



# 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

26 January 2004

Week of 26 January 2004

## SUSPENSION CALENDAR

1) ***To Extend the Provision of Title 39, United States Code, Under Which the United States Postal Service Is Authorized to Issue a Special Postage Stamp to Benefit Breast Cancer Research*** (H.R. 1385). 

This bill amends Federal postal law to extend, through 31 December 2005, the Postal Service's authority to issue special postage stamps to help provide funding for breast cancer research. At the time of publication, a cost estimate was not available, but the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] expects that this bill would result in a negligible effect on direct spending (spending not subject to appropriations).

2) ***Medical Devices Technical Corrections Act of 2003*** (H.R. 3493). 

This bill amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to make technical corrections relating to the amendments made by the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act of 2002, and for other purposes. At the time of publication a cost estimate was not available, but CBO does not expect this bill to increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

## LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

**Bill:** ***To Extend for 6 Months the Period for Which Chapter 12 of Title 11 of the United States Code Is Reenacted*** (S. 1920). 

**Committee:** Judiciary

**Summary:** This bill extends, for 6 months, bankruptcy procedures available to family farmers with regular incomes. Those procedures are intended to facilitate an efficient bankruptcy process. The current authorization expired on 1 January 2004.

**Cost:** A cost estimate was unavailable at the time of publication. It is expected that S. 1920 would result in a negligible loss of offsetting collections and a negligible loss of offsetting receipts due to changes in bankruptcy filing fees. Bankruptcy fees are recorded in three different places in the budget. Portions of the fees are recorded as: 1) governmental receipts (revenue); 2) offsetting collections to the appropriation for the U.S. Trustee System Fund; and 3) offsetting receipts to the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. The percentage of the fees allocated among these accounts varies by chapter. Both offsetting receipts and offsetting collections offset direct spending (spending not subject to appropriations).

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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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**Budget Act:** The bill will not cause a violation of the Congressional Budget Act. Even though the negligible loss of offsetting receipts is the equivalent of an increase in direct spending, it will not cause a breach in the allocation to the Judiciary Committee.

**Bill:** *NASA Workforce Flexibility Act of 2003 (S. 610).* 

**Committee:** Government Reform

**Summary:** This bill allows the National Aeronautics and Space Administration [NASA] to modify its personnel and workforce practices. NASA could pay higher bonuses to attract and retain individuals with special expertise, exchange personnel with industrial firms, and increase compensation or benefits for certain positions. In addition, the bill authorizes the appropriation of \$10 million a year for a new science and technology scholarship program.

**Cost:** The bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue. It does authorize the appropriation of \$80 million over the 2004-08 period.

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

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