



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

1 March 2004

Week of 1 March 2004

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

- 1) ***Honoring the life and career of the late Willie Shoemaker*** (H.Res. 439). 
This resolution has no budget implications.
- 2) ***Ben Atchley Post Office Building Designation Act*** (H.R. 3769). 
This bill neither increases direct spending – spending not subject to appropriations – nor reduces revenue.
- 3) ***Urging the Appropriate Representative of the United States to the 60th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to Introduce a Resolution Calling upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to End its Human Rights Violations in China*** (H.Res. 530). 
This resolution has no budget implications.
- 4) ***Expressing the Sympathy of the House of Representatives for the Victims of the Devastating Earthquake That Occurred on December 26, 2003, in Bam, Iran*** (H.Res. 526). 
This resolution has no budget implications.
- 5) ***Charles 'Pete' Conrad Astronomy Awards Act*** (H.R. 912). 
This bill establishes two new annual awards for amateur astronomers: one for the individual or group who identifies the brightest near-Earth asteroid; the other for the individual or group who makes the greatest contribution to the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory's catalog of such asteroids. Each award would be \$3,000, and the spending would be subject to appropriations. The program would be administered by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration [NASA]. The bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.
- 6) ***To Amend the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 to Permit Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards to Be Made to Nonprofit Organizations*** (H.R. 3389). 
This bill allows the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards to be awarded to nonprofit organizations. Currently, the National Institute of Standards and Technology grants the awards to small businesses, companies, health care providers, and education providers. The bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

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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.

7) **Copyright Royalty and Distribution Reform Act of 2003** (H.R. 1417). 

This bill changes the process used to determine royalty rates and distribution. Three full-time copyright royalty judges would replace the arbitration panels currently used. The judges would determine rates and distribution of royalties when copyright users and carriers cannot settle these matters in private negotiations. The bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

8) **Honoring the Men and Women of the Drug Enforcement Administration on the Occasion of its 30th Anniversary** (H.Res. 412). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

9) **Supporting the Goals of the Japanese American, German American, and Italian American Communities in Recognizing a National Day of Remembrance to Increase Public Awareness of the Events Surrounding the Restriction, Exclusion, and Internment of Individuals and Families During World War II** (H.Res. 56). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

Bill: **United States Patent and Trademark Fee Modernization Act of 2003** (H.R. 1561). 

Committee: Judiciary

Summary: H.R. 1561, as reported, increases the fees the Patent and Trademark Office [PTO] collects for activities related to the processing and filing of patent and trademark applications. The bill also grants the PTO permanent authority to collect and spend those fees. Under current law, the collection and spending of those fees is subject to appropriations acts.

Cost: The bill reduces direct spending by \$58 million in 2004, about \$140 million over the 2004-08 period. H.R. 1561 also reduces the future need for appropriated funds for the agency's operating expenses.

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

Bill: **Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act of 2004** (H.R. 3752). 

Committee: Science

Summary: This bill directs the Federal Aviation Administration to set guidelines for commercial human space travel. Current law regulates space travel related to business, as when companies send satellites or other items into orbit for commercial purposes. This measure extends those rules to human space travel and requires companies to obtain private insurance. The Federal Government covers damages above the maximum insurance limit. The bill allows companies to obtain experimental space travel licenses to develop new technology for humans. The bill directs a study to be conducted to assess ways the government might eliminate all of its insurance responsibilities by 2008.

Cost: The bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue. It may cause some additional discretionary spending, but those amounts are undetermined at this time, and would be subject to appropriations. These discretionary costs would occur if liability were triggered by the Federal insurance above the maximum level.

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

Prepared by **The Committee on the Budget**