



The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of July 12, 2004

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News from Congressman Ehlers ...

EHLERS MANUFACTURING BILL APPROVED BY U.S. HOUSE – In what Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers called a “victory” for small and medium-sized manufacturers, today the U.S. House of Representatives approved the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act of 2004 (H.R. 3598). Ehlers authored the legislation, which now will move to the U.S. Senate for action.

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

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/070904ManuBillHouse.html

HOUSE APPROVES EHLERS BILL TO FIGHT HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS –

As part of its Research and Development (R&D) Week agenda, the U.S. House of Representatives Wednesday approved four Science Committee bills, including legislation authored by Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers that would mitigate environmental problems that cost the economy millions of dollars annually.

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

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/070704AlgalBlooms.html

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MONDAY, JULY 12, 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 (7 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.Con.Res. 144 - Expressing the sense of Congress that Dinah Washington should be recognized for her achievements as one of the most talented vocalists in American popular music history**
- 2) **H.Res. 704 - Congratulating the California State University, Fullerton Titans baseball team for winning the 2004 NCAA Division I College World Series**
- 3) **S. 1167 - To resolve the boundary conflicts in Barry and Stone Counties in the State of Missouri**
- 4) **H.Res. 646 - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Community Health Center Week to raise**

awareness of health services provided by community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers

- 5) **H.Res. 684 - Honoring David Scott Tidmarsh, the 2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Champion**
- 6) **H.Res. 702 - Honoring former President Gerald R. Ford on the occasion of his 91st birthday and extending the best wishes of the House of Representatives to former President Ford and his family**
- 7) **H.R. 4380 - Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith Post Office Building Designation Act (Holiday, Florida)**

H.R. 4755 - Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2005:

Appropriates \$2.75 billion for FY05, equal to the FY04 level of \$2.75 billion, excluding Senate funding. The bill freezes funding at last year's level, maintains current staffing levels for all legislative branch agencies, fully funds COLA for staff and the establishment of a staff fitness facility in the Rayburn garage, and does not fund any new major construction projects through the Architect of the Capitol to allow the Architect to focus their resources on current, ongoing projects, particularly the Capitol Visitors Center.

TUESDAY, JULY 13, 2004

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for morning hour and 10 a.m. for legislative business.

H.R. 4766 - Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2005: Recommends total funding of \$83.1 billion, which is \$207 million above the Administration request, and \$3.4 billion below the fiscal year 2004 enacted level. An estimated \$66.4 billion, or nearly 80 percent, of the spending is for mandatory programs administered by the USDA. Most of the reduction in the total appropriation is attributable to improved farm commodity prices in recent years, which have contributed to a reduction in required mandatory spending for farm commodity support under the 2002 farm bill.

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, JULY 14 AND 15, 2004

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

Suspensions (14 bills):

- 1) **H.R. 3463 - SUTA Dumping Prevention Act of 2003:** Prevents fraud in the unemployment compensation system by, requiring state laws to deter employer tax rate manipulation by transferring tax rate-related unemployment experience when a business is transferred to another employer and imposing penalties upon those who violate, or advise others to violate, these laws; and authorizing State Employment Security Agencies access to nationwide information from the National Directory of New Hires to ensure that unemployment benefits are not fraudulently paid to those who have already returned to work.
- 2) **H.Res. 705 - Urging the President to resolve the disparate treatment of direct and indirect taxes presently provided by the World Trade Organization:** Resolves that the President: within 120 days after the convening of the 109th Congress, and annually thereafter, should report to Congress on progress in

- pursuing multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations to eliminate the barriers described in section 2102(b)(15) of the Trade Act of 2002; and (2) within 120 days after convening the 109th Congress, should report to Congress on: (A) proposed alternatives to the disparate treatment of direct and indirect taxes presently provided by the World Trade Organization; and (B) other proposals for redressing the tax disadvantage to United States businesses and workers, either by changes to the United States corporate income tax or by the adoption of an alternative, including: (i) assessing the impact of corporate tax rates, (ii) a system based on the principal of territoriality, and (iii) a border adjustment for exports such as is already allowed by the World Trade Organization for indirect taxes.
- 3) **H.Res. 576 - Urging the Government of the People's Republic of China to improve its protection of intellectual property rights**
 - 4) **H.R. 1587 - Viet Nam Human Rights Act of 2003:** Promotes freedom and democracy in Viet Nam. It prohibits U.S. nonhumanitarian assistance to the Government of Viet Nam (except for any program assisted in FY 2003) unless the President certifies to Congress that: (1) the Government of Viet Nam has made substantial progress toward releasing all political and religious prisoners from imprisonment, including respecting freedom of religion and the human rights of members of ethnic minority groups in the Central Highlands or elsewhere in Viet Nam; and (2) neither any official of the Government of Viet Nam nor any entity owned by such Government was complicit in a severe form of trafficking in persons (or the Government of Viet Nam took appropriate steps to end such complicity). Authorizes the President to waive such requirements if increased U.S. nonhumanitarian assistance would promote the purposes of this Act or is otherwise in the U.S. national interest.
 - 5) **H.Con.Res. 422 - Concerning the importance of the distribution of food in schools to hungry or malnourished children around the world:** expresses its grave concern about the continuing problem of hunger and the desperate need to feed hungry and malnourished children around the world; recognizes that the global distribution of food in schools to children around the world increases attendance, particularly for girls, and improves literacy rates and increases job opportunities, thereby helping to fight poverty; recognizes that education of children around the world addresses several of the root causes of international terrorism; recognizes that the world will be safer and more promising for children as a result of better school attendance; expresses its gratitude to former Senators George McGovern and Robert Dole for supporting the distribution of food in schools around the world to children and for working to eradicate hunger and poverty around the world; commends the Department of Agriculture, the Agency for International Development, the Department of State, the United Nations World Food Program, private voluntary organizations, non-governmental organizations, and cooperatives for facilitating the distribution of food in schools around the world; expresses its continued support for the distribution of food in schools around the world; supports expansion of the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program; and requests the President to work with the United Nations and its member states to expand

international contributions for the distribution of food in schools around the world.

- 6) **H.Con.Res. 462 - Reaffirming unwavering commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act:** The Taiwan Relations Act is and will continue to be United States policy to further encourage and expand these extensive commercial, cultural, and other relations between the people of the United States and the people of Taiwan during the next quarter century. Since its enactment in 1979 the Taiwan Relations Act has been instrumental in maintaining peace, security, and stability in the Taiwan Strait. When the Taiwan Relations Act was enacted, it affirmed that the decision of the United States to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China was based on the expectation that the future of Taiwan would be determined by peaceful means.
- 7) **H.Res. 688 - Commending the Government of Portugal and the Portuguese people for their long-standing friendship, stalwart leadership, and unwavering support of the United States in the effort to combat international terrorism**
- 8) **S. 2264 - Northern Uganda Crisis Response Act:** Expresses the sense of Congress that the United States should: (1) support efforts for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in northern and eastern Uganda; (2) work with the Government of Uganda and the international community to make available sufficient resources to meet the relief and development needs of the towns and cities that are supporting large numbers of displaced people; (3) urge the Government of Uganda and the international community to assume greater responsibility for the protection of civilians and economic development in regions in Uganda affected by the conflict; (4) urge the leaders and members of the Lord's Resistance Army to stop the abduction of children, and urge all armed forces in Uganda to stop the use of child soldiers, and seek the release of all individuals who have been abducted; (5) provide assistance to individuals who were abducted during the conflict, child soldiers, and other children affected by the conflict; (6) work with the Government of Uganda, other countries, and international organizations to ensure that sufficient resources and technical support are devoted to the demobilization and reintegration of rebel combatants and abductees; (7) urge the Government of Uganda to improve the professionalism of Ugandan military personnel currently stationed in northern and eastern Uganda, with an emphasis on respect for human rights and civilian protection; (8) work with the international community to assist and increase the capacity of Ugandan civil institutions to monitor the human rights situation in northern Uganda; (9) urge the Government of Uganda to permit international human rights monitors to establish a presence in northern and eastern Uganda; and (10) make clear that the relationship between Sudan and the United States cannot improve unless no credible evidence indicates that authorities of the Government of Sudan are providing support to the Lord's Resistance Army.
- 9) **H.R. 1914 - Jamestown 400th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act of 2003:** Provides for the issuance of two coins to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Jamestown: (1) a \$1 coin with a \$10 surcharge, and (2) a \$5 coin with a \$35 surcharge. The coins would be issued in calendar year 2007.

Surcharges would be used to promote the understanding of Jamestown legacies, to enhance educational programs relating to Jamestown, to improve infrastructure and archaeological research relating to Jamestown, and to conduct other programs to support the commemoration of Jamestown's 400th anniversary.

- 10) H.R. 3277 - Marine Corps 230th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act:** Directs the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue not more than 500,000 one dollar coins emblematic of the warrior ethos of the United States Marine Corps. Requires: (1) all coin sales to include a surcharge of \$10 per coin; and (2) all surcharges to be paid to the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation for construction of the Marine Corps Heritage Center.
- 11) H.R. 2768 - John Marshall Commemorative Coin Act:** Provides for the issuance of a \$1 coin with a \$10 surcharge to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Chief Justice John Marshall's birth. The coins would be issued in calendar year 2005. Surcharges would be used to support historical research about the Supreme Court and the Constitution, support fellowship programs, internships and docents at the Supreme Court, and collect and preserve related antiquities, artifacts and other historical items.
- 12) H.R. 3884 - Hipolito F. Garcia Federal Building and United States Courthouse Building Designation Act (San Antonio, Texas)**
- 13) H.R. 4056 - Commercial Aviation MANPADS Defense Act of 2004:** Encourages the President to pursue further strong international diplomatic and cooperative efforts, including bilateral and multilateral treaties, in the appropriate forum to limit the availability, transfer, and proliferation of man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS) worldwide, and then to assure the destruction of excess, obsolete, and illicit stocks of MANPADS worldwide. A Committee amendment will be incorporated reflecting an agreement with the House International Relations Committee to further clarify the types of agreements the President is encouraged to enter into with governments of foreign countries.
- 14) H.R. 4012 - To amend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999 to permanently authorize the public school and private school tuition assistance programs established under the Act**

S. 15 - Project Bioshield Act of 2004: *A summary of this bill was not available at time of publication.*

H.R. 4759 - United States-Australia Free Trade Implementation Act: Provides significant benefits for U.S. businesses and their workers. More than 99 percent of industrial goods in both the United States and Australia will become duty-free immediately. Manufactured goods currently account for 93 percent of total U.S. goods exports to Australia. The agreement includes a negative list for services with very few reservations. On agriculture, all U.S. agricultural exports to Australia will receive immediate duty-free access. About 67 percent of U.S. tariffs are immediately reduced to zero, and most remaining agriculture tariffs are phased out in three baskets: 4 years, 10 years, and 18 years. There is less liberalized treatment for imports of Australian beef and dairy, and sugar is excluded from the agreement. The agreement does not contain an investor-state dispute resolution mechanism. The agreement exempts most investments

from screening by the Australian Foreign Investment Review Board by increasing to A\$800 million the current A\$50 million threshold for review, with certain exceptions. The agreement makes some process changes to improve transparency. Specifically, Australia will establish an independent process to review determinations of product listings. The agreement establishes a Medicines Working Group to promote public health principles, and the two governments commit to work together to make innovative medical products available more quickly.

H.R. XXXX - Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2005: Provides \$19.4 billion for FY05, up from \$17.5 billion for FY04, but less than the Administration's request of \$21.4 billion.

** Possible Motions to go to Conference*

** Possible Motions to Instruct Conferees*

FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2004

On Friday, there are no votes in the House.

Historical Tidbits

On July 12 ...

1862 - The U.S. Congress authorized the Medal of Honor.

1864 - U.S. President Abraham Lincoln became the first standing president to witness a battle as Union forces repelled Jubal Early's army on the outskirts of Washington, DC.

1933 - A minimum wage of 40 cents an hour was established in the U.S.

1954 - U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed a highway modernization program, with costs to be shared by federal and state governments.

On July 13 ...

1787 - The U.S. Congress, under the Articles of Confederation, enacted the Northwest Ordinance, which established the rules for governing the Northwest Territory, for admitting new states to the Union and limiting the expansion of slavery.

2000 - The United States and Vietnam signed a major trade agreement. The pact still needed to be approved by the U.S. Congress.

On July 14 ...

1798 - The U.S. Congress passed the Sedition Act. The act made it a federal crime to write, publish, or utter false or malicious statements about the U.S. government.

On July 15 ...

1870 - Georgia became the last of the Confederate states to be readmitted to the Union.

2002 - John Walker Lindh pleaded guilty to two felonies. The crimes were supplying services to Afghanistan's former Taliban government and for carrying explosives during the commission of a felony. Lindh agreed to spend 10 years in prison for each of the charges.

On July 16 ...

1790 - The District of Columbia, or Washington, DC, was established as the permanent seat of the United States Government.

1969 - *Apollo 11* blasted off from Cape Kennedy, FL, and began the first manned mission to land on the moon.

(Information from <http://www.on-this-day.com>)