



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

11 July 2005

Week of 11 July 2005

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

- 1) ***Condemning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the Abductions and Continued Captivity of Citizens of the Republic of Korea and Japan as Acts of Terrorism and Gross Violations of Human Rights*** (H. Con. Res. 168). 
This resolution has no budget implications.
- 2) ***Supporting the Goals and Ideals of a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan*** (H. Res. 333). 
This resolution has no budget implications.
- 3) ***Commending the State of Kuwait for Granting Women Certain Important Political Rights*** (H. Res. 343). 
This resolution has no budget implications.
- 4) ***To Exclude from Consideration as Income Certain Payments Under the National Flood Insurance Program*** (H.R. 804). 
This bill exempts payments made under the National Flood Insurance Program for flood mitigation activities from the determination of eligibility for any Federal means-tested program. The measure will slightly increase in the number of persons newly eligible for these programs; but the number is so small that any resulting increase in direct spending would be less than \$500,000 annually. Enacting the bill would not affect revenue.
- 5) ***NASA and JPL 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act*** (H.R. 68). 
This bill authorizes the U.S. Mint to issue a \$50 gold coin and a \$1 silver coin in 2008 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration [NASA] and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory [JPL]. The legislation establishes a surcharge on the sales price of \$50 for the gold coin and \$10 for the silver coin. The \$23 million in receipts raised from the surcharge is directed to the NASA Family Assistance Fund to provide financial assistance to families of deceased NASA personnel, and the Fund may spend these amounts without further appropriation. The measure will not have a significant net impact on direct spending and 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 Make Permanent the Authority of the Secretary of Commerce to Conduct the Quarterly Financial Report Program** (H.R. 2385) 

This bill makes permanent the authority for the Department of Commerce to conduct the quarterly financial report program by means of collecting and publishing economic indicators of the performance of U.S. businesses through 2015. The bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

7) **To Designate the Facility of the United States Postal Service Located at 2000 McDonough Street in Joliet, Illinois, as the "John F. Whiteside Joliet Post Office Building"** (H.R. 2113) 

This bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

8) **To designate the Facility of the United States Postal Service Located at 567 Tompkins Avenue in Staten Island, New York, as the "Vincent Palladino Post Office"** (H.R. 2183) 

This bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

9) **To Redesignate the Facility of the United States Postal Service Located at 1927 Sangamon Avenue in Springfield, Illinois, as the "J.M. Dietrich Northeast Annex"** (H.R. 2630) 

This bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

10) **Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2005** (H.R. 1220) 

This bill increases the amounts paid to veterans for disability compensation, and to survivors for dependency and indemnity compensation, by the same cost-of-living adjustment [COLA] payable to Social Security recipients. It also increases the amount of additional assistance paid to surviving spouses with dependent children under age 18 by that same COLA. In addition, the bill authorizes, subject to appropriations, \$10 million for the Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct a demonstration project to improve business practices within the Veterans Health Administration for recovering payments from third-party payers. It also authorizes the department to establish six centers to conduct Parkinson's disease research, education, and clinical activities. The bill will increase direct spending by about \$200,000 annually, due to the change in the COLA for surviving spouses with dependent children under age 18.

11) **East Asia Security Act of 2005** (H.R. 3100) 

This bill authorizes measures to deter arms transfers by foreign countries to the People's Republic of China. Though an estimate has not been prepared for this measure, it is not expected to affect direct spending or revenue.

12) **Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Conclusion of the War in the Pacific and Honoring Veterans of Both the Pacific and Atlantic Theaters of the Second World War** (H. Con. Res. 191) 

This resolution has no budget implications.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

Bill: **Occupational Safety and Health Small Business Day in Court Act of 2005**  (H.R. 739).

Committee: Education and the Workforce

Summary: This measure codifies the administrative practice of providing an exception to the Occupational Safety and Health Act's 15-day deadline for employer responses to citations made by the Occupational Safety and Health Agency. The exception applies if an

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employer' s failure to meet the deadline results from mistake, inadvertence, surprise, or excusable neglect.

Cost: This bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

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

Bill: ***Occupational Safety and Health Independent Review of OSHA Citations Act of 2005*** (H.R. 740) 

Committee: Education and the Workforce

Summary: This measure increases, from three to five, the membership of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission [OSHRC]. It also includes an individual's legal training among possible qualifications for OSHRC membership.

Cost: This bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

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

Bill: ***Occupational Safety and Health Small Employer Access to Justice Act of 2005*** (H.R. 741) 

Committee: Education and the Workforce

Summary: This bill to makes clear that decisions made by the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission [OSHRC] must be given deference by appellate courts. OSHRC is the agency for independent review of citations issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration [OSHA] against businesses for violations. It adjudicates contests of citations or penalties resulting from inspections of work places by the Occupational Safety and Health Agency. Though it is an independent Federal agency, OSHRC is the equivalent of an administrative court and its decisions may be appealed to Federal court.

Cost: This bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

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

Bill: ***Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission Efficiency Act of 2005*** (H.R. 742) 

Committee: Education and the Workforce

Summary: This measure allows employers with fewer than 100 employees and a net worth of less than \$7 million to obtain attorney fees and expenses if they prevail in an action taken by the Occupational Safety and Health Agency in administrative or court proceedings.

Cost: This bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

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

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Bill: *The Water Resources Development Act of 2005* (H.R. 2864). 

Committee: Transportation and Infrastructure

Summary: This bill authorizes the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct water resource studies and undertake specified projects and programs for flood control, inland navigation, shoreline protection, and environmental restoration. The bill also allows the Corps to complete feasibility studies for certain projects, and to convey ownership of certain Federal properties. Finally, the bill extends, terminates, or modifies existing authorizations for various water projects, and authorizes new programs to develop water resources.

Cost: H.R. 2864 increases direct spending by \$13 million in 2006 and \$22 million over 2006-10. Beginning in 2006, the Corps could spend, without further appropriation any recreation fees that it earns in excess of \$42 million a year. (Under current law, all receipts collected by the Corps from such fees are subject to annual appropriations.) This change alone will increase direct spending by \$2 million annually. Other changes – such as interest forgiveness on certain water contracts – also result in direct spending increases.

Budget Act: The budget resolution provides to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee an allocation of new budget authority totaling \$3.027 billion in 2006 and \$4.107 billion over 2006-10. This direct spending is entirely intended to accommodate the highway reauthorization bill that currently is the subject of conference negotiations. Because the highway bill has not been enacted into law, however, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee may continue to report other legislation that contains new direct spending not in excess of these amounts. Thus, H.R. 2864 does not violate section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act. Should the measure be enacted, however, a small reduction in the highway reauthorization bill might be required.

Prepared by **The Committee on the Budget**