



H.R. 6475 – DANIEL WEBSTER CONGRESSIONAL CLERKSHIP ACT OF 2008

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6475 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) on July 10, 2008. The Committee on House Administration approved the bill by voice vote on July 30, 2008.

H.R. 6475 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 9, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 6475 establishes the 'Daniel Webster Congressional Clerkship Program' which directs the House of Representatives and the Senate to hire a total of twelve graduates of accredited law schools to serve as Congressional Clerks for a one-year period.

Graduates hired through the Program will be divided evenly between the House and Senate, and evenly between the majority and minority parties. The Clerks will receive compensation and benefits comparable to individuals holding judicial clerkships for the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia within three months of graduating law school.

The bill authorizes such sums as may be necessary to carry out the Program.

BACKGROUND

While programs similar to the Daniel Webster Congressional Clerkship Program are currently operated by the White House and the administrative offices of the Executive Branch, as well as the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Congress does not currently have a comparable program.

Daniel Webster served as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, representing New Hampshire from 1813 to 1817, and Massachusetts from 1823 to 1827. Additionally, Mr. Webster served for several terms as a U.S. Senator from Massachusetts between 1827 and 1841, and again between 1845 and 1850. Mr. Webster also served in the cabinet and administrations of Presidents Harrison, Tyler, and Filmore, and argued several cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office 'estimates that carrying out H.R. 6475 would cost about \$1 million a year beginning in 2010.'

[CBO cost estimate for H.R. 6475](#)

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at 6-2302.