



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

12 September 2005

Week of 12 September 2005

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

- 1) ***Sportfishing and Recreational Boating Safety Amendments Act of 2005*** (H.R.3649). 
This bill ensures that specific accounts receive previously authorized funding for sportfishing and boating safety programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund. The Congressional Budget Office [CBO] has not provided an official cost estimate for the measure, but it does not appear to affect the net level of direct spending – spending not subject to appropriations – or revenue.
- 2) ***Honoring and Memorializing the Passengers and Crew of United Airlines Flight 93*** (S.Con.Res.26). 
This resolution has no budget implications.
- 3) ***Dandini Research Park Conveyance Act*** (S.252). 
This bill directs the Department of the Interior to convey, to the Board of Regents of the University and Community College System of Nevada, approximately 467 acres of land in Washoe County, NV. The bill requires the board to reimburse the Department for any costs associated with the conveyance of the property. If the board sells the property in the future, it would also have to pay the department the net proceeds of the sale, which would then be available to the Bureau of Land Management [BLM] without further appropriation. This bill has no significant impact on direct spending, and does not affect revenue.
- 4) ***Hawaii Water Resources Act of 2005*** (S.264). 
This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to participate in three separate reclamation projects in Hawaii. It authorizes spending, subject to appropriations, of \$16 million over 2006-09. (The Federal Government will be responsible for 25 percent of the projects' total cost of \$66 million.) This bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.
- 5) ***Wind Cave National Park Boundary Revision Act of 2005*** (S.276). 
This bill authorizes the spending of \$9 million over 5 years, subject to appropriations, for the National Park Service to acquire 5,675 acres of land for addition to the Wind Cave National Park in South Dakota. The bill does not affect direct spending or 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) **Caribbean National Forest Act of 2005** (H.R.539). 

This bill designates as wilderness approximately 10,000 acres of land within the Caribbean National Forest/Luquillo Experimental Forest, in Puerto Rico. This bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

7) **To Reauthorize the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 and to Amend the Swine Reporting Provisions of That Act** (H.R.3408). 

This bill extends, through 30 September 2010, the requirement for certain meat packers to report on business activities to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The bill also expands the information to be collected for certain types of pork products. The bill does not affect direct spending, and has a negligible effect on revenue resulting from the reauthorization of civil penalties for failure to comply with the requirements.

8) **To Reauthorize the United States Grain Standards Act, to Facilitate the Official Inspection at Export Port Locations of Grain Required or Authorized to Be Inspected Under Such Act, and For Other Purposes** (H.R.3421). 

This bill reauthorizes and amends the United States Grain Standards Act. It extends through 2010 the authority to appropriate funds for certain activities of the Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration [GIPSA], an agency of the Department of Agriculture. The legislation also extends GIPSA's authority to collect and spend fees for certain grain inspection and weighing services during the same period. Although the outlays resulting from this provision affect direct spending, any additional costs will be offset by the additional fees collected (the fees are offsetting receipts, which reduce direct spending). The bill does not affect revenue.

9) **Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Rosa Louise Parks' Refusal to Give Up Her Seat on the Bus and the Subsequent Desegregation of American Society** (H.Con.Res.208). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

Bill: *Children's Safety Act of 2005* (H.R.3132).

Committee: Judiciary

Summary: This bill addresses sexual violence against children by incorporating several bills into one: the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act; the DNA Fingerprinting Act of 2005; the Prevention and Deterrence of Crimes Against Children Act of 2005; the Protection Against Sexual Exploitation of Children Act of 2005; and the Foster Child Protection Act of 2005.

Cost: An official CBO cost estimate has not been provided, but the Judiciary Committee's report accompanying H.R. 3132 indicates that the bill does not provide any new budget authority and does not reduce revenue.

Budget Act: Although an official cost estimate is not yet available, preliminary discussions and the Judiciary Committee report suggest that H.R. 3132 will not violate provisions of the Congressional Budget Act.

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Bill: *Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2005* (H.R. 889).



Committee: Transportation and Infrastructure, Homeland Security

Summary: This bill authorizes, subject to appropriations, \$7.7 billion for activities of the U.S. Coast Guard for fiscal year 2006. Of this amount, the bill authorizes \$5.7 billion to be appropriated for the operations of the Coast Guard, which includes \$2 billion for capital acquisitions, \$119 million for reserve training, and \$12 million for environmental compliance. The bill also authorizes \$4 million for a pilot program for long-range tracking of vessels using satellites, and \$625,000 for a study on how marine casualty investigations are carried out.

The bill authorizes the appropriation of about \$1 billion for Coast Guard retirement benefits in 2006, though that amount is currently included in the baseline, and hence has no budgetary impact.

The bill applies the Coast Guard's regulatory authority to certain ferries, currently not considered to be commercial vessels. This would increase, by about 25 vessels, the number of ferries to be inspected by the Coast Guard. If the Guard charges its standard published fees for these services, offsetting receipts collected by Guard would increase by about \$200,000 a year.

Cost: As noted, the bill authorizes, subject to appropriations, \$7.7 billion for activities of the United States Coast Guard. It will increase offsetting receipts, considered to be an offset against direct spending, and hence is tantamount to a reduction in spending, but by a nominal amount – less than \$200,000 per year.

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