
BUDGET WEEK

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
Majority Caucus • Jim Nussle, *Chairman*

309 Cannon House Office Building
www.budget.house.gov • (202) 226-7270

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Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation
scheduled for the House floor

16 September 2002

Week of 16 September 2002

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

- 1) **Recognizing the Contributions of Historically Black Colleges and Universities** (H.Res. 523). 
This resolution has no budgetary implications.
- 2) **Expressing the Sense of Congress that the Therapeutic Technique Known as Rebirthing is a Dangerous and Harmful Practice and Should be Prohibited** (H.Con.Res. 435). 
This resolution has no budgetary implications.
- 3) **Women's Health Office Act of 2002** (H.R. 1784). 
This bill establishes Offices of Women's Health within the following agencies: the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services [HHS]; the Office of the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; the Office of the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration; and the Office of the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] estimates that implementing H.R. 1784 would cost \$27 million in budget authority in 2003 and \$144 million over the 2003-2007 period. Enactment of H.R. 1784 would not increase direct spending (spending not subject to appropriation) or cause revenue to be reduced, and it would not violate the Congressional Budget Act.
- 4) **National Construction Safety Team Act** (H.R. 4687). 
This bill authorizes the National Institute of Standards and Technology in the Department of Commerce to establish National Construction Safety Teams to investigate the structural causes of building failures that result in substantial loss of life. The teams would be deployed within 48 hours of building failures and would issue public reports and recommendations. This bill was passed by the House on 12 July 2002, and subsequently was amended by the Senate. This House vote is on concurring in the Senate amendment. The bill does not increase direct spending or decrease revenue.
- 5) **Rollan D. Melton Post Office Building Designation Act** (H.R. 4102). 
This bill has no budgetary implications.
- 6) **Joseph D. Early Post Office Building Designation Act** (H.R. 5333). 
This bill has no budgetary implications.

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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. **Note:** Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.

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:** *Consumer Rental Purchase Agreement Act* (H.R. 1701). 
- Committee:** Financial Services, Judiciary
- Summary:** H.R. 1701 imposes several restrictions on "rent-to-own" transactions, in which a consumer rents an item for a short time and retains the option to buy the item at the end of the rental period. For example, sellers are required to disclose certain information about the terms of rent-to-own contracts and are prohibited from assessing most fees for such contracts.
Regulations to implement this bill would be developed by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Also, the Federal Trade Commission [FTC] would enforce the bill's provisions under the authority provided by the Federal Trade Commission Act, which allows the FTC to punish violations with civil penalties. Finally, the bill creates new criminal penalties for merchants who knowingly fail to provide information to rent-to-own consumers as required under the bill.
- Cost:** According to the FTC, the agency would need to hire about five new attorneys and investigators to enforce the restrictions imposed by H.R. 1701. CBO estimates that these new hires would cost about \$650,000 a year, subject to subsequent appropriations. The regulations to implement this bill would be written by the Federal Reserve. Budgetary effects on the Federal Reserve are recorded in the budget as changes in revenues (governmental receipts). Based on information from the Federal Reserve, CBO estimates that this would reduce such revenues by less than \$500,000 a year.
- Budget Act:** The revenue loss associated with this bill would not cause revenue to be less than the level provided for by the budget resolution in force in the House (H.Con.Res. 353), and hence would not cause a violation of Section 311 of the Budget Act, which prohibits considering legislation that breaches these levels.
- Resolution:** *Expressing the Sense of the House That Congress Should Complete Action on the Personal Responsibility, Work, and Family Promotion Act of 2002.* 
- Committees:** Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, Education and the Workforce, Agriculture
- Cost:** This resolution will not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.
- Budget Act:** This resolution will not violate the Congressional Budget Act.
- Resolution:** *Expressing the Sense of the House That Congress Should Complete Action on the Permanent Death Tax Repeal of 2002.* 
- Committees:** Ways and Means
- Cost:** This resolution will not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.
- Budget Act:** This resolution will not violate the Congressional Budget Act.