



House Update and Public Laws for the Week of March 10-14, 2008

Last Week in the House

On Monday, March 10, 2008 the House passed three suspension bills:

- H.Res.537, "Expressing support for the designation and goals of 'National 9-1-1 Education Month'" (Adopted 381-0) [Roll Call 108](#))
- H.R.3196, "To designate the 'E. Arthur Gray Post Office Building' in Port Jervis, New York" (Adopted 382-0, [Roll Call 109](#))
- H.R.4166, "To designate the 'Steve W. Allee Carrier Annex' in Lebanon, Missouri" (Adopted 382-0, [Roll Call 110](#))

**Note: Suspension bills require two-thirds majority for passage.*

On Tuesday, March 11, 2008 the House passed seven suspension bills:

- H.Res. 924, "Congratulating Iowa State University of Science and Technology for 150 years of leadership and service to the United States and the world as Iowa's land-grant university" (Adopted 405-0, [Roll Call 115](#))
- H.Res. 948, "Congratulating the University of Kansas ("KU") football team for winning the 2008 FedEx Orange Bowl and having the most successful year in program history" (Adopted 396-0-12, [Roll Call 118](#))
- H.Res. 493, "Congratulating the women's water polo team of the University of California, Los Angeles, for winning the 2007 NCAA Division I Women's Water Polo National Championship, and congratulating UCLA on its 100th NCAA sports national title, making it the most accomplished athletic program in NCAA history" (Adopted 400-0, [Roll Call 119](#))
- H.R. 5492, "To authorize the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to construct a greenhouse facility at its museum support facility in Suitland, Maryland" (Passed voice)
- H.Res. 854, "Expressing gratitude to all of the member states of the International Commission of the International Tracing Service (ITS) on ratifying the May 2006 Agreement to amend the 1955 Bonn Accords granting open access to vast Holocaust and other World War II related archives located in Bad Arolsen, Germany" (Adopted voice)
- H.Con.Res. 290, "Commemorating the 175th anniversary of the special relationship between the United States and the Kingdom of Thailand" (Adopted voice)
- H. Res. 1024, "Recognizing the 187th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating Greek and American Democracy" (Adopted voice)

On Tuesday, March 11, 2008 the House also voted on overriding the President's Veto of H.R. 2082, "The Intelligence Authorization Act of 2008". The House failed to override the veto by a vote of 225-188 [Roll Call 117](#), two-thirds of House not voting in the affirmative.



On Tuesday March 11, 2008 the House considered one self executing rule that upon passage would establish within the House of Representatives an Office of Congressional Ethics. The rule passed by a vote of 229-182-4, [Roll Call 122](#).

***Immediately preceding this vote the House moved that the previous question be ordered. Had this motion passed, the Minority would have offered their own [ethics package](#). This vote was held open for a 16-minute period following the official end of the vote while the Majority arm twisted their members in order to defeat the motion (207-206, [Roll Call 121](#)). The Rules of the House ([Rule XX, Clause 2\(a\)](#)), states: "A record vote by electronic device shall not be held open for the sole purpose of reversing the outcome of such vote." The Democrats had to break the House Rules that they wrote in order to pass their ethics legislation.

On Wednesday, March 12, 2008 the House voted on 7 suspension bills:

- H.R. 5563, "Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act" (Failed 277-14, [Roll Call 131](#))
- H.Res. 936, "Honoring the 200th anniversary of the Gallatin Report on Roads and Canals, celebrating the national unity the Gallatin Report engendered, and recognizing the vast contributions that national planning efforts have provided to the United States" (Adopted 411-0, [Roll Call 133](#))
- S. 2733, "To temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965" (Adopted 411-4, [Roll Call 134](#))
- S. 2745, "Short –Term Farm Bill Extension" (Passed Voice)
- H.R. 3361, "To make technical corrections related to the Pension Protection Act of 2006" (Passed Voice)
- H.Res. 953, "Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that all Americans should participate in a moment of silence to reflect upon the service and sacrifice of members of the United States Armed Forces both at home and abroad, and their families" (Adopted Voice)

On Wednesday, March 12, 2008 the House passed an adjournment resolution allowing the House to be out of session for two weeks (Adopted 211-204, [Roll Call 132](#)).

On Thursday, March 13, 2008 the House passed one suspension bill:

- H.Res. 991, "Recognizing the exceptional sacrifice of the 69th Infantry Regiment, known as the Fighting 69th in support of the Global War on Terror" (Adopted 406-0, [Roll Call 142](#))

On Thursday March 13, 2008 the House passed one rule bill:

- H.Con.Res. 312, "Revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008, and establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009" (Adopted 212-207, [Roll Call 141](#))

On Friday March 14, 2008 the House Passed one rule bill:

- H.R. 3773, "Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act" (Concur in Senate Amendment with Amendment, Passed 213-197-1, [Roll Call 145](#))



Public Laws Signed Last Week

For the Week of March 10-14, 2008 the President signed 2 bills into law:

- S. 2478, "A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 59 Colby Corner in East Hampstead, New Hampshire, as the "Captain Jonathan D. Grassbaugh Post Office"
- S. 2272, "A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service known as the Southpark Station in Alexandria, Louisiana, as the 'John "Marty" Thiels Southpark Station', in honor and memory of Thiels, a Louisiana postal worker who was killed in the line of duty on October 4, 2007"

Thus far in the 110th Congress, the President has signed 195 bills into law. Of those bills, 76 were for the purpose of naming post offices or public buildings.