



The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of June 14, 2004

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News from Congressman Ehlers ...

EHLERS HONORED BY OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD REAGAN RESOLUTION –

As Congress prepared Wednesday to honor former President Ronald Reagan, certain measures needed to be taken, and Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers was asked to help.

For more information, please view the press release on our website:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/060904ReaganResolution.html

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2004

On Monday, the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Suspensions (25 bills):

(Bills on suspension are generally considered non-controversial and have reduced debate time, but require a two-thirds majority vote to be passed.)

- 1) H.R. 2055 - To amend Public Law 89-366 to allow for an adjustment in the number of free roaming horses permitted in Cape Lookout National Seashore**
- 2) H.R. 3378 - Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2003:** Assists in the conservation of marine turtles and the nesting habitats of marine turtles in foreign countries.
- 3) S. 1663 - To replace certain Coastal Barrier Resources System maps**
- 4) H.R. 2010 - To protect the voting rights of members of the Armed Services in elections for the Delegate representing American Samoa in the United States House of Representatives**
- 5) H.R. 4103 - African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Acceleration Act of 2004:** AGOA would be granted a 7-year extension to 2015 from its current expiration date of 2008. This would extend the duty-free treatment for all products under the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) as well as the additional 1,800 GSP products available only to AGOA-eligible countries. The bill would also grant a three-year extension to the special rule provision governing the use of third-country fabrics, which currently expires September 30, 2004.
- 6) H.J.Res. 97 - Approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003:** Extends for one year sanctions against the ruling Burmese military junta.

7) H.R. 3658 - Stroke Treatment and Ongoing Prevention Act: Amends the Public Health Service Act to strengthen education, prevention, and treatment programs to improve health outcomes for stroke patients.

8) H.Con.Res. 405 - Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the need to provide prostate cancer patients with meaningful access to information on treatment options: Resolves by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), that it is the sense of the Congress that: (1) national and community organizations and health care providers have played a commendable role in supplying information concerning the importance of screening for prostate cancer and the treatment options for patients with prostate cancer; and (2) the federal government and the states have a moral responsibility to ensure that health care providers supply prostate cancer patients with appropriate information and any other tools necessary for prostate cancer patients to receive readily understandable descriptions of the advantages, disadvantages, benefits, and risks of all medically efficacious treatments for prostate cancer, including brachytherapy, hormonal treatments, external beam radiation, chemotherapy, surgery, and watchful waiting.

9) H.R. 1811 - Family Opportunity Act of 2003: Amends title XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act to: (1) give states the option of allowing families of disabled children to purchase Medicaid coverage for them; and (2) provide for treatment of inpatient psychiatric hospital services for individuals under age 21 under waivers allowing for payment of part or all of the cost of home or community-based services.

10) H.R. XXXX - Gasoline Price Reduction Act of 2004: *Information not available at time of publication.*

11) H.R. 4322 - To provide for the establishment of the headquarters for the Department of Homeland Security in the District of Columbia, to require the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over the Nebraska Avenue Naval Complex in the District of Columbia to serve as the location for the headquarters, to facilitate the acquisition by the Department of the Navy of suitable replacement

12) H.R. 4323 - To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide rapid acquisition authority to the Secretary of Defense to respond to combat emergencies: Authorizes the Secretary of Defense to establish a streamlined acquisition process for use when combat casualties have occurred, the combatant commander has an urgent need of equipment, and delay would cause a continuation of combat fatalities. This process is to be used as a “quick start” bridge to the normal acquisition process.

13) H.Con.Res. 439 - Honoring the members of the Army Motor Transport Service that served during World War II and participated in the trucking operation known as the Red Ball Express for their service and contribution to the Allied advance following the D-Day invasion

14) H.Res. 653 - Honoring former President George Herbert Walker Bush on the occasion of his 80th birthday

15) H.Res. 668 - Congratulating the Tampa Bay Lightning for winning the 2004 National Hockey League Stanley Cup championship and for their outstanding performance during the entire 2003-2004 season

16) H.Con.Res. 260 - Recognizing and honoring the service of those who volunteer their time to participate in funeral honor guards at the interment or

memorialization of deceased veterans of the uniformed services of the United States at national cemeteries across the country

17) H.R. 4417 - To modify certain deadlines pertaining to machine-readable, tamper-resistant entry and exit documents: Amends the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002 to extend by one year the deadline for: (1) installing at all U.S. ports of entry equipment and software capable of processing machine-readable, tamper-resistant entry and exit documents and passports that contain biometric identifiers; (2) Visa Waiver Program (VWP) countries to certify that they are issuing machine-readable, tamper-resistant passports that contain biometric and document authentication identifiers comporting with specified standards; and (3) VWP participants who are issued passports on or after the new deadline to present passports that comply with such requirements.

18) H.Res. 662 - Recognizing that Flag Day originated in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin: Resolves that the House of Representatives (1) urges the people of the United States to study, reflect on, and celebrate the importance of the flag of the United States; (2) encourages the people of the United States to display the flag of the United States in accordance with the provisions of chapter 1 of title 4, United States Code; and (3) recognizes that Flag Day originated in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin.

19) H.R. 4278 - Improving Access to Assistive Technology for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2004: Amends the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (ATA) to reauthorize and revise ATA programs.

20) H.Res. 643 - Congratulating the Brigham Young University men's volleyball team for winning the 2004 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I-II men's volleyball championship

21) H.Con.Res. 62 - Expressing the sense of Congress that Katherine Dunham should be recognized for her groundbreaking achievements in dance, theater, music, and education, as well as for her work as an activist striving for racial equality throughout the world

22) H.Con.Res. 63 - Expressing the sense of Congress that Lionel Hampton should be honored for his contributions to American music

23) H.Res. 66 - Supporting responsible fatherhood and encouraging greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day: Resolves that the House of Representatives: (1) urges men to understand the level of responsibility fathering a child requires, especially in the encouragement of the moral, academic, and spiritual development of children; (2) encourages active involvement of fathers in the rearing and development of their children, including the devotion of time, energy, and resources to his children, recognizing that children need not only material support, but even more importantly, a secure and nurturing family environment; (3) urges mothers to encourage fathers to play an active role in child-rearing; (4) commends the millions of fathers who serve as wonderful, caring parents for their children; (5) calls on fathers across the Nation to use Father's Day to reconnect and rededicate themselves to their children's lives, to spend Father's Day with their children, and to express their love and support for their children; and (6) urges institutions and government entities at every level to promote public policies that encourage and support, and remove barriers to, responsible fatherhood.

24) H.R. 3504 - To amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to redesignate the American Indian Education Foundation as the National Fund for Excellence in American Indian Education

25) H.R. 4061 - Assistance for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act of 2004: Amends the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to replace the program of assistance to disadvantaged children in Asia with a program of assistance for orphans and vulnerable children in developing countries. The bill authorizes the President to provide assistance (grants, international organization contributions, or governmental assistance) for orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries for: (1) basic care, including establishment and operation of basic care centers; (2) HIV/AIDS treatment, including the training of appropriate personnel and the provision of related mental health services; (3) school food programs; (4) education and employment training assistance; and (5) protection of inheritance rights. It establishes within the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) an Office for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children, which shall carry out the programs under this act.

TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2004

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 8:30 a.m. and recess immediately to prepare the House Chamber for a Joint Meeting of Congress. The House will reconvene at 9:10 a.m. in a Joint Meeting with the Senate for the purpose of receiving His Excellency Hamid Karzai, President of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan.

H.R. 4503 - Energy Policy Act of 2004: Provides for a major restructuring and restatement of national energy policy.

H.R. 4517 - U.S. Refinery Revitalization Act of 2004: Provides incentives to increase our nation's refining capacity for gasoline, diesel fuel, home heating oil and jet fuel. The bill also streamlines the regulatory and approval processes for the restart of idle refineries or the construction of new refineries in areas of the country that: have an unemployment rate 20 percent higher than the national average and; have experienced massive layoffs in the manufacturing industry (50 people or more) or; have a closed refinery plant located in the area. The incentives require an accelerated review and approval of all regulatory approvals but do not waive or diminish any existing environmental, siting or other regulations.

H.R. 4513 - Renewable Energy Project Siting Improvement Act of 2004: Declares that, with respect to any authorization for a renewable energy project and the attendant preparation of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, a Federal agency is not required to: (1) identify alternative project locations or actions other than the proposed action and the no action alternative; or (2) analyze the environmental effects of alternative locations or actions other than those submitted by the project proponent. Requires such agency, in any such assessment or impact statement, to identify and analyze solely the environmental effects and potential mitigation measures of: (1) the proposed action; and (2) the no action alternative.

H.R. 4529 - Arctic Coastal Plain Domestic Energy Security and Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Reform Act of 2004: Provides for exploration, development, and production of oil and gas resources on the Arctic Coastal Plain of Alaska, to resolve outstanding issues relating to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, to benefit the coal miners of America.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2004 AND THE BALANCE OF THE WEEK

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. On Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m.

H.R. XXXX - Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2005: The Chairman's mark provides \$32.0 billion for operations and activities of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in fiscal year 2005, an increase of \$2.8 billion (9.4 percent) above the fiscal year 2004 enacted levels, and \$896 million (2.9 percent) above the President's request. Increases above fiscal year 2004 reflect the authority to obligate \$2.5 billion for Project Bioshield, as requested by the President. Excluding Bioshield and proposed user fees, the mark is \$1.1 billion above the fiscal year 2004 enacted levels and \$496 million above the President's request.

H.R. XXXX - Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2005: A complete summary of the bill was not available at time of publication.

H.R. 4520 - American Jobs Creation Act of 2004: Ends sanctions by repealing FSC-ETI. Compensates for lost benefits by permanently cutting corporate tax rates for domestic manufacturers, producers, farmers, and small corporations. Provides pro-growth tax incentives for manufacturers, small businesses and farmers to help create more American jobs. Enhances the competitiveness of U.S.-based companies engaged in exporting and/or manufacturing by greatly reducing double taxation. These companies receive over 90 percent of FSC-ETI benefits under current law. Allows taxpayers to deduct their State income tax or State and local sales tax (whichever is greater) in 2004 and 2005. Extends several tax provisions that expired in 2003 or are scheduled to expire in 2004, including the Research and Development (R&D) tax credit. Includes several provisions to combat fuel fraud (which have already passed the House) and many provisions from the President's budget to reduce tax avoidance, crack down on tax shelters and close tax loopholes. The bill also extends customs and IRS user fees, which are scheduled to expire this year. Repeals the government-run tobacco program and transitions to a market-based system of tobacco production.

* **Possible Motions to go to Conference**

* **Possible Motions to Instruct Conferees**

Historical Tidbits

On June 14 ...

1775 - The United States Army was founded by the Continental Congress.