



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

23 May 2005

Week of 23 May 2005

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

1) **To Exclude from Consideration as Income Certain Payments Under the National Flood Insurance Program** (H.R. 804). 

This bill alters the definitions of “income” and “resources” in determining eligibility for certain means-tested Federal programs, such as Medicaid or food stamps. Specifically, it excludes from the definitions payments made under the National Flood Insurance Program for flood mitigation. As a result, the bill increases the number of persons eligible for certain means-tested programs. The Congressional Budget Office [CBO] estimates, however, that the increase in direct spending – spending not subject to appropriations – will be less than \$500,000 annually. The bill does not affect revenue.

2) **Business Checking Freedom Act of 2005** (H.R. 1224). 

This bill allows depository institutions to pay interest on business demand deposit accounts, and allows the Federal Reserve System to pay interest on any reserve balances held on deposit at the Federal Reserve by insured depository institutions. The interest paid by the Federal Reserve to the insured institutions will reduce revenue by \$752 million over 2006-10. This will not cause revenue to fall below the level established in the budget resolution for fiscal year 2006 (H.Con.Res. 95). The bill does not affect direct spending.

3) **General Services Administration Modernization Act** (H.R. 2066).

This bill amends Federal law to establish a Federal Acquisition Service by combining the assets and services of the Federal Supply Service and the Federal Technology Service. Although CBO has not provided a cost estimate for H.R. 2066, it is not expected to affect direct spending or revenue.

4) **Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month** (H.Res. 280). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

5) **To Provide for the Conveyance of Certain Public Land in Clark County, Nevada, for Use as a Heliport** (H.R. 849). 

This bill increases offsetting receipts (a form of direct spending) that the Interior Secretary then may spend without further appropriations. As a result, CBO expects that any effect on direct spending will be negligible. H.R. 849 does not affect 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.

6) **To Revoke a Public Land Order with Respect to Certain Lands Erroneously Included in the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, California** (H.R. 1101)  

This bill increases both offsetting receipts and direct spending, but CBO expects the net effect to be negligible. The bill does not affect revenue.

7) **Angel Island Immigration Station Restoration and Preservation Act** (H.R. 606) 

This bill authorizes \$15 million, subject to appropriations, for restoring the Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco Bay, in coordination with the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation and the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

8) **Heroes Earned Retirement Opportunities Act** (H.R. 1499) 

This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code to include combat zone compensation (otherwise excludable from gross income) as earned income for purposes of calculating the tax deduction for contributions to retirement savings plans. The effect is to increase the maximum amount of retirement contributions that combat personnel may deduct. The Joint Committee on Taxation has not provided a revenue estimate for H.R. 1499, but the bill is expected to reduce revenue by a small amount, but the revenue loss will be within the limits established under the budget resolution. The bill does not affect direct spending.

9) **Recognizing the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the National Safe Boating Council for Their Efforts to Promote National Safe Boating Week** (H.Res. 243) 

This resolution has no budget implications.

10) **Welcoming His Excellency Hamid Karzai, the President of Afghanistan, on the Occasion of His Visit to the United States in May 2005 and Expressing Support for a Strong and Enduring Strategic Partnership Between the United States and Afghanistan** (H.Con.Res. 153) 

This resolution has no budget implications.

11) **Stop Counterfeiting in Manufactured Goods Act** (H.R. 32) 

This bill expands the Federal crime against trafficking in counterfeit goods or services by including penalties for those who traffic in counterfeit labels, patches, symbols, packaging, or other types of marks. The bill applies to a small number of additional offenders, so any increase in direct spending – for law enforcement, court proceedings, or prison operations – will not be significant. The bill does not violate the Congressional Budget Act.

12) **Internet Spyware (I-SPY) Prevention Act of 2005** (H.R. 744) 

This bill establishes new Federal crimes for the use of certain computer software to collect personal information or to commit a Federal criminal offense. The bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue. The bill does not violate the Congressional Budget Act.

13) **Securely Protect Yourself Against Cyber Trespass Act** (H.R. 29) 

This bill prohibits the use of computer software to collect personal information or to monitor the behavior of computer users without their consent. The bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue. The bill does not violate the Congressional Budget Act.

14) **Urging the Government of Romania to Recognize its Responsibilities to Provide Equitable, Prompt, and Fair Restitution to All Religious Communities for Property Confiscated by the Former Communist Government in Romania** (H.Res. 191) 

This resolution has no budget implications.

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15) **Honoring the Life of Sister Dorothy Stang** (H.Con.Res. 89). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

16) **Urging the Withdrawal of All Syrian Forces from Lebanon, Support for Free and Fair Democratic Elections in Lebanon, and the Development of Democratic Institutions and Safeguards to Foster Sovereign Democratic Rule in Lebanon** (H.Res. 273). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

17) **Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005** (H.R. 2520).

This bill directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to enter into one-time contracts with qualified cord blood stem cell banks to assist in the collection and maintenance of high-quality human cord blood to be made available for transplantation. (Cord blood is blood from the umbilical cord.) The bill also makes certain changes to the C.W. Bill Young cell transplantation program, and provides for the establishment of a stem cell therapeutic outcomes database. A cost estimate was not available at the time of publication. The bill could, however, increase direct spending, because it allows for the use – as direct spending – of remaining fiscal year 2004 or 2005 appropriated funds. Any increase in direct spending is expected to be less than \$20 million.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

Bill: **Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2005** (H.R. 810). 

Committee: Energy and Commerce

Summary: This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct research that uses human embryonic stem cells, regardless of the dates on which the stem cells were derived from human embryos. The bill allows research only to the extent the stem cells were derived from human embryos donated from in vitro fertilization clinics for the purpose of fertility treatment, and were in excess of the needs of the individuals seeking such treatment. Also, the stem cells are to have been produced from embryos that never would have been implanted in a woman and would otherwise be discarded. Finally, the bill allows the research only with stem cells donated by individuals with explicit written informed consent, and who have not received any financial incentives.

Cost: No cost estimate had been prepared on this measure as of the time of preparation of this *Budget Week*. It is expected, however, that any research funding for the bill will be subject to appropriations; and the measure is not expected to affect direct spending.

Budget Act: This bill is not expected to violate any provision of the Congressional Budget Act.

Bill: **Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006** (H.R. 2419). 

Committee: Appropriations

Summary: Included within this bill is budget authority for the programs of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, certain programs of the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Reclamation, the Department of Energy, the Energy Supply and Conservation program, which funds renewable energy, energy efficiency, nuclear energy, non-defense environment, safety, and health programs, and energy conservation. The bill also funds environmental management activities, Environmental Management for facilities under the

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National Nuclear Security Administration, the Yucca Mountain repository, Defense Nuclear Waste Disposal, and funding for the National Nuclear Security Administration. The bill also provides funding for certain Independent Agencies, such as the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, the Delta Regional Authority, the Denali Commission, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Inspector General, and the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board.

Cost: This bill provides \$29.7 billion in fiscal year 2006 budget authority for programs within the Energy and Water Subcommittee's jurisdiction. This is the same as the President's budget request, and \$410 million below the amount appropriated in fiscal year 2005.

Budget Act: This bill does not violate any provision of the Congressional Budget Act.
(Please see the Budget Committee's *Appropriations Update* on this measure.)

Bill: ***National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006*** (H.R. 1815). 

Committee: Armed Services

Summary: This bill authorizes appropriations for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2006. It authorizes funding for procurement; research, development, test, and evaluation; operations and maintenance; and active and reserve military personnel, including end strengths. It also sets forth provisions or requirements concerning: active and reserve military personnel, including a special pay incentive for Selected Reserve personnel and military retirement credit for certain service by National Guard members; military justice, including extension of statute of limitations for murder, rape, and child abuse offenses and the inclusion of an offense for stalking; and various other policy, organizational, management and personnel matters, including an increase in basic pay for fiscal year 2006 and an extension of certain bonus and special pay authorities.

Cost: The bill authorizes appropriations totaling \$485 billion for fiscal year 2006. It is estimated to reduce direct spending by \$2 million in fiscal year 2006, and by \$84 million over the 2006-10 period, while increasing direct spending by about \$38 million over the 2006-15 period. The effect results from the bill's modification of the phase-in of concurrent receipt of military retirement annuities.

Budget Act: Although the bill does not cause the Committee on Armed Services to breach its spending allocation for fiscal year 2006 or the period of 2006-10, it does contain a direct spending provision effective in 2010. This violates section 303 of the Congressional Budget Act, because the provision has an initial direct spending effect in a year for which a budget resolution has not yet been adopted.

Bill: ***Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006.*** 

Committee: Appropriations

Summary: This bill provides appropriations for a variety of military and veterans programs, including veterans' medical services and the Defense Health Program. It also provides for military construction, including military family housing construction and operations. The bill also provides \$1.9 billion in funding for base realignment and closure activities.

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Cost: The total amount appropriated by this measure is \$85.2 billion for fiscal year 2006. That is \$900 million above the President's request and \$5.9 billion above the fiscal year 2005 level.

Budget Act: This bill does not violate any provision of the Congressional Budget Act.
(Please see the Budget Committee's forthcoming *Appropriations Update* on this measure.)