.com/19414/author/John_F_Quill/) reported there was extended discussion among committee members about the bill’s potential effect on agricultural workers.

Rep. Dan Lungren (R-CA) said that an E-Verify mandate would “devastate the agricultural industry,” and that the issue should be dealt with “in a practical fashion,” the attorneys said.

Nonetheless, the committee passed an amendment to the bill closing a loophole that would have exempted agricultural employers from the E-Verify requirement.

The loophole would have amounted to a “laughable de facto amnesty,” the lawyers quoted Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA) as saying.

Although the committee closed the loophole, the bill would still give agricultural employers three years to comply.