



BUDGET WEEK

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
Jim Nussle, *Chairman*

309 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 • (202) 226-7270
Jim Bates, *Chief of Staff* • www.budget.house.gov

Volume 5, Number 3

Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation
scheduled for the House floor

14 February 2005

Week of 14 February 2005

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

- 1) ***Recognizing the Contributions of Jibreel Khazan (Ezell Blair, Jr.), David Richmond, Joseph McNeil, and Frank McCain, the "Greensboro Four," to the Civil Rights Movement*** (H.Con.Res. 24). 
This resolution has no budget implications.
- 2) ***Arther Stacey Mastrapa Post Office Building Designation Act*** (H.R. 324). 
This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.
- 3) ***Congratulating the Patriots on Winning Super Bowl XXXIX*** (H.Res. 86). 
This resolution has no budget implications.
- 4) ***Recognizing the Virginia Fire Chief's Association on the Occasion of Its 75th Anniversary and Commending the Virginia Fire Chief's Association for Sponsoring Annually the Mid-Atlantic Expo and Symposium*** (H.Res. 80). 
This resolution has no budget implications.
- 5) ***Recognizing the Historic Commitment of the U.S. to the Recovery of and Full Accounting for Americans Who Are Prisoners of War or in a Missing Status.*** 
This resolution has no budget implications.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

- Bill:** ***Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2005*** (H.R. 310). 
- Committee:** Energy and Commerce
- Summary:** This bill increases the maximum civil penalty for broadcasting obscene, indecent, or profane material. It also directs the Federal Communication Commission in any subsequent proceeding against a broadcast licensee or permittee to treat any such incident as a serious violation with respect to the renewal of a license or permit renewal.
- Cost:** Because penalties are recorded in the budget as revenue, enacting this bill would increase revenue by approximately \$1 million a year. Due to the speculative nature of

(continued on reverse side)

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.

penalties, however, they are not taken into account for purposes of enforcing the Congressional Budget Act.

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

Bill: *Class Action Fairness Act of 2005* (S. 5). 

Committee: Judiciary Committee

Summary: This bill expands the types of class action lawsuits that may be heard in Federal district courts, and specifies circumstances in which a district court must decline jurisdiction. The bill also provides guidelines for the award of attorney's fees in certain types of settlements, and retains the authority of the Supreme Court and Judicial Conference to propose and prescribe general rules of practice and procedure.

Cost: Enacting this bill would cost approximately \$7 million a year, assuming appropriation of necessary amounts. The measure does not affect direct spending – which would result from increasing the number of district judges handling these cases – because such an increase in the number of judges requires separate authorizing legislation.

Budget Act: The bill does not violate the Congressional Budget Act.