



# 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  
James T. Bates, *Chief of Staff* • [www.budget.house.gov](http://www.budget.house.gov)

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Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation  
scheduled for the House floor

19 June 2006

Week of 19 June 2006

## SUSPENSION CALENDAR

- 1) **To Designate the Facility of the United States Postal Service Located at 217 Southeast 2nd Street in Dimmitt, Texas, as the "Sergeant Jacob Dan Dones Post Office"** (H.R. 5540).   
This bill does not affect direct spending – spending not subject to appropriations – or revenue.
- 2) **To Designate the Facility of the United States Postal Service Located at 6029 Broadmoor Street in Mission, Kansas, as the "Larry Winn, Jr. Post Office Building"** (H.R. 5504).   
This bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.
- 3) **To Designate the Facility of the United States Postal Service Located at 1750 16th Street South in St. Petersburg, Florida, as the "Morris W. Milton Post Office"** (H.R. 5104).   
This bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.
- 4) **Expressing the Sense of the House of Representatives that a National Youth Sports Week Should be Established** (H.Res. 826).   
This resolution has no budget implications.
- 5) **Commending the Patriot Guard Riders for Shielding Mourning Military Families from Protesters and Preserving the Memory of Fallen Service Members at Funerals** (H.Res. 731).   
This resolution has no budget implications.
- 6) **To Amend the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 to Require Data with Respect to Federal Financial Assistance to be Available for Public Access in a Searchable and User Friendly Form** (H.R. 5060).   
Although the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] has not prepared an official cost estimate for this measure, it is not expected to have a significant effect on the Federal budget and it is not expected to affect direct spending or revenue.
- 7) **Honoring the Life and Accomplishments of James Cameron** (H.Res. 867).   
This resolution has no budget implications.
- 8) **Emergency and Disaster Assistance Fraud Penalty Enhancement Act of 2005** (H.R. 4356).   
This bill establishes a new Federal crime for the commission of certain fraudulent acts relating to benefits distributed after major disasters or emergencies. Enacting the bill could lead to an increase in the

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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.

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collection of criminal fines (which are recorded in the budget as revenue). CBO estimates, however, that any such effects would not be significant due to the small number of cases likely to occur.

9) ***Honoring and Praising the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution on the 100th Anniversary of Being Granted its Congressional Charter*** (H.Con.Res. 367). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

10) ***To Require Representatives of Governments Designated as State Sponsors of Terrorism to Disclose to the Attorney General Lobbying Contacts with Legislative Branch Officials*** (H.R. 5228). 

This bill amends the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 to require representatives of governments designated by the Secretary of State as State Sponsors of Terrorism (covered foreign principals) to disclose to the Attorney General lobbying contacts with legislative branch officials. In addition, it requires the Attorney General to make such information available to the general public in an electronic format. At the time of publication, a cost estimate was not available, but enacting this bill is not expected to have a significant effect on the Federal budget.

11) ***To Amend the Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act of 1999 to Remove the Limitation for Nonimmigrant Classification for Nurses in Health Professional Shortage Areas*** (H.R. 1285). 

This bill amends the Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act of 1999 to repeal a provision limiting the nonimmigrant classification for nurses working in health professional shortage areas (currently, limited to classification petitions filed within a four-year period beginning on the date of issuance of interim or final regulations under that Act). At the time of publication, a cost estimate was not available.

12) ***Second Higher Education Extension Act of 2006*** (H.R. 5603). 

This bill extends the provisions of the Higher Education Extension Act of 2005 for 3 months – to 30 September 2006. In addition, it clarifies that the 3-month extension does not override any of the higher education provisions in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. Although CBO has not prepared an official cost estimate for this measure, CBO assumes extension of these provisions in its baseline. Therefore, the bill is not expected to affect direct spending or revenue.

13) ***Senior Independence Act of 2006*** (H.R. 5293). 

This bill reauthorizes programs under the Older Americans Act of 1965, which provides funding for services such as home and community-based support services, congregate and home-delivered meals, family caregiver support, and other services for the elderly. Authorizations for most of those programs expired at the end of fiscal year 2005, although a few of those programs are permanently authorized. Appropriations for the programs covered by this bill totaled \$1.8 billion in fiscal year 2006. CBO estimates that H.R. 5293 would increase the authorization of appropriations by \$1.7 billion in 2007 and by \$8.8 billion over 2007-11. The bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

14) ***Recognizing the Food and Drug Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services on the Occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Passage of the Food and Drugs Act for the Important Service it Provides to the Nation*** (H.Con.Res. 426). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

15) ***Health Centers Renewal Act of 2006*** (H.R. 5573). 

This bill amends the Public Health Service Act to provide additional authorizations of appropriations fiscal years 2007 through 2011 for the health centers program under section 330 of the act. A cost estimate was not available, but enacting this bill is not expected to increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

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16) ***Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2006*** (H.R. 5574). 

This bill amends the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize support for graduate medical education programs in children's hospitals. A cost estimate was not available, but enacting this bill is not expected to increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

17) ***Supporting Efforts to Increase Childhood Cancer Awareness, Treatment, and Research*** (H.Res. 323). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

### LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

**Bill:** ***Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006*** (H.R. 9) 

**Committee:** Judiciary

**Summary:** H.R. 9 reauthorizes and amends the Voting Rights Act of 1965. It extends for 25 years certain expiring provisions of the act, expands the use of Federal observers at polling sites, and authorizes the use of the American Community Survey to identify areas that may need bilingual voting assistance. In addition, H.R. 9 requires the Government Accountability Office [GAO] to report to the Congress on the implementation of a provision of the Voting Rights Act regarding the requirement for election materials in both English and an alternative language.

**Cost:** CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 9 would cost \$1 million in fiscal year 2007 and \$15 million over the 2007-11 period, subject to appropriations. Enacting the bill would have no impact on direct spending or revenue.

**Budget Act:** Enacting this bill would not violate the Congressional Budget Act.

**Bill:** ***Legislative Line Item Veto Act of 2006*** (H.R. 4890, as reported) 

**Committee:** Budget

**Summary:** This bill allows the President to identify specific spending or tax provisions that he judged to be questionable and seek their prompt reconsideration by the Congress.

The bill provides that within 45 days of the enactment of a law, the President may transmit a special message proposing to cancel any of three classes of budget provisions – an amount of discretionary budget authority, a direct spending item, or a targeted tax benefit. He can transmit up to five special messages (an exception is made for omnibus bills), and there is no limitation on combining the three classes in any given special message. For each transmittal, Congress must introduce a bill reflecting the proposed cancellations, bring that bill to the floor, and have a vote on it. Amendments or motions to strike provisions, or add provisions, are not allowed: the vote must be up or down on the entire list of proposed cancellations.

While Congress considers legislation to permanently cancel or repeal spending and tax provisions, the President may defer discretionary spending or suspend the implementation of direct spending or tax provisions. Those budget provisions may be deferred for 45 calendar days, with an option to renew a deferral for an additional 45 days. The approval bill must meet certain conditions. Primary among these is that Congress defines each cancellation that would produce budget authority or outlay savings, or would

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reduce revenue. This bill would devote any savings from the Legislative Line Item Veto Act to deficit reduction. It would accomplish this primarily by reducing the limits established in the budget resolution by the amount of any savings.

**Cost:** CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4890, by itself, would not have any significant impact on the budget. Any impact on the budget would depend on the extent of the President's use of the new cancellation procedure, and on future Congressional actions.

**Budget Act:** Enacting this bill would not violate the Congressional Budget Act.

**Bill:** *Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2007* (H.R.5631). 

**Committee:** Appropriations

**Summary:** The major programs funded by this measure are Military Personnel, Operation and Maintenance, Procurement, and Research and Development. The bill provides a 2.2-percent military pay raise as well as funding civilian pay. The bill funds the day to day operations of the Department of Defense and provides for the purchase of weapon systems, aircraft, naval vessels, and missile defense. Title IX of the bill funds the ongoing incremental costs associated with Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle.

**Cost:** The bill provides a total of \$427.315 billion in discretionary budget authority, of which \$50 billion has been designated as emergency. The total is a 5.3-percent increase from the fiscal year 2006 enacted level, excluding emergency funding.

**Budget Act:** The bill is within the 302(b) allocation to the Subcommittee on Defense, and hence does not violate the provisions of the Congressional Budget Act. It does, though, designate a total of \$50 billion for overseas contingency operations related to the global war on terrorism pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 376 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2007.