



BUDGET WEEK

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
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Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation
scheduled for the House floor

5 December 2006

Week of 4 December 2006

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

- 1) ***National Transportation Safety Board Amendments Act of 2006*** (H.R. 5076). 
This bill authorizes the appropriation of \$287 million for all National Transportation Safety Board [NTSB] activities, including its training academy, over the 2007-09 period. The Congressional Budget Office [CBO] estimates that enacting the bill will not have a significant impact on direct spending over the 2006-16 period. (Direct spending is spending not subject to annual appropriations.) H.R. 5076 provides \$2 million in new budget authority for the NTSB emergency fund, increasing total resources of the fund to \$4 million. In addition, the bill rescinds \$2 million of unobligated balances originally provided by the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act (Public Law 107-42).
- 2) ***Designating Room H-139 of the Capitol as the 'Henry J. Hyde Room'*** (H.Res. 1087). 
This resolution has no effect on the Federal budget.
- 3) ***To Extend Through December 31, 2008, the Authority of the Secretary of the Army to Accept and Expend Funds Contributed by Non-Federal Public Entities to Expedite the Processing of Permits*** (H.R. 6316). 
This bill amends the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 to extend, through 31 December 2008, the authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by nonfederal public entities to expedite the processing of permits for water projects. A formal cost estimate was not available, but enacting this bill is not expected to increase direct spending or reduce revenue.
- 4) ***To Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to Provide That the Tax Court May Review Claims for Equitable Innocent Spouse Relief and to Suspend the Running on the Period of Limitations While Such Claims are Pending*** (H.R. 6111). 
This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code to grant jurisdiction to the U.S. Tax Court to review taxpayer petitions for equitable relief from joint and several tax liability (i.e., innocent spouse relief). At the time of publication, a formal cost estimate was not available, but enacting this bill is not expected to increase direct spending or reduce revenue.
- 5) ***Southern Idaho Bureau of Reclamation Repayment Act of 2006*** (H.R. 5666). 
This bill authorizes early repayment, at any time, of obligations by any owner of land within the A&B Irrigation District in Idaho for the construction costs of District project facilities that are allocated to such land. In addition, the bill provides that, upon full payment of such costs, the parcels shall

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PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to address support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. **Also note:** Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.

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not be subject to specified ownership and full-cost pricing limitations under federal reclamation law and the Secretary shall, upon request, provide the landowner a certificate. A formal cost estimate was not available, but enacting this bill is not expected to increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

6) ***Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Designation Act*** (H.R. 5466). 

This bill amends the National Trails System Act to designate the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. The trail is a series of water routes extending approximately 3,000 miles along the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries – in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and the District of Columbia – that traces the 1607 and 1608 voyages of Captain John Smith to chart the land and waterways of the Chesapeake Bay. A formal cost estimate was not available, but enacting this bill is not expected to increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

7) ***To Provide for the Preservation of the Historic Confinement Sites Where Japanese Americans Were Detained During World War II*** (H.R. 1492). 

This bill directs the National Park Service [NPS] to provide grants to nonfederal entities to restore and preserve sites associated with the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. The grants would be used for up to 75 percent of the costs of protecting significant sites, including those to identify, acquire, and interpret them. For this purpose, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$38 million. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amount, CBO estimates that implementing the bill will cost \$38 million over the 2006-10 period. The bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

8) ***A Bill to Authorize Certain Tribes in the State of Montana to Enter Into a Lease or Other Temporary Conveyance of Water Rights to Meet the Water Needs of the Dry Prairie Rural Water Association, Inc.*** (S. 1219). 

This bill allows the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana to enter into a lease or other temporary conveyance of water rights with the Dry Prairie Rural Water Association, Inc. Because the association's water system is interconnected with that of the tribes, such an agreement would be necessary for the association to meet its water needs in accordance with the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System Act of 2000. Based on information from the Bureau of Reclamation, CBO estimates that enacting S. 1219 will have no significant effect on the Federal budget.

9) ***More Water and More Energy Act of 2006*** (H.R.5110). 

This bill directs the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation and the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, to conduct a study to identify and prevent the obstacles to increasing the extent to which produced water (water from an underground source that is brought to the surface as part of the process of exploration for or development of oil, natural gas, coal-bed methane, or any other substance to be used as an energy source) can be used for irrigation and other purposes. Additionally, the bill directs the Secretary to award grants to assist in the development of facilities to demonstrate the feasibility, effectiveness, and safety of processes to increase the extent to which produced water may be recovered and made suitable for irrigation, municipal, or industrial uses or other purposes. A formal cost estimate was not available, but enacting this bill is not expected to increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

10) ***Lowell National Historical Park Boundary Adjustment Act*** (H.R. 395). 

This bill modifies the boundary of the Lowell National Historical Park to include certain properties in the City of Lowell, Massachusetts. A formal cost estimate was not available, but enacting this bill is not expected to increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

11) ***Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006*** (S. 3711). 

The bill removes the restrictions on leasing certain areas of the Outer Continental Shelf [OCS] for oil and gas development, authorizes direct spending of certain OCS

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receipts, and offers monetary credits to firms that hold leases in certain areas. CBO estimates that enacting the bill will reduce direct spending by \$900 million over the 2008-16 period, but the estimated budgetary impact is expected to vary over time. Allowing leasing in the new areas designated by the bill will lead to the collection of bonuses, rents, and royalties, which CBO estimates will total \$1.5 billion over the 2008-16 period. Those areas will continue to generate offsetting receipts for several decades after 2016. Although the bill decreases direct spending over the first 10-year period through 2016, it is expected to substantially increase direct spending in each of the next four 10-year periods from 2016 through 2055. Pursuant to the Senate amendment, Sec. 407 of H.Con.Res. 95, the budget resolution for fiscal year 2006, this bill may increase direct spending by \$5 billion for each successive 10-year period.

12) ***To Amend Title 35, United States Code, to Allow the Director of the Patent and Trademark Office to Waive Statutory Provisions Governing Patents and Trademarks In Certain Emergencies*** 
(H.R. 4742).

This bill authorizes the Patent and Trademark Office [PTO] to waive certain requirements related to the processing and filing of patents and trademarks for applicants affected by an emergency or major disaster. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4742 will not have a significant net effect on spending subject to appropriation. Enacting the bill could affect direct spending in 2006, but CBO estimates that any such effects would not be significant. The bill does not affect revenue.

13) ***Nonprofit Athletic Organization Protection Act of 2006*** (H.R. 1176). 

This bill provides immunity to nonprofit athletic organizations such as Little League and school sports programs from liability in certain civil suits alleging harm from an act or omission of such an organization in the adoption of rules for athletic competitions or practices. CBO estimates that implementing the legislation will result in no significant costs to the Federal Government. Enacting H.R. 1176 will not affect direct spending or revenue.

14) ***To Amend Title 18, United States Code, to Prevent and Repress the Misuse of the Red Crescent Distinctive Emblem and the Third Protocol (Red Crystal) Distinctive Emblem*** 
(H.R. 6338).

This bill would create new criminal penalties and fines for the use of certain distinctive emblems. A formal cost estimate was not available, but enacting this bill could lead to a small increase in the collections of criminal fines. Due to speculative nature of fines, however, they are not considered for budget enforcement purposes.

15) ***Supporting the Goals and ideals of National High School Seniors Voter Registration Day*** 
(H.Con.Res. 73).

This resolution has no budget implications.

16) ***Expressing the Sense of the House of Representatives that Members of the House Should Actively Engage With Employers and the American Public at Large to Encourage the Hiring of Members and Former Members of the Armed Forces Who Were Wounded In Service and Are Facing a Transition to Civilian Life*** 
(H.Res. 1070).

This resolution has no budget implications.

17) ***Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act of 2006*** (H.R. 6099). 

This bill amends the Public Health Service Act to require an abortion provider who knowingly performs an abortion of a pain-capable unborn child to inform the mother of an unborn child about the option of having pain-reducing drugs administered directly to the child and obtain the woman's signature on the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Decision Form. The bill establishes civil penalties for willfully failing to comply with this Act. A formal cost estimate was not available, but enacting this bill is not expected to increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

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18) **To Amend Title 38, United States Code, to Extend Certain Provisions of Law Administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to Expand Eligibility for the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program.** 

Legislative text of this measure was not available. This bill is expected to lead to a small increase in direct spending in 2007 and an increase of \$1 million over the 2007-11 period. Enacting the bill is expected to cause the Committee on Veterans Affairs to exceed its committee allocation by small amounts in the first year (fiscal year 2007) of the current budget resolution, H.Con.Res. 376, and over the 5-year period (fiscal years 2007-11).

19) **A Bill to Designate the Facility of the United States Postal Service Located at 6110 East 51st Place in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the 'Dewey F. Bartlett Post Office'** (S. 1820). 

This bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

20) **Naval Vessels Transfer Act of 2006** (S. 3722). 

This bill authorizes the transfer of 10 naval vessels to foreign countries, five by grant and five by sale. In each case, the bill identifies the vessel, the type of transfer, and the recipient country. The authority to transfer the vessels would expire 2 years after enactment. CBO estimates the specified sales would increase offsetting receipts by \$60 million over the 2007-08 period. (Asset sale receipts are a credit against direct spending.)

21) **Democratic Republic of the Congo Relief, Security, and Democracy Promotion Act of 2006** (S. 2125). 

This bill authorizes the appropriation of \$52 million for each of fiscal years 2006 and 2007 to provide assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The act also directs the Department of State to request increased funding for the Democratic Republic of the Congo in its annual budget requests through fiscal year 2009. CBO assumes that S. 2125 will be enacted near the beginning of fiscal year 2007, and that the authorized amounts for 2007 will be appropriated. (CBO does not expect funds to be appropriated for this purpose in 2006.) CBO estimates that implementing the act will cost about \$10 million in 2007 and about \$50 million over the 2007-11 period, assuming appropriation of necessary amounts. Enacting the legislation will not affect direct spending or receipts.

22) **Condemning the Decision by the City of St. Denis, France, to Name a Street In Honor of Mumia Abu-Jamal, the Convicted Murderer of Philadelphia Police Officer Danny Faulkner** (H.Res. 1082). 

This resolution has no effect on the Federal budget.