



Legislative Bulletin.....May 15, 2001

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H.R. 1696— To expedite the construction of the World War II memorial in the District of Columbia. (Stump)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered under a motion to suspend the rules on Tuesday, May 15th.

Summary: The bill would require the American Battle Monuments Commission to “expeditiously proceed” with the construction of the World War II memorial on the National Mall in the District of Columbia. No specific timeframe is given. The bill also states that all of the siting requirements have been met and that all decisions regarding the design and site of the monument are final and shall not be “subject to administrative or judicial review.”

Additional Background: The World War II Memorial was authorized by Congress eight years ago. Construction has not yet begun because of a lawsuit pending from a local opposition group and because of procedural delays involving the National Capital Planning Commission, one of the agencies required to approve the Monument.

Cost to Taxpayers: This bill authorizes no new funding.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available.

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H.Res. 116— Commemorating the dedication and sacrifices of the men and women of the United States who were killed or disabled while serving as law enforcement officers. (Hefley)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered under a motion to suspend the rules on Tuesday, May 15th.

Summary: The resolution calls for the establishment of a Peace Officers Memorial Day (on May 15th) to honor law enforcement officers killed or disabled in the line of duty and for the President to issue a proclamation calling for Americans to recognize such officers.

Cost to Taxpayers: This resolution authorizes no new funding.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available.

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H.R. 1727— Fallen Hero Survivor Benefit Fairness Act (Ramstad [Thomas substitute])

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered under a motion to suspend the rules on Tuesday, May 15th.

Summary: The bill would amend the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 to extend to survivors of public safety officers (including law enforcement officers, firefighters, and rescue squad personnel) killed in the line of duty *before* December 31, 1996, the same tax benefits available to the survivors of such officers killed *after* such date. Effective in 2002, surviving spouses would therefore be able to exclude from gross income a survivor annuity received when a public safety officer is killed in the line of duty.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to the Joint Committee on Taxation, this bill would **save** taxpayers \$4 million in FY2002, \$24 million in FY2002 to FY2006, and \$46 million from FY2002 to FY2011.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available.

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H.R. 586— Fairness for Foster Care Families Act (Lewis, Ron [Thomas substitute])

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered under a motion to suspend the rules on Tuesday, May 15th.

Summary: Current law allows families who care for foster children in their homes to exclude from their gross incomes compensatory foster care payments from state or local government agencies. This bill would allow such compensatory payments to also be excluded from the families' incomes, effective in 2002, if the payments come from a *private* foster care agency licensed or certified by a state or local government. The bill would also make payments from tax-exempt agencies excludable regardless of the age of the person at the time of placement.

Cost to Taxpayers: The Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that this bill would **save** taxpayers \$18 million in FY2002, \$181 million in FY2002 to FY2006, and \$586 million in FY2002 to FY2011.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available.

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H.R. 428— Concerning the participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization (Brown, Sherrod)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered under a motion to suspend the rules on Tuesday, May 15th.

Summary: The bill would direct the Secretary of State to initiate a plan (submitted to Congress in unclassified form within two weeks of this bill's passage) to obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual summit of the World Health Assembly next month in Geneva, Switzerland. The plan would then be implemented by the U.S. delegation to Geneva.

A similar bill in the 106th Congress, H.R. 1794, passed the House by voice vote, passed the Senate by unanimous consent, and became Public Law 106-137 in December 1999.

Among the eleven "findings" in H.R. 428 are:

- "Direct and unobstructed participation in international health cooperation forums and programs is crucial for all parts of the world, especially with today's greater potential

for the cross-border spread of various infectious diseases such as HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria.”

- “Public Law 106-137 required the Secretary of State to submit a report to Congress on efforts by the executive branch to support Taiwan's participation in international organizations, in particular the WHO.”

Cost to Taxpayers: This bill authorizes no additional spending.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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The views expressed in Legislative Bulletin may not reflect the views of all Members of the Republican Study Committee.