



Legislative Bulletin.....May 31, 2012

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Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 4348 – Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2012, Part II

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Order of Business: Rep. Broun announced his intentions to offer a motion to instruct on H.R. 4348 on May 31, 2012.

Summary: The Broun motion would move that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 4348 be instructed to insist on provisions that limit funding out of the Highway Trust Fund (including the Mass Transit Account) for Federal-aid highway and transit programs to amounts that do not exceed the following levels:

- \$37,900,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.
- \$37,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2013.

These new spending levels would ensure that the Highway Trust Fund is solvent and that the highway spending does not exceed Trust Fund levels.

Additional Background: The last long-term authorization for highway, transit and safety programs was passed in 2005 and is known as the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The legislation expired Sept. 30, 2009. The federal highway programs and certain transit programs are directly funded through contract authority provided in authorizing legislation, unlike other federal programs, to which new federal funding can be provided through appropriations measures without prior authorization. The current surface transportation authorities expire June 30, 2012, and were last extended in September 2011.

To read the RSC Legislative Bulletin on H.R. 4348 as it came to the House floor, which extends programs under the Highway Trust Fund by three months (through September 30, 2012): http://rsc.jordan.house.gov/UploadedFiles/LB_041712_HR_4348.pdf.

Committee Action: A motion to instruct does not get referred to a committee.

Cost to Taxpayers: The motion itself would yield no new costs to taxpayers.

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