



# 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

19 May 2003

Week of 19 May 2003

## SUSPENSION CALENDAR

1) ***Expressing the Sense of Congress in Support of Buckle Up America Week*** (H.Con.Res. 166).   
This resolution has no budget implications.

2) ***James L. Watson United States Court of International Trade Building Designation Act***   
(H.R. 1018).  
This bill has no budgetary implications.

3) ***Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Orphan Drug Act and the National Organization for Rare Disorders***   
(H.Con.Res. 147).  
This resolution has no budget implications.

4) ***Armed Forces Naturalization Act of 2003*** (H.R. 1954).   
This bill gives posthumous citizenship to 10 legal permanent aliens who died in the recent conflict in Iraq. The bill sets up special procedures for parents, spouses, and children of slain soldiers to gain citizenship. Although an estimate for this bill has not been completed, it is not expected to increase direct spending – spending not subject to annual appropriations – or reduce revenue.

5) ***Runaway, Homeless, and Missing Children Protection Act*** (H.R. 1925).   
This bill reauthorizes the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and the Missing Children's Assistance Act through 2008. The bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

6) ***Commending the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers for Winning the 2003 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Ice Hockey Championship***   
(H.Res. 217).  
This resolution has no budget implications.

7) ***To Amend Title 38, United States Code, to Enhance Cooperation and the Sharing of Resources Between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense***   
(H.R. 1911).  
This bill creates a joint executive committee to promote inter-departmental cooperation between the Department of Veterans Affairs [VA] and the Department of Defense [DOD]. The intent is to improve the quality of all benefits received by veterans, members of the military, military retirees, and their families.

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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.*

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

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The committee is to include the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and other employees of the VA and DOD designated by the respective Secretaries. The bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

8) ***Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2003*** (H.R. 1683). 

This bill increases the amounts paid to veterans for disability compensation, and to their survivors for dependency and indemnity compensation, by the same cost-of-living adjustment payable to Social Security recipients. The increase takes effect on 1 December 2003. This increase is assumed in the budget resolution, and will not increase direct spending relative to the budget resolution.

9) ***Selected Reserve Home Loan Equity Act*** (H.R. 1257). 

This bill permanently extends the home loan benefits guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs to members of the selected reserve, and also changes the way certain fees are charged for the program. The bill reduces direct spending by \$4 million in 2004, and by the same amount over the 2004-08 period.

10) ***Veterans Health Care Cost Recovery Act of 2003*** (H.R. 1562). 

This bill permits the Department of Veterans Affairs Department to receive full reimbursement for services provided to all persons who have insurance, with the exception of service-disabled veterans who receive health care related to their service-connected conditions. Although an estimate for this bill has yet to be completed, it is not expected to increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

#### LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

**Bill:** ***Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003*** (H.R. 1904). 

**Committee:** Agriculture

**Summary:** H.R. 1904 would authorize the appropriation of \$70 million in 2004 and \$350 million over the 2004-08 period, to research and restore forests on Federal, State, and private lands. The bill authorizes the Forest Service and Department of the Interior to make grants to entities that use biomass to produce energy; to provide States with technical and financial assistance to support watershed management; to purchase conservation easements from private landowners; and to assess the health of Federal and private forests.

**Cost:** The bill establishes expedited procedures for planning and conducting certain projects to reduce the risk of wildfires on certain Federal lands managed by the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management [BLM]. By doing so, it limits some environmental assessment requirements, and shortens administrative and judicial appeals. These procedures will affect the timing of some projects that generate offsetting receipts, such as timber harvests, which the agencies plan to conduct under current law. Any resulting increase in receipts would be nominal.

**Budget Act:** The bill does not violate any provision of the Congressional Budget Act.

**Bill:** ***National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004*** (H.R. 1588). 

**Committee:** Armed Services

**Summary:** H.R. 1588 authorizes appropriations for the Department of Defense, military construction, and Atomic Energy Defense Activities, and prescribes military personnel strengths. In

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addition, the bill contains U.S. Maritime Administration authorizations, and provisions affecting civilian personnel management that received sequential referral from the Government Reform Committee.

**Cost:** H.R. 1588 would authorize appropriations totaling \$398 billion for fiscal year 2004. The bill would increase direct spending by \$51 million in 2004 and \$70 million over the 2004-08 period (less proceeds from asset sales). The bill is expected to generate \$15 million in receipts in 2004, and another \$5 million in 2005, for asset sales from the National Defense Stockpile. Offsetting receipts from asset sales are treated as a credit against direct spending. These amounts are within the Committee on Armed Services' allocation under the fiscal year 2004 budget resolution.

H.R. 1588 increases BA by \$420 million over 5 years for the Military Housing Privatization Initiative [MHPI]. Since the program's inception in 1996, CBO has treated spending in this program as an appropriated fund activity. Now, however, CBO regards loans and other obligations incurred by private contractors in the program as obligations flowing from an inherently governmental activity – giving rise to \$420 million in direct spending over the next 5 years. For 2004, the Budget Committee has adopted a transition treatment whereby CBO is directed to treat the BA increase in the traditional manner. In future years, MHPI will be regarded as a program for which an allocation of direct spending must be obtained.

**Budget Act:** The bill includes several report-related requirements that fall within the jurisdiction of the Budget Committee. This violates section 306 of the Budget Act, which prohibits the consideration of measures within the jurisdiction of the Budget Committee that have not been reported by the Budget Committee. The Chairman of the Budget Committee does not object to the inclusion of these report-related requirements, and did not seek a referral of the bill.

(Please note: The Budget Committee will publish a *Legislative Update* on the bill later this week.)

**Bill:** *United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003* (H.R. 1298). 

**Committee:** International Affairs

**Summary:** H.R. 1298 requires the President to develop a comprehensive strategy for the prevention, treatment, and monitoring of acquired immune deficiency syndrome [AIDS]. It authorizes appropriations for contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, and to various international vaccine funds. It also authorizes funding for bilateral assistance programs to prevent, treat, and monitor HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and for assistance to the families and children of persons affected by those diseases.

**Cost:** The bill authorizes the appropriation of \$3 billion a year over the 2004-08 period. It does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

**Budget Act:** This bill does not violate the Congressional Budget Act.

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**Prepared by** ..... **The Committee on the Budget**