

The Ehlers e-Newsletter

Monday, October 27, 2003

Last Week in the U.S. House of Representatives

CYBER SECURITY DAY URGES COMPUTER USERS TO MAKE THEIR SECURE – In observance of National Cyber Security Day on Sunday, Oct. 26, Congressman Ehlers joined with other members of Congress in urging his constituents to take steps to make sure their computers are secure from attack, including making sure anti-virus software is up to date and ensuring their computers are safe from outside attack by installing firewalls or other measures. Congressman Ehlers' website has a link to the National Cyber Security Alliance website, which is full of tips and information about making your home computer more secure.

For more information, visit Congressman Ehlers' website (<http://www.house.gov/ehlers>), or visit the National Cyber Security Alliance website at <http://www.staysafeonline.info>.

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2003

On Monday, the House will not be in session.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2003

On Tuesday, 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 (16 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. 3232 - To reauthorize certain school lunch and child nutrition programs for fiscal year 2004:** Extends the authorization of expiring Child Nutrition programs for one year. The bill allows children of Armed Services members living in privatized military housing to continue receiving free- or reduced-price meals at school if they meet eligibility requirements; for-profit child care centers to participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program; and schools, churches, and community organizations to operate Summer Food Service Program sites. Furthermore, the bill ensures that until a child nutrition reauthorization bill is signed into law, commodity distribution to schools will be maintained at sufficient levels and that schools will have funds available to replace commodities that pose a potential health or safety risk to students.
- 2) **H.Res. 378 - Recognizing Independent 529 Plan for launching a prepaid tuition plan that will benefit our Nation's families who want to send their children to private colleges and universities.**
- 3) **H.Res. 395 - Recognizing the importance of chemistry to our everyday lives and supporting the goals and ideals of National Chemistry Week.**
- 4) **H.Con.Res. 279 - Recognizing the significance of the anniversary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science Congressional Science and Engineering Fellowship Program, and reaffirming the commitment to support the use of science in governmental decision making through such Program (Sponsored by Congressman Ehlers / Science Committee).**

- 5) **S. 926 - Federal Employee Student Loan Assistance Act:** Increases the annual and aggregate amounts that agencies can repay of a highly qualified employee's student loan. The current repayment amount for an employee is limited to \$6,000 per year and \$40,000 total. This proposal will raise the annual amount to \$10,000 and the aggregate amount to \$60,000, reflecting the increase in annual college tuition costs since enactment of the original statute in 1991. Repayment of student loans, as a recruitment and retention incentive, offsets the higher salaries offered by private industry and is a tool for restructuring the Federal civilian workforce to meet changing mission needs. Without this additional authority, the rising cost of tuition will lessen the competitive value of this recruitment and retention tool.
- 6) **H.R. 3175 - Richard D. Watkins Post Office Building Designation Act** (*Canton, Ohio*).
- 7) **H.R. 3234 - Ben R. Gerow Post Office Building Designation Act** (*Liberty, New York*).
- 8) **H.R. 2744 - David Bybee Post Office Building Designation Act** (*Moline, Illinois*).
- 9) **H.Con.Res. 291 - Expressing deep gratitude for the valor and commitment of the members of the United States Armed Forces who were deployed in Operation Restore Hope to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Somalia in 1993.**
- 10) **S. 470 - A bill to extend the authority for the construction of a memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr.**
- 11) **H.Con.Res. 268 - Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the imposition of sanctions on nations that are undermining the effectiveness of conservation and management measures for Atlantic highly migratory species, including marlin, adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and that are threatening the continued viability of United States commercial and recreational fisheries.**
- 12) **H.R. 3249 - To extend the term of the Forest Counties Payments Committee:** Through Sept. 30, 2007.
- 13) **H.R. 1616 - Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site Land Exchange Act:** Authorizes the exchange of certain lands within the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site for lands owned by the City of Atlanta, Georgia.
- 14) **H.Res. 409 - Repudiating the recent anti-Semitic sentiments expressed by Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, the outgoing prime minister of Malaysia, which makes peace in the Middle East and around the world more elusive:** Resolves that the House of Representatives: (1) thoroughly repudiates the damaging rhetoric of the outgoing prime minister of Malaysia, Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, which embodies age-old stereotypes of Jewish global domination and grotesque anti-Semitism on an international scale; (2) reaffirms the rebuke made by President George W. Bush of Dr. Mahathir and his injurious sentiments on October 20, 2003, stating that the remarks "stand squarely against what I believe"; (3) calls upon other governments and international bodies, notably the European Union, to condemn these remarks as dangerous incitement; and (4) deplors the tacit acquiescence of those national representatives in attendance at the October 2003 Organization of the Islamic

Conference as willing complicity in spreading a message of hate and incitement against Jews.

15) H.J.Res. 63 - Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003:

Authorizes and implements legislation for the amended Compacts of Free Association that the United States has renegotiated with the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) over the past two years. The United States has shared an extremely close relationship with those islands, which were U.S.-administered Trust Territories after World War II, the locale for massive U.S. nuclear tests in the 1940s and 50s, and eventually (in 1986) independent, democratic nations in a unique relationship of "Free Association" with the United States. Among other things, the Compact gave the United States control over defense matters in both countries, which stretch across 1,750,000 square miles of the Pacific.

16) H.R. 2359 - Basic Pilot Extension Act of 2003: extends for five years the operation of the pilot programs for employment eligibility verification instituted by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 and allows employers in all states to opt to participate in the basic pilot program.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2003 AND THE BALANCE OF THE WEEK

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

Suspensions (3 Bills):

- 1) H.R. 1720 - Veterans Health Care Facilities Capital Improvement Act:** Authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out major medical facility construction projects to improve, renovate, replace, update or establish patient care facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), using funds appropriated for two FYs beginning with FY 2004.
- 2) H.R. 1516 - National Cemetery Expansion Act of 2003:** Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish, not later than four years after the date of enactment, six new national cemeteries in the following areas: southeastern Pennsylvania; Birmingham, Alabama; Jacksonville, Florida; Bakersfield, California; Greenville/Columbia, South Carolina; and Sarasota, Florida.
- 3) H.R. 3365 - Fallen Patriots Tax Relief Act:** Doubles military death gratuity benefits and provides tax-free treatment of death gratuity benefits. Under current law, survivors of members of the military receive a \$6,000 death gratuity payment. H.R. 3365 increases the death gratuity payment to \$12,000. The higher payment is effective for deaths occurring after September 10, 2001. Under current law, only the first \$3,000 of death gratuity benefits is tax-free. H.R. 3365 provides that the full \$12,000 payment is tax free.

H.R. 2443 - Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2003: Authorizes appropriations for the Coast Guard and the Federal Maritime Commission in Fiscal Year 2004. The bill also makes changes to laws governing the Coast Guard, shipping, and navigation.

*** Possible Motions to go to Conference**

** Possible Motions to Instruct Conferees*

Historical Tidbits

On Oct. 27 ...

1795 - The United States and Spain signed the Treaty of San Lorenzo. The treaty is also known as “Pinckney’s Treaty.”

1962 - The Soviet Union adds to the Cuban Missile Crisis by calling for the dismantling of U.S. missile basis in Turkey. U.S. President Kennedy agreed to the new aspect of the agreement.

On Oct. 28 ...

1886 - The Statue of Liberty was dedicated in New York Harbor by U.S. President Cleveland. The statue weighs 225 tons and is 152 feet tall.

1919 - The U.S. Congress enacted the Volstead Act also known as the National Prohibition Act. Prohibition was repealed in 1933 with the passing of the 21st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

1936 - The Statue of Liberty was rededicated by U.S. President Roosevelt on its 50th anniversary.

1962 - Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev informed the U.S. that he had ordered the dismantling of Soviet missile bases in Cuba.

1983 - The U.S. vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution “deeply deploring” the ongoing U.S.-led invasion of Grenada.

1986 - The centennial of the Statue of Liberty was celebrated in New York.

On Oct. 29 ...

1940 - The first peacetime military draft began in the U.S.

1969 - The U.S. Supreme Court ordered an immediate end to all school desegregation.

1974 - U.S. President Gerald Ford signed a new law forbidding discrimination in credit applications on the basis of sex or marital status.

On Oct. 30 ...

1945 - The U.S. government announced the end of shoe rationing.

On Oct. 31 ...

1864 - Nevada became the 36th state to join the U.S.

1941 - 14 years of work was completed on Mount Rushmore. At the time the 60-foot busts of U.S. Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln were finished.

1968 - U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered a halt to all U.S. bombing of North Vietnam.

1998 - Iraq announced that it was halting all dealings with U.N. arms inspectors. The inspectors were investigating the country’s weapons of mass destruction stemming from Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

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

(Please do not respond to this e-mail. To send a message to Congressman Ehlers, please visit our website at <http://www.house.gov/ehlers> and click on "Write Your Rep.")