RSC Republican Study Committee

REP. TOM PRICE, M.D. (R-GA), CHAIRMAN
PAUL TELLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
424 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

rsc.price.house.gov
ph (202) 226-9717 / fax (202) 226-1633

Legislative Bulletin……..……July 28, 2009

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H.R. 3325 – To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to reauthorize for 1 year the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance program and the Protection and Advocacy for the Beneficiaries of Social Security program
(*Tanner, D-TN*)

Order of Business: H.R. 3325 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, July 28, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3325 reauthorizes two federal programs, on the same terms as current law, through September 30, 2010. The two programs are:

- The **Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Program**—authorized at $23 million annually. According to the Social Security Administration (SSA), the program is intended to help "SSA beneficiaries with disabilities on job placement, benefits planning, and career development."
- The **Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security Program**—authorized at $7 million annually. According to the Social Security Administration (SSA), the program is intended to "Assist beneficiaries with disabilities in obtaining information and advice about receiving vocational rehabilitation and employment services."

Currently both programs are scheduled to expire after September 30 2009, and this legislation would provide a straight extension through September 30, 2010.

Additional Background: Both the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) program and the Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) were created in 1999 as part of Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act. The programs were originally authorized for five years, and then reauthorized for an additional five years in 2004.

Committee Action: H.R. 3325 was introduced on July 24, 2009 and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score for H.R. 3325 is unavailable. However, the legislation authorizes $30 million worth of discretionary spending in 2010.

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?: A CBO score listing any potential mandates is not available.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available.

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

RSC Staff Contact: Brad Watson, brad.watson@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9719

H.R. 1803—The Veterans Business Center Act of 2009 *(Nye, D-VA)*

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday July 28, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1803 establishes a Veterans Business Center program within the SBA to provide entrepreneurial training and counseling to veterans through one-on-one instruction. After a Veterans Business Center receives five years of initial grants of $150,000, it may receive a growth funding grant of $100,000 per year for no longer than 3 years, unless it meets performance benchmarks as established by the Administrator. The program requires a non-federal match of 50 percent of the federal funds each center. Total authorizations to carry out this section for FY2010 and FY2011 are $31,900,000.

Additional Background: H.R. 1803 was contained as a provision of H.R. 2352, which consisted of seven individual bills affecting Small Business Administration (SBA) entrepreneurship programs. This legislation passed the House on May 20, 2009, by a vote of 416 – 15.

Committee Action: On March 31, 2009, the bill was introduced and referred to the Committee on Small Business. On the same day, the subcommittee on Rural Development, Entrepreneurship and Trade held a mark-up and ordered the bill to be reported by voice vote to the full committee, which took no further subsequent public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: The combined provisions of the bill authorize a total of $31.9 million over the 2010 – 2011 period. A CBO cost estimate report is unavailable.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: Yes, the legislation creates a new program under the Small Business Administration.

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?: A committee report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. Such a report is technically not required because the bill is being considered under suspension of the rules.

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

RSC Staff Contact: Bruce F. Miller, bruce.miller@mail.house.gov, (202)-226-9720.

H.R. 1807—The Educating Entrepreneurs through Today's Technology Act (Thompson, R-PA)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, July 28, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1807 amends the Small Business Act by adding a new section to provide multilingual distance training and education to potential and existing entrepreneurs through the use of technology. Specifically, they intend to utilize on-line, satellite, video on demand and connected community based organizations to distribute and conduct distance learning related to entrepreneurship, credit management, financial literacy and federal small business development programs. Total authorizations to carry out this section for FY2010 and FY2011 are $4,000,000.

Additional Background: H.R. 1803 was contained as a provision of H.R. 2352, which consisted of seven individual bills affecting Small Business Administration (SBA) entrepreneurship programs. This legislation passed the House on May 20, 2009, by a vote of 416 – 15.

Committee Action: On March 31, 2009, the bill was introduced and referred to the Committee on Small Business. On the same day, the subcommittee on Rural Development, Entrepreneurship and Trade held a mark-up and ordered the bill to be reported by voice vote to the full committee, which took no further subsequent public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: The combined provisions of the bill authorize a total of $4 million over the 2010 – 2011 period. A CBO cost estimate report is unavailable.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: Yes, the legislation creates a new program under the Small Business Administration.

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?: A committee report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. Such a report is technically not required because the bill is being considered under suspension of the rules.

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

RSC Staff Contact: Bruce F. Miller, bruce.miller@mail.house.gov, (202)-226-9720.

S. __ - Extending the SBIR Act of 2009 *(Landrieu, D-LA)*

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, July 28, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The bill would reauthorize the Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR) through September 30, 2009 at current spending levels. The program is scheduled to expire at the end of this month.

Additional Background: Created by Congress in 1982, the SBIR program provides grants meant to aid certain small businesses grow in scope trough three phases of project development, implementation, and commercialization. The program is carried out in three hierarchical phases, with higher grant awards in the first two phases and an emphasis on commercialization assistance in the final stage. The first phase of the program involves establishing the scientific merit of the project, the second phase awards grants for businesses to complete the project and determine its commercial viability, while the third phase is comprised of applying the project commercially and obtaining funding for the project from non-government sources. The last reauthorization of the program was nine years ago.

Committee Action: None

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO cost estimate report is unavailable.

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?: A committee report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. Such a report is technically not required because the bill is being considered under suspension of the rules.

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

RSC Staff Contact: Bruce F. Miller, bruce.miller@mail.house.gov, (202)-226-9720.

H.R. 1665—Coast Guard Acquisition Reform Act of 2009
(Cummings, D-MD)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, July 28, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1665 would overhaul and place new requirements on the U.S. Coast Guard's Integrated Deepwater Program. The $25 billion program was designed to upgrade and replace dilapidated Coast Guard ships, aircraft, and equipment that is specifically designed for deepwater use. The bill would ban the use of a private sector Lead System Integrator (LSI) for the program within 180 days of enactment. The bill would provide some exceptions to this ban to allow private-sector entities already operating to continue their projects and make delivers of ordered equipment through fiscal year 2011.

The bill would require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in coordination with the LSI, to conduct a "full and open" competition in any acquisition that uses a private sector contractor. Under certain circumstances, the Secretary may forego competition if it is in the best interest of the government. The bill would prohibit the LSI from having any financial interest in a subcontractor that was selected for a contract if the subcontractor received their contract without going through a full and open competition.

The bill would require DHS to ensure that every contract is certified for procurement by the department or by an independent third party. Private contractors would be barred from certifying subcontractors and self-certification would be prohibited. In addition, H.R. 1665 would set testing and verification standards for assets that are acquired through the Deepwater program. The bill would prohibit a contract of more than $10 million from being executed until DHS certifies certain standards.

H.R. 1665 would establish the Agency Chief Acquisition Officer and require the Commandant of the Coast Guard to appoint a person to the position. This individual would be responsible for monitoring the Deepwater Program and ensuring the use of detailed performance specifications and performance based contracts. H.R. 1665 also requires DHS to alter and update the Integrated Deepwater Program's project management plan within 180 days of enactment.

Additional Background: In 1998, the Coast Guard unveiled the Integrated Deepwater Program for replacing and refurbishing aging and decrepit ships, aircraft, and other deepwater equipment (50 miles offshore). The project was initially slated to be complete in 2018 and cost an estimated $17 billion. In 2002 Integrated Coast Guard Systems (ICGS), a joint venture of Northrop Grumman and Lockheed Martin was awarded the contract as the Lead System Integrator (LSI) for the program. Since that time the costs and timetables for the program have grown. In 2005, an estimate stated that the project would be completed in 2028 and now cost $28 billion. During that same time period the GAO has released a number of reports critical of the projects handling. The 110th Congress did address this bill passing similar legislation that passed the House by a voice vote. Companion legislation was also passed in the Senate, however, conferees were not appointed.

Committee Action: On March 23, 2009, the bill was introduced and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. On April 2, 2009, the committee held a mark-up and ordered the bill to be reported by voice vote.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is provided.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that the Coast Guard "would spend less than $5 million over the next two or three years, mostly to develop life-cycle cost estimates for capital assets."

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?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there is no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: No explanation of constitutional authority is available.

RSC Staff Contact: Bruce F. Miller, bruce.miller@mail.house.gov, (202)-226-9720

H.Res. 508 - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the general aviation industry should be recognized for its contributions to the United States (Fortenberry, R-NE)

Order of Business: H.Res. 508 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, July 28, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 508 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- "Recognizes the many contributions of the general aviation industry; and
- "Encourages general aviation activities."

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- "General aviation includes all civilian flying except scheduled passenger airlines;
- "There are nearly 600,000 licensed pilots in the United States and an estimated 500,000 of these pilots fly general aviation aircraft;
- "There are 5,200 public use airports and more than 13,000 privately owned landing facilities in the United States; and

- "Only about 500 of these airports have commercial airline service, making general aviation an integral part of the transportation system that supports communities across the United States and provides essential air travel options to businesses and the public."

Committee Action: H.Res. 508 was introduced on June 4, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Subcommittee on Aviation, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

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?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

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

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576

H.R. 2093—Clean Coastal Environment and Public Health Act of 2009
(Pallone, D-NJ)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, July 21, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: Similar legislation was considered under a structured rule by the House of Representatives in the 110th Congress, however, the bill passed by a voice vote. H.R. 2093 reauthorizes the BEACH Act grant program. Authorized discretionary spending levels for the BEACH Act grant program—used by states and localities for coastal recreation water quality monitoring and notification programs—would be set at $60 million a year from 2009 to 2013, up from the previous authorized spending level of $30 million a year. Specifically, the bill would:

- Require the EPA Administrator to publish criteria for use of "rapid testing methods" to be used by states with the aim of reducing the testing period of coastal water quality from 24 hours to 2 or 3 hours;

- Require local officials to notify the EPA within 24 hours if results from a water quality sample do not meet water quality standards (a change from current law which requires such notification be given "promptly");

- Require states and local governments to post information about coastal water quality on a publicly accessible and searchable database;

- Require the EPA to carry out a study on possible revisions to the formula for distributing money under the BEACH Act grants program.

- Requires the EPA to conduct a study on the long-term impact of climate change on pollution of coastal recreation waters specifically highlighting the "necessary Federal actions to help advance the availability of information and tools to assess and mitigate these effects in order to protect public and ecosystem health."

Additional Background: The Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act of 2000, P.L. 106-284, authorized grants for coastal states under the Clean Water Act to be used for monitoring and notification programs for water quality. The legislation authorized discretionary spending for the program, subject to appropriation, at $30 million annually from 2001 to 2005.

According to a committee report based on similar legislation, the BEACH Act of 2000 "was introduced to limit and prevent human exposure to polluted coastal recreation waters (including those along the Great Lakes) by assisting States and local governments to implement beach monitoring, assessment, and public notification programs."

According to CBO, over the previous five years, the BEACH Act grants program has received an average of $10 million in appropriations. The authorization for the BEACH Act grants program lapsed at the end of 2005.

Possible Conservative Concerns: Some conservatives may be concerned with the higher authorized spending levels. H.R. 2093 would authorize the BEACH Act grant program at double the current authorized spending level.

Committee Action: On April 23, 2009, the bill was introduced and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. On June 4, 2009, the committee held a mark-up and ordered the bill to be reported by voice vote.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is provided.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, the bill authorizes $205 million over the 2010-2014 period. Additionally, "assuming the appropriation of the necessary funds, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2093 would cost $17 million in 2010 and $175 million over the 2010-2014."

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: Yes, the bill increases the annual authorized spending level for the BEACH Act Grant program from $30 million to $40 million a year.

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?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there is no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: No explanation of constitutional authority is available.

RSC Staff Contact: Bruce F. Miller, bruce.miller@mail.house.gov, (202)-226-9720

H.R. 1752— To provide that the usual day for paying salaries in or under the House of Representatives may be established by regulations of the Committee on House Administration (*Brady, D-PA*)

Order of Business: H.R. 1752 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, July 21, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. A similar bill (H.R. 5493) passed the House of Representatives by voice vote, on April 15, 2008.

Summary: H.R. 1752 would amend the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act of 2002 to authorize the Committee on House Administration to provide for the payment of salaries each month on a date other than the current payment date, as may be necessary to conform to generally accepted accounting practices.

Currently, the usual day for paying salaries in the House is the last day of each month – except when the last day of a month falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or a legal public holiday, the Chief Administrative Officer of the House pays salaries on the first weekday proceeding the last day of the month. H.R. 1752 would remove this payment requirement and begin the process of altering House employees' payment schedule. The bill would not affect Members of the House.

Committee Action: H.R. 1752 was introduced March 26, 2009, and referred to the Committee on House Administration. On June 19, 2009, a mark-up was held in Committee, and the bill was reported, as amended, by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to the CBO estimate, "…one-time costs to modify or purchase required computer systems would total about $1 million over the next two years, subject to the availability of appropriated funds."

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?: H.R. 1752 does not include any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI.

Constitutional Authority: The committee report sites article I, section 8 of the Constitution.

RSC Staff Contact: Natalie Farr, natalie.farr@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-0718

H.R. 2510 —Absentee Ballot Track, Receive, and Confirm Act (*Davis, D-CA*)

Order of Business: H.R. 2510 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, July 21, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2510 would provide grants to states that establish a tracking system for absentee mail-in-ballots. The tracking system would allow voters to check the status of their ballots on the internet or by calling an automated number. The bill "requires a program receiving funds to track ballots, confirm receipt of ballots, provide information regarding whether the ballot was counted, and if a ballot was not counted explain the reason why it was rejected." The reimbursement for such a system may not exceed $3,000 per election jurisdiction. CBO estimates there are approximately 7,000 election jurisdictions in the United States.

Background: According to Committee Report 111-169, many states are seeing an increase in absentee ballots. According to a study conducted by the Overseas Vote Foundation, over half of the surveyed military who tried to vote in 2008 received their ballots too late or were not received at all.

Committee Action: H.R. 2510 was introduced May 20, 2009, and referred to the Committee on House Administration. On June 19, 2009, the bill was reported out of committee by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost $20 million over the 2010-2014 period. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? Yes. The bill creates a new grant program.

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?: "…the Committee reports that the Absentee Ballot Track, Receive, and Confirm Act does not include any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI."

Constitutional Authority: The committee report sites Article 1, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the authority to make laws governing the time, place and manner of holding Federal elections

RSC Staff Contact: Natalie Farr, natalie.farr@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-0718

H.R. 2728— William Orton Law Library Improvement and Modernization Act (*Lofgren, D-CA*)

Order of Business: H.R. 2728 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, July 21, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2728 authorizes $3.5 million to the Librarian of Congress for maintaining and administering the operations of the Law Library. The bill provides the Law Library with a line item appropriation in order to fund the program.

The bill would also establish the William Orton Program, named after former Representative William Orton who represented Utah's 3rd District from 1991-1997. The program would support the mission of the law library through donations and in-kind support.

Committee Action: H.R. 2728 was introduced June 4, 2009, and referred to the Committee on House Administration. On June 19, 2009, the bill was reported out of Committee, as amended, by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2728 would cost $3.5 million over the 2009-2013 period.

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?: According to the committee report, "Clause 9 of House rule XXI requires committee reports on public bills and resolutions to contain an

identification of congressional `earmarks,' limited tax benefits, limited tariff benefits, and the names of requesting Members. The bill contains no such items either as introduced or as reported to the House."

Constitutional Authority: The committee report sites Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution. The committee report also cites that "Clause 1(j)(4) of House rule X charges the Committee on House Administration with jurisdiction of the Library of Congress, including management thereof."

RSC Staff Contact: Natalie Farr, natalie.farr@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-0718

H.Res. 535 - Commending the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions for calling upon all nations to live in peace and mutual understanding. *(Faleomavaega, D-AS)*

Order of Business: H.Res. 535 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, July 28, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 535 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- "Commends the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions for calling upon all nations to live in peace and mutual understanding;
- "Supports freedom of religion and conscience throughout the world as a fundamental human right and as a source of stability for all countries; and
- "Recognizes Kazakhstan for initiating the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions and for having been selected by the Secretariat to host the second and third Congress.

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- "A Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions was established in 2003;
- "The Congress is based on the premise that religion can be an important arbiter for resolving political differences and conflicts;
- "The world's major religions, including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Shinto, and Taoism are represented in the Congress;
- "Religious leaders representing more than 26 nations, including Israel, Egypt, Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Armenia, South Korea, China, India, Thailand, the United States, Switzerland, France, Japan, and the Holy See, participate in the Congress; and
- "The third Congress will be held in Astana, Kazakhstan, July 1-2, 2009."

Committee Action: H.Res. 535 was introduced on June 11, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

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?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

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

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576

H.Res. 550 - Recognizing the "Day of the African Child" on June 16, 2009, devoted to the theme of child survival and to emphasize the importance of reducing maternal, newborn, and child deaths in Africa. *(Payne, D-NJ)*

Order of Business: H.Res. 550 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, July 28, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 550 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- "Recognizes the `Day of the African Child';
- "Salutes the health professionals and community health workers on the front lines in Africa who are extending health care and hope to families across the continent; and
- "Reaffirms the importance of United States partnership with African leaders and communities in reducing child, newborn, and maternal deaths from treatable and preventable causes."

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- "The `Day of the African Child' has been celebrated on June 16 each year since 1991, when it was first initiated by the Organization of African Unity;
- "The African Union has designated child survival as the theme of the `Day of the African Child', June 16, 2009;
- "Every year in sub-Saharan Africa, 1.2 million babies die in the first month of life and roughly 1 in every 6 children fail to reach their fifth birthday, and the actual number of children under five years old dying each year is increasing;

- "The high level of maternal and child mortality and morbidity in Africa can be attributed, according to African Union Ministers of Health, to weak health systems, a low level of skilled attendance at birth, poor health infrastructure, and inadequate financial resources; and
- "Last year the G8 Summit leaders, meeting in Hokkaido, Japan, stated on July 8, 2008, `We reiterate our support to our African partners' commitment to ensure that by 2015 all children have access to basic health care (free wherever countries choose to provide this).'

Committee Action: H.Res. 550 was introduced on June 16, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

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?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

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

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576

H.Res. 496 - Recognizing the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. (Poe, R-TX)

Order of Business: H.Res. 496 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, July 28, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 496 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- "Recognizes the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall;
- "Celebrates 20 years of freedom from the bondage of communism with the people of the former communist countries; and
- "Acknowledges the symbolic triumph of democracy over communism."

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- "November 9, 2009, marks the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the symbolic end of the Cold War;
- "The last United States President to speak at the Brandenburg Gate prior to the destruction of the Berlin Wall was President Ronald Reagan, who, in June 1987, stated, `General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!';
- "Berlin, Germany, will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall with the `Festival of Freedom'; and
- "The fall of the Berlin Wall was one of the most significant events of the 20th century and symbolized the triumph of democracy over communism."

Committee Action: H.Res. 496 was introduced on June 2, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

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?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

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

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576

H.Res. 675 - Condemning the July 17, 2009, terrorist bombings in Indonesia and expressing condolences to the people of Indonesia and the various other countries suffering casualties in the attacks. *(Price, D-NC)*

Order of Business: H.Res. 675 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, July 28, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 675 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- "Condemns in the strongest terms the July 17, 2009, attacks in Jakarta and all other terrorist attacks against targets in Indonesia;

- "Supports the efforts of the Government of Indonesia to investigate and prosecute the attacks to the fullest extent of the law, and calls upon Indonesia and its neighbors to work together to combat terrorism in Southeast Asia;
- "Expresses its confidence that Indonesia remains a reliable partner in the global struggle against terrorism and a stable destination for trade, travel, and investment; and
- "Reaffirms the long-term commitment of the United States to the strengthening of democratic institutions and the promotion of peace, prosperity, and ethnic and religious tolerance in Indonesia."

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- "On July 17, 2009, 2 unidentified terrorists carried out twin suicide bombings at the J.W. Marriott and Ritz-Carlton hotels in the central business district of Jakarta, killing at least 7 people and wounding at least 50;
- "In addition to the Indonesian victims, citizens of Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore lost their lives in the attacks, and citizens of Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and the United States were injured, according to reports;
- "Indonesia is developing into a strong multiparty democracy, as demonstrated by its April 2009 parliamentary elections, in which 9 different parties won seats in the People's Representative Council (DPR) and voter turnout exceeded 60 percent, and its July 2009 presidential election, which was characterized as free and fair by preliminary reports;
- "The United States Congress has worked in support of Indonesian democracy through the Congressional Caucus on Indonesia and the House Democracy Assistance Commission, which has had a productive partnership with the DPR since 2006 and remains firmly committed to continuing this partnership."

Committee Action: H.Res. 675 was introduced on July 23, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

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?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

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

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576

H.Con.Res. 159 - Recognizing the fifth anniversary of the declaration by the United States Congress of genocide in Darfur, Sudan. (Ros-Lehtinen, R-FL)

Order of Business: H.Con.Res. 159 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, July 28, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 159 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- "Solemnly recognizes the fifth anniversary of the declaration by the United States Congress of genocide in Darfur, Sudan;
- "Regrets that this determination has yet to yield effective action on the part of the United Nations and other nations which maintain significant influence in Sudan, including China and certain members of the Arab League;
- "Urges member states of the United Nations to provide sufficient resources to support the deployment of a fully capacitated African Union/United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), including by supplying required tactical and utility helicopters and other mission enablers; and
- "Urges the parties to the conflict in Darfur to cease their attacks upon civilians and humanitarian and peacekeeping operations, and to fully commit to finding a political solution to the crisis in Darfur without further delay."

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- "On July 22, 2004, the Senate of the United States and the U.S. House of Representatives passed S. Con. Res. 133 and H. Con. Res. 467, respectively, thereby declaring genocide in Darfur, Sudan;
- "On September 9, 2004, then-Secretary of State Colin Powell concurred with the Congress, asserting that, `genocide has been committed in Darfur' and that `the [G]overnment of Sudan and the Janjaweed bear responsibility';
- "This historic determination was made in response to irrefutable evidence of a systematic campaign of ethnic cleansing launched by the Sudanese regime, characterized by the manipulation of ethnic and tribal tensions, the arming of proxy forces, aerial bombardment of civilians, destruction of irrigation systems, poisoning of wells, razing of villages, forced displacements, mass murder, abduction, looting, torture, and rape;
- "The declaration of genocide by the United States was intended to galvanize international attention and serve as a call to action for responsible nations, as well as the United Nations, to take effective action to deter and suppress genocide in Darfur; and
- "The conflicts in Darfur and Southern Sudan are inextricably linked, and if the CPA fails there can be little hope for peace in Darfur."

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 159 was introduced on June 25, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

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?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

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

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576