

Legislative Bulletin.....July 27, 2010

Contents:

H.Con.Res. 301 – Pakistan War Powers Resolution

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Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, July 27, 2010 under a closed rule. The [rule](#) provides one hour of debate.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 301 uses the War Powers Resolution of 1973 to direct the President to remove the United States Armed Forces from Pakistan:

- By no later than the end of the period of 30 days, beginning on the day on which this concurrent resolution is adopted; or
- If the President determines that it is not safe to remove the United States Armed Forces before the end of that period, by no later than December 31, 2010, or such earlier date as the President determines that the Armed Forces can safely be removed.

Additional Background: The War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93-148; November 7, 1973) states that “the constitutional powers of the President as Commander-in-Chief to introduce United States Armed Forces into hostilities, or into situations where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances, are exercised only pursuant to (1) a declaration of war, (2) specific statutory authorization, or (3) a national emergency created by attack upon the United States, its territories or possessions, or its armed forces.” Section 5(b) of the War Powers Resolution asserts that: Within sixty calendar days after a report is submitted or is required to be submitted pursuant to section 4(a)(1), whichever is earlier, the President shall terminate any use of United States Armed Forces with respect to which such report was submitted (or required to be submitted), *unless the Congress (emphasis added):*

- Does not declare war or enact a specific authorization for such use of United States Armed Forces;
- Does not extend by law such sixty-day period; or

- Is not physically able to meet as a result of an armed attack upon the United States.

To read the full text of the War Powers Resolution, visit this webpage:
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/warpower.asp

Pakistan is an ally of the United States that teamed up with the US to fight against al-Qaeda and the Taliban after September 11th. Pakistan has many terrorist groups organizing within its borders and therefore is a country of grave strategic importance to winning the war in Afghanistan. It is also important to note that the United States has a presence in Pakistan to help with civilian leadership. We do not have a combat mission in the country.

Potential Conservative Concerns: Many conservatives may be concerned that this resolution undermines the mission of the U.S. and its allies in Pakistan (and also Afghanistan) and emboldens America's enemies, who gain strength from American weaknesses, retreats, and failures. The passage of this resolution will be seen as a retreat in the eyes of the terrorist enemy in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and surrounding areas. Furthermore, the focus of Congress should be on funding our troops and passing a War Supplemental.

Some conservatives also might be concerned about the constitutionality of the War Powers Resolution. Historically, it has been controversial due to the question of whether the Resolution blurs the lines between Legislative and Executive branch authority (see Constitutional Authority section for more).

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 301 was introduced on July 22, 2010 and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. No further public action was taken.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is provided.

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO score is available.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: An earmarks/revenue benefits statement required under House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a) was not available at press time. However, the resolution contains no earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: None is cited in the legislation, and a committee report citing constitutional authority is not available. However, the War Powers Act has been surrounded with controversy regarding its constitutionality for decades. Presidents typically treat it as an overreach of congressional authority and Congress typically cites

the Necessary and Proper Clause as its constitutional authority. As stated in the War Powers Resolution of 1973: “(b) Under article I, section 8, of the Constitution, it is specifically provided that the Congress shall have the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying into execution, not only its own powers but also all other powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.”

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