

BUDGET WEEK

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
Majority Caucus

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Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation
scheduled for the House floor

6 November 2001

Week of 6 November 2001

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

1) **Patent and Trademark Office Authorization Act of 2002** (H.R. 2047). 

This bill would authorize the appropriation of funds for the Patent and Trademark Office [PTO] in 2002 equal to the amount of fees collected by the agency during that year. The Congressional Budget Office [CBO] estimates that implementing the bill would not have a significant net impact on the budget over the 2002-2005 period. The bill would not affect direct spending (spending not subject to annual appropriations) or revenues.

2) **Need-Based Educational Aid Act of 2001** (H.R. 768). 

This bill amends the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 to repeal termination of an antitrust exemption for the award of need-based educational aid – thus making such exemption permanent. The bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

3) **Financial Services Antifraud Network Act of 2001** (H.R. 1408). 

This bill would require financial regulators to coordinate their computer systems to share information about fraud. Among the regulators affected would be private regulatory organizations, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the National Credit Union Administration, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Office of Thrift Supervision, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and State regulators of the banking, insurance, and securities industries. CBO estimates that this bill may cause a small increase in direct spending, largely offset by existing fees. This increase would exceed the allocations of the reporting committees (Financial Services and Judiciary), a violation of the Congressional Budget Act under section 302(f), which limits spending measures to the amount allocated to the reporting committee. (The yellow flag is intended to warn that the fees might not offset the direct spending in each fiscal year.)

4) **Radio Free Afghanistan Act of 2001** (H.R. 2998). 

This bill authorizes the appropriation of \$6 million in fiscal year 2002 and \$8 million in fiscal year 2003 for the Broadcasting Board of Governors to make grants for surrogate radio broadcasting by RFE/RL Incorporated (formerly known as Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty) to the people of Afghanistan. The bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

5) **Nathaniel R. Jones and Frank J. Battisti Federal Building and United States Courthouse Designation Act** (H.R. 852). 

This bill has no budgetary implications.

(continued on reverse side)

PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to express 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.

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the House Committee on the Budget. It has not been approved by the full committee and may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

Bill: *Gerald B.H. Solomon Freedom Consolidation Act of 2001* (H.R. 3167). 

Committee: International Relations

Summary: This bill endorses a further enlargement of the NATO Alliance as articulated by President George W. Bush on 15 June 2001, and by former President William J. Clinton on 22 October 1996. It provides for the authorization of Foreign Military Financing for countries designated under the NATO Participation Act of 1994.

Budget Act: This bill does not create new budget authority. Enacting this legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues. It does not reduce revenue and it would not create or expand entitlements in the current fiscal year. This legislation would not be subject to points of order under the Congressional Budget Act.

[Note: A number of Conference Reports on Appropriations Acts may be considered before the end of the week, though none is currently scheduled.]

ON THE HORIZON

Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2002

Though the House Appropriations Committee marked up the Department of Defense appropriations bill on 24 October 2001, it has yet to be filed. In addition, the committee has been unable to complete a markup of an additional title concerning \$20 billion in supplemental funds. [A more extended discussion of this bill can be found in *Budget Week*, Volume 1, Number 12, dated 30 October 2001.]

Airport Security Legislation - Conference Report

During the week of 6 November 2001, the House will consider a motion to go to conference on this legislation. The House and Senate have considered similar measures (H.R. 3150, S. 1447), neither of which was subject to points of order under the Congressional Budget Act. The conference report on this measure is expected some time prior to adjournment *sine die*.