



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

20 April 2005

Week of 18 April 2005

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

1) ***Expressing the Sense of the Congress Regarding the Issuance of the 500,000th Design Patent by the United States Patent and Trademark Office*** (H.Con.Res. 53). 
This resolution has no budget implications.

2) ***Family Entertainment and Copyright Act of 2005*** (S. 167). 
This bill amends the Federal criminal code to prohibit the unauthorized use or attempted use of a video camera or similar device to transmit or make a copy of a motion picture or other copyrighted audiovisual work from a performance of such work in a movie theater. The measure also sets forth penalties for such violations. According to the Congressional Budget Office [CBO], this bill, if enacted, will not have a significant effect on revenues or direct spending.

3) ***Multidistrict Litigation Restoration Act of 2005*** (H.R. 1038). 
This bill amends the Federal judicial code to allow for the consolidation of certain lawsuits. It permits Federal judges to consolidate cases for trial if they were previously consolidated for pretrial proceedings. CBO estimates that this bill will have no significant impact on the Federal budget and will not increase direct spending or reduce receipts.

4) ***Trademark Dilution Revision Act of 2005*** (H.R. 683). 
This bill enhances a trademark owner's protections under trademark law against the use of similar marks in the market that are likely to cause dilution or confusion to consumers. It also contains definitions of certain trademark terms. According to CBO, this bill will not increase direct spending or reduce revenues.

5) ***Providing for the Appointment of Shirley Ann Jackson as a Citizen Regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution*** (H.J. Res. 19). 
This resolution has no budget implications.

6) ***Providing for the Appointment of Robert P. Kogod as a Citizen Regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution*** (H.J. Res. 20). 
This resolution has no budget implications.

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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) **To Designate the Facility of the United States Postal Service Located at 4960 West Washington Boulevard in Los Angeles, California, as the "Ray Charles Post Office Building"** 
(H.R. 504).

This bill will not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

8) **To Designate the Facility of the United States Postal Service Located at 301 South Heatherwilde Boulevard in Pflugerville, Texas, as the "Sergeant Byron W. Norwood Post Office Building"** 
(H.R. 1001).

This bill will not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

9) **Recognizing a National Week of Hope in Commemoration of the 10-Year Anniversary of the Terrorist Bombing in Oklahoma City** 
(H.Res. 184).

The resolution has no budget implications.

10) **To Designate the Facility of the United States Postal Service Located at 151 West End Street in Goliad, Texas, as the "Judge Emilio Vargas Post Office Building"** 
(H.R. 1072).

This bill directs the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to Lubbock Christian University by quitclaim deed all right of the United States to specified Federal lands in the Lincoln National Forest, New Mexico, in exchange for the conveyance of certain non-Federal land owned by the University. The bill will not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

11) **Recognizing the Contributions of Environmental Systems and the Technicians Who Install and Maintain Them to the Quality of Life of All Americans and Supporting the Goals and Ideals of National Indoor Comfort Week** 
(H.Con.Res. 130).

This resolution has no budget implications.

12) **Expressing the Condolences and Deepest Sympathies of the Congress in the Aftermath of the Recent School Shooting at Red Lake High School in Red Lake, Minnesota** 
(H.Con.Res. 126).

This resolution has no budget implications.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

Bill: ***The Energy Policy Act of 2005*** (H.R. 6). 

Committee: Energy and Commerce

Summary: This bill addresses increased oil and gas production; mandatory electricity-transmission reliability standards to prevent blackouts; clean-coal technology; funding for wind, solar, geothermal and hydroelectric power; and funding to develop hydrogen-fueled vehicles, new efficiency benchmarks for a host of household appliances. It provides tax incentives related to energy infrastructure property – such as natural gas pipelines, electricity transmission property, nuclear decommissioning, and air pollution control facilities – as well as other energy-related activities. The bill also is expected to generate receipts from leases for oil and gas drilling in a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge [ANWR]. These receipts are counted as savings, offsetting other spending.

Cost: According to an estimate by the Congressional Budget Office, the measure increases direct spending by \$1.3 billion over the 2005-09 period. As noted, it also generates receipts from oil and gas drilling in a portion of the ANWR, and these receipts are counted

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as savings. As a result, the measure would achieve net savings in direct spending of \$699 million for 2005-09, the period covered by the budget resolution currently in force.

The bill also creates a new permanent entitlement in 2016, outside the budget window, estimated to cost about \$1.75 billion a year.

The tax title of this bill is identical to legislation reported by the Committee on Ways and Means. It increases revenues by \$163 million in 2005, and reduces revenues by \$3.22 billion over the 2005-09 period.

Budget Act: Because the final version of the bill has not been reported, it is not subject to points of order under the Congressional Budget Act. If the bill were reported, its gross costs would be consistent with the budget resolution currently in force – the resolution for fiscal year 2005-09. Nevertheless, had the bill been reported, it would violate section 303 of the Budget Act in two ways. First, it provides new direct spending in a fiscal year – fiscal year 2006 – for which a budget resolution has not been adopted. Second, the bill creates a new entitlement program in 2016 – again a year for which no budget resolution has been adopted. In addition, the Ways and Means legislation – identical to the tax title of this bill – would violate section 311, because its tax reductions drop total revenues for 2005-09 further below the levels in the budget resolution in force.

Although the House has passed a budget resolution for fiscal year 2006, a conference report on the measure has not yet been completed.