

**Conservative  
Action  
Team**

**Legislative Bulletin**

July 10, 2000

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The following measures may be voted on by the House on Monday, July 10:

**S. CON.RES.129-- IMPORTANCE OF AMERICAN HISTORY EDUCATION**

**Cost to the Taxpayer:** None, Sense of Congress Resolution.

**Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** No Committee report was filed, and no authority is cited in the resolution.

**Summary:** The resolution references the "growing historical illiteracy of college and university graduates" in American history and urges, among other suggestions, a curricula review and further history requirements of graduates. Specifically the resolution expresses the sense of Congress that:

- "... (2) boards of trustees and administrators at institutions of higher education in the United States should review their curricula and add requirements in United States history;
- (3) State officials responsible for higher education should review public college and university curricula in their States and promote requirements in United States history;
- (4) parents should encourage their children to select institutions of higher education with substantial history requirements and students should take courses in United States history whether required or not; and
- (5) history teachers and educators at all levels should redouble their efforts to bolster the knowledge of United States history among students of all ages and to restore the vitality of America's civic memory."

**H.R. 1787 — DESCHUTES RESOURCES CONSERVANCY REAUTHORIZATION**

**Cost to the Taxpayer:** The bill authorizes \$2 million a year from 2002 through 2006. This is double the amount currently authorized. Over five years, the bill will cost taxpayers \$10 million.

**Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations:** Yes. The Deschutes

Resources Conservancy was authorized to receive funding for five years as a pilot-program in 1996. Enactment of this legislation would expand federal involvement beyond the five-year start-up period.

**Constitutional Authority:** None cited.

**Other Information:** The Deschutes Resources Conservancy (DRC) is a product of a 1992 joint initiative between the Environmental Defense Fund and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation. The conservancy was not authorized to receive federal funds until 1997. At that time an authorization was included in the FY '97 Omnibus as a pilot program. The DRC is a private corporation chartered under Oregon law. The Board of Directors includes representatives from the Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and the Environmental Defense fund.

### **H.R. 4286 — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CAHABA RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE — BIBB COUNTY, ALABAMA**

**Cost to the Taxpayer:** The bill authorizes such sums as may be necessary for the acquisition of approximately 3,500 acres and the development, maintenance, and operation of the new refuge. The Committee on Resources estimates that land acquisition alone will cost \$4 million.

**Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations:** Yes. The bill creates a new refuge that will include a minimum of 3,500 acres. The federal government will be responsible for maintaining this land and operating it as a refuge.

**Constitutional Authority:** None cited.

### **H.R. 4442 — NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE CENTENNIAL ACT**

**Cost to the Taxpayer:** A CBO cost estimate is not available. The bill authorizes the commission to receive support for the carrying out of its functions (including employment of staff) from donations, appropriations, and administrative support of Federal departments and agencies.

**Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations:** Yes. The bill creates a new 10-member commission for the purpose of preparing to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System on March 14, 2003 and hosting a conference on the refuge system. The Commission would be terminated between March 14, 2003 and September 30, 2004. The bill also requires the Secretary of the Interior to prepare a report to Congress detailing a long-term plan to address priority operations, maintenance and construction needs.

**Constitutional Authority:** None cited.

**Other Information:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service already plans an annual National Wildlife

Refuges System Week.

## **H.R. 4132 — REAUTHORIZING THE WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTES**

**Cost to the Taxpayers:** CBO estimates that bill would cost taxpayers \$72 million over the 2001 through 2005 period, assuming appropriations of the authorized amounts. The program is currently authorized at \$9 million a year. The bill would increase the authorization gradually to \$12 million a year in FY 2004 and FY 2005.

**Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations:** No. The bill reauthorizes a program first authorized in 1984.

**Constitutional Authority:** None cited.

**Other Information:** According to a 1999 report, the 57 Water Resources Research Institutes funded under this program generated over \$14 in support for each federal dollar appropriated under this program, however, of that \$14, \$6 came from other federal programs.

## **H.RES. 415-- NATIONAL OCEAN DAY RESOLUTION**

**Cost to the Taxpayer:** None, Sense of House Resolution

**Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** No Committee report was filed, and no authority is cited in the resolution.

**Summary:** The resolution expresses the sense of the House that there should be a National Ocean Day "to recognize the significant role the ocean plays in the lives of the Nation's people, and the important role the Nation's people must play in the continued life of the ocean."

In 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the Global Forum (Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro, June 8 was declared World Oceans Day.

According to the Administration's Committee testimony 1998 was declared the International Year of the Ocean. According to other committee testimony there is currently an Ocean Week celebrated in May and June of the school year, a National Estuaries Day and a National Coast Week.

**Other Information:** The resolution references the controversial theory of global warming: "Whereas oceanic research has contributed to an understanding of global warming and the effects of the ocean on climate and weather, which inevitably impacts on safety and quality of life."

**Notable Quotable:** "Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you for your leadership and commitment to the oceans. Like me, I suspect that for you everyday is ocean day."

--Clinton Administration Deputy Assistant Administration National Ocean Service's testimony before the subcommittee on oceans, June 8, 2000.

## **H.CON.RES. 322-- VIETNAMESE AMERICANS RESOLUTION**

**Cost to the Taxpayer:** None, Sense of House Resolution

**Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** No Committee report was filed, and no authority is cited in the resolution.

**Summary:** The resolution expresses the sense that Congress

"(1) commends the Vietnamese American community for its work in seeking to bring democratic principles and practices to the people of Vietnam; and

(2) applauds the contributions of all individuals whose efforts have focused, and continue to focus, international attention on human rights violations in Vietnam."

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*The views expressed in this Legislative Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of all Members of the Conservative Action Team.*

The Conservative Action Team is a Congressional Member Organization of over 50 Republican House Members and is chaired by Representative John Shadegg (R-AZ).