



H.R. 5350 – To authorize the Secretary of Commerce to sell or exchange certain National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration property located in Norfolk, Virginia, and for other purposes

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 5350 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 Bobby Scott (D-VA) on February 12, 2008. The resolution was reported, as amended, from the Committee on Natural Resources on August 1, 2008. The bill was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, but was not considered.

H.R. 5350 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 5350 authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to sell or exchange property currently operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to the City of Norfolk, Virginia, if the Secretary determines that the conveyance is in the best interests of NOAA and the Federal Government and provides prior notification to the relevant Congressional committees. In addition, the bill requires that the Federal Government receive no less than fair market value for the NOAA property.

BACKGROUND

The City of Norfolk, Virginia, has expressed interest in acquiring property currently owned and operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The property includes a 700 square foot office building that houses NOAA's National Geodetic Survey Norfolk Field Operations office and consists of 3.78 acres. It was purchased by the Federal Government in 1970 to support NOAA's Marine Operations Center-Atlantic.

NOAA has been contacted about this property several times in the past by both public-private ventures and the City of Norfolk about acquiring the property. However, according to NOAA testimony given before the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans on April 24, 2008, "NOAA has a continuing mission that is being served at this location. The property is not excess property; and NOAA has no other property in its inventory that can meet the current NOAA mission requirements supported at this site."

NOAA and the City of Norfolk have agreed to a framework for the future sale, conveyance, or exchange of properties, which is embodied in H.R. 5350. The bill does not mandate that the sale, conveyance, or exchange take place.

COST

According to the Congressional Budget Office, "Based on information from the agency, CBO expects that the administrative cost of the sale would be insignificant. The legislation stipulates that proceeds of the sale, estimated to total \$1.5 million, would be available to the Secretary only if provided in a future appropriation act. Thus, enacting the legislation, would reduce direct spending by that amount. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues." ([CBO Cost Estimate](#))

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Brianne Miller at 6-2302.



H.R. 3437 – Jackson Gulch Rehabilitation Act of 2007

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 3437 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 John Salazar (D-CO) on August 3, 2007. The Committee on Natural Resources ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by unanimous consent on July 16, 2008.

H.R. 3437 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 3437 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the 'Jackson Gulch Rehabilitation Project', located in Colorado's Mancos Water Conservancy District. The Project aims to rehabilitate the Jackson Gulch Canal system for the purposes of improving irrigation for agricultural purposes and increasing the safety of recreational visitors to the park.

As reimbursement for expenses related to the Project, the Secretary is to recover from the District, the lesser of: 1) 35 percent of the cost of the Project; or 2) \$2,900,000. This amount is to be collected with no interest and either over a 15 year period or according to terms agreed to by the Secretary and the District. Additionally, the Secretary is to credit the District for any amounts it paid for engineering work and improvements related to the Project prior to this legislation's enactment. The bill requires the Department of the Interior to pay the Federal share of the total cost of carrying out the project.

The Secretary is to use existing engineering and related studies completed by Federal, State, and local entities when preparing any reports related to the Project. Also, the legislation leaves the District responsible for the operation and maintenance of any facility or rehabilitation work completed under this bill, and releases the Federal government from liability for damages that may arise in relation to any facilities constructed or rehabilitated.

H.R. 3437 authorizes \$8,250,000 for the purposes of this legislation.

BACKGROUND

The Mancos Water Conservancy District is located in the Mancos Valley in the southwest corner of Colorado, and consists of the Jackson Gulch Dam and Reservoir, as well as the Inlet and Outlet canals. The Mancos Project canal delivers water from Jackson Gulf Dam to residents, farms, and businesses in Montezuma County, Colorado. A catastrophic failure of the project could result in the loss of water for the Mesa Verde National Park, the town of Mantos, and crop loss.

The Mancos Project was completed in 1950 and has thus far outlived its expected life. According to the Bureau of Reclamation, major rehabilitation is needed on the Project's inlet and outlet canals, and other associated structures.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that implementing H.R. 3437 "would cost around \$8 million over the 2009-2013 period." [Full CBO Cost Estimate](#)

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at 6-2302.



H.R. 2535 – TULE RIVER TRIBE WATER DEVELOPMENT ACT

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 2535 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 Devin Nunes (R-CA) on May 24, 2007. The House Committee on Natural Resources ordered the bill to be reported by unanimous consent on July 16, 2008.

H.R. 2535 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 2535 directs the Secretary of the Interior (acting through the Bureau of Reclamation) to complete a study to evaluate alternative water irrigation sources for domestic, commercial, municipal, and industrial water supplies for the Tule River Tribe of the Tule River Reservation. The bill requires that the study be completed within two years after funds are appropriated or a settlement agreement on water rights is reached by the Tule River Tribe, along with other users.

The legislation prohibits projects related to the study from supplying water to Tribal casinos, except for the casino currently operated by the Tribe on the Tule River Reservation and any lodging, dining, entertainment or similar facility operated in relation to this casino.

H.R. 2535 authorizes \$3,000,000 to carry out these provisions.

BACKGROUND

The Tule River Indian Reservation was established at its present location in the foothills of the Sierra Mountains in California through an executive order issued by President Ulysses S. Grant on January 9, 1873. Today, the reservation area is made up of about 48,000 acres with about 200 acres capable of irrigation.

The Tule River Tribe is currently engaged in water rights settlement negotiations with downstream users of water flowing from the south fork of the Tule River. According to the [Tule River Tribe's website](#), the purpose of these negotiations is to determine the water rights of the Tribe under federal law and to use these rights to create a self-sustaining homeland.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office did not have a cost estimate available for H.R. 2535 as of July, 18, 2008.

STAFF CONTACT

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H.R. 5293 – Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation Water Rights Settlement Act

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 5293 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 Dean Heller (R-NV) on February 7, 2008. The Committee on Natural Resources ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by unanimous consent on July 16, 2008.

H.R. 5293 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 5293 ratifies the 'Agreement to Establish the Relative Water Rights of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation and the Upstream Water Users, East Fork Owyhee River.' The Secretary of Interior is authorized to execute such agreement as approved by Congress, including all required environmental compliance.

The bill requires that tribal water rights be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes. The Tribes must enact a water code to administer the water rights within three years, and the Secretary will administer the water rights until the code is enacted.

H.R. 5293 creates the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes Water Rights Development Fund. Tribes must utilize monies from the Development Fund for water resource planning and development, cultural preservation, habitat restoration, and construction of water supply and sewer systems. The Development Fund is authorized at \$9 million for each of the years 2008-2012. This bill also creates the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes Operation and Maintenance Fund, which is to be used to maintain the Duck Valley Indian Irrigation Project and other authorized water projects. The Operation and Maintenance Fund is authorized at \$3 million for each of the years 2008-2012. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes may access these funds by submitting a tribal management plan or expenditure plan to the Secretary of Interior.

This legislation additionally waives tribal claims against the United States involving the East Fork of the Owyhee River.

BACKGROUND

The Duck Valley Reservation lies along the Idaho-Nevada border near the East Fork of the Owyhee River, a tributary to the Snake River. The Reservation is home to the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes. The Reservation was established in 1877 and covers 290,000 acres in Nevada and Idaho. The Tribes rely on the Duck Valley Indian Irrigation Project for agricultural purposes. The Project is owned by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and operated by the Tribes. Currently, the infrastructure of the Duck Valley Indian Irrigation Project is unstable, leading to an increased Federal liability.

The Tribes have asserted claims to federal reserved water rights in Nevada and Idaho state courts. The claim in Idaho was resolved by consent decree in 2006. An agreement was reached between the tribe and the State of Nevada during a stay of the state's adjudicative process and requires Congressional approval. This legislation would ratify that agreement.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that implementing H.R. 5293 "would cost \$48 million in 2012." [Full CBO Cost Estimate](#)



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H.RES. 1200 – HONORING THE DEDICATION AND OUTSTANDING WORK OF MILITARY SUPPORT GROUPS ACROSS THE COUNTRY FOR THEIR STEADFAST SUPPORT OF THE MEMBERS OF OUR ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1200 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 Betty Sutton (D-OH) on May 14, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Armed Services, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1200 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1200 resolves that the House of Representatives honors the dedication and outstanding work of military support groups across the country for their steadfast support of the members of our Armed Forces and their families.

BACKGROUND

The DOD “family centers”, as well as numerous other community and private military support organizations, provide the families of military personnel with support such as family counseling, financial advising, and career counseling. Additional services include letter and messaging services, phone cards, and assistance sending care packages. Since the September 2001, over 1.6 million members of the Armed Forces have been deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“America Supports You” is a military run website that gives members of the Armed Forces and the families of military personnel access to over 300 nonprofit troop-support service organizations. [America Supports You](#)

STAFF CONTACT

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



H.Res. 1255 – Honoring Toby Keith's commitment to members of the Armed Forces

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1255 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 Tom Cole (R-OK) on July 2, 2008. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1255 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1255 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Honors Toby Keith's commitment to our country's Armed Forces overseas;
- Encourages other entertainers to take into consideration Toby Keith's deep commitment to boosting the morale of our Nation's Armed Forces when supporting USO operations; and
- A copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Toby Keith.

BACKGROUND

Toby Keith, a native Oklahoman, was born in 1961 and is a popular American country music artist. Keith has had 16 Number One singles, and five of his albums have topped the *Billboard* Top Country Albums chart. Before becoming a country star, Toby Keith worked as a derrick hand in the oil fields of Oklahoma. Keith also briefly played defensive end for the semi-professional Oklahoma City Drillers football team.

Toby Keith has made six tours with the United Service Organizations (USO) around the world. Keith has performed in Germany, Cuba, Kosovo, Italy, and Africa, and elsewhere to entertain over 150,000 members of the Armed Forces involved with Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Toby Keith also co-wrote and often performs his hit song "American Soldier," which honors the sacrifices made daily by service members. The USO was founded in 1941 as a nonprofit organization that provides morale and recreational services to members of the U.S. military worldwide.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at 6-2302.



H.Con.Res. 390 – Honoring the 28th Infantry Division for serving and protecting the United States

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Con.Res. 390 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 Chris Carney (D-PA) on July 17, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Armed Services, but was never considered.

H.Con.Res. 390 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Con.Res. 390 resolves that Congress honors the 28th Infantry Division for serving and protecting the United States and directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Adjutant General of the Pennsylvania National Guard for appropriate display.

BACKGROUND

The 28th Infantry Division is a unit of the Pennsylvania National Guard. It was officially established on March 12, 1879, although some units of the Division date back to 1747, when Benjamin Franklin organized a battalion in Philadelphia.

Units of the 28th have served in the Revolutionary War, World War I, and World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. In 1996, forward observers from the 28th were called up to support North Atlantic Trade Organization (NATO) peacekeeping efforts in the Balkans. Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the 28th Infantry Division has provided troops for Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Noble Eagle, and provided security at Three Mile Island, a nuclear power station in Middletown, PA. In 2003, they led the NATO peacekeeping efforts in Kosovo for a six month rotation.

The 28th Infantry Division has ten recipients of the Medal of Honor, four recipients of the Legion of Merit, and 258 recipients of the Silver Star.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Brianne Miller at 6-2302.



H.Res. 1355 – Expressing support for designation of Disability Pride Day and recognizing that all people, including those living with disabilities, have the right, responsibility, and ability to be active, contributing members of society and fully engaged as citizens

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1355 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 Danny Davis (D-IL) on July 17, 2008. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1355 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 23, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1355 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Supports the goals and ideals of Disability Pride Day;
- Acknowledges the efforts of the City of Chicago's 5th Annual Disability Pride Parade organizers to raise awareness concerning the value of people with disabilities;
- Invites the Nation to join in celebrating the pride, the power, and the potential of people with disabilities by celebrating Disability Pride Day; and
- Urges public officials and the general public to honor Americans with disabilities by educating themselves on ways to support and encourage understanding of persons with disabilities in our schools, within our diverse workforce, as well as in our communities.

BACKGROUND

The City of Chicago is holding its fifth annual Disability Pride Parade on July 26, 2008. The Grand Marshal of the parade will be former Rep. Tony Coelho (D-CA), the primary author and sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-336). This legislation prohibited discrimination based on disability, defined as "a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity."

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2000 about 19 percent of Americans- 50 million individuals- had some form of disability. Americans over the age of 65 have a disability rate of around 40 percent. The highest rates of disability are found in the coal mining areas of Kentucky, West Virginia, and Virginia.

STAFF CONTACT

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H.R. 5376 – To extend the temporary suspension of duty on Thymol

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 5376 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 Henry Brown (R-SC) on February 12, 2008. The bill was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, but was not considered.

H.R. 5376 is expected to be considered on the floor on September 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 5376 extends the temporary suspension of the duty on Thymol to December 31, 2011.

BACKGROUND

Thymol is the principal constituent of the essential oil from the herb Thyme. It is used in the manufacture of perfumes and can be used as an antiseptic, fungicide, and a preservative.

The temporary suspension of duty on Thymol was last extended by the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2009 (P.L. 109-432). It expires on December 31, 2009.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not issued a cost estimate for H.R. 5376.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Brianne Miller at 6-2302.



H.R. 1594 – TO DESIGNATE THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC IN HERMITAGE, PENNSYLVANIA, AS THE MICHAEL A. MARZANO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 1594 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 Phil English (R-PA) on March 20, 2007. The bill was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, but was never considered.

H.R. 1594 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 1594 designates the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Hermitage, Pennsylvania, as the "Michael A. Marzano Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic."

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at 6-2302.



H.R. 5938 – FORMER VICE PRESIDENT PROTECTION ACT OF 2008

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 5938 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 John Conyers (D-MI) on May 1, 2008. The House passed H.R. 5938 by voice vote on June 9, 2008. The Senate then amended and passed the bill by unanimous consent on July 30, 2008.

H.R. 5938, as amended, is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

Title I - Vice President Protection Act

H.R. 5938 provides U.S. Secret Service protection for former Vice Presidents, their spouses, and their children under age 16 for six months from the date the Vice President leaves office.

Title II - Identity Theft Enforcement and Restitution Act

Restitution: Allows victims of identity theft to seek restitution in an amount equal to the value of the time and money spent to remediate the identity theft.

Malicious Spyware, Hacking, and Keyloggers: H.R. 5938 increases the fines and imprisonment for individuals convicted of hacking or installing spyware or keylogging programs.

Cyber-Extortion: The bill expands the number of things included for criminal cyber-extortion to include threats to cause damage to a protected computer, threat to obtain information from a protected computer without authorization, or demands or requests for money or other things of value in relation to damage to a protected computer.

Cybercrimes: H.R. 5938 extends criminal penalties for cybercrimes to include conspiracy to commit cybercrimes.

Forfeiture of Property: The bill requires that when a person who violates or is convicted of computer fraud (Section 1030 Violations) is sentenced that they forfeit to the United States any personal property used to commit or facilitate fraud and any property that was derived from proceeds of the fraud.

Directive to the Sentencing Commission: H.R. 5938 requires the U.S. Sentencing Commission to review its guidelines and policy statements that apply to people convicted of computer crimes to reflect the intent of Congress that such penalties be increased.

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Secret Service was founded in 1865 as a branch of the U.S. Department of Treasury to contend with the counterfeiting of currency. Following the assassination of President William McKinley in 1901, the Secret Service was given a second mission of providing protection to the President.

Currently, the Secret Service is authorized to protect the President, Vice President, the President- and Vice President- elect, and their immediate families. They also protect former presidents, their spouses, and children until age 16. Former Vice Presidents are not entitled to Secret Service protection, however it can be extended to them by executive order or an act of Congress.

The House originally passed H.R. 5938 without Title II on June 9, 2008, by voice vote. The Senate then amended the bill by adding the Identity Theft Enforcement and Restitution Act (Title II) to the bill and passing it by unanimous consent on July 30, 2008. The Senate had previously passed the Identity Theft Enforcement and Restitution Act (S. 2168), as a stand alone bill, by unanimous consent on November 15, 2007, but the



stand alone bill and its companion legislation in the House (H.R. 6060) introduced by Representative Adam Schiff (D-CA) were not considered by the Committee on the Judiciary.

Federal computer fraud and abuse laws protect computers in which there is a federal interest, like government computers, bank computers, and those used for interstate and foreign commerce.

COST

According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate for House passed H.R. 5938, "Based on information provided by the Secret Service, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5938 would cost about \$4 million in fiscal year 2009, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. If the next Vice President leaves office after one term, then we estimate that the Secret Service would spend about \$4 million in fiscal year 2013 to protect the outgoing Vice President and his or her family. Otherwise, costs for the next Vice President would be incurred in 2017." ([CBO Cost Estimate](#))

According to the CBO cost estimate for S. 2168, "CBO estimates that implementing S. 2168 would have no significant effect on the federal budget. Enacting the bill could increase revenues and direct spending, but CBO estimates that any such impact would be insignificant." ([CBO Cost Estimate](#))

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Brianne Miller at 6-2302.



H.R. 6604 – National Silver Alert Act

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6604 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 Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) on May 15, 2008. The Committee on the Judiciary ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by voice vote on July 30, 2008.

H.R. 6604 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

Silver Alert Communications Network: H.R. 6604 directs the Department of Justice (DOJ) to establish a national communications network to assist efforts to locate missing senior citizens. The bill also establishes a national Coordinator for the network to work with States to develop local Silver Alert plans and establish voluntary guidelines. The Coordinator must consult with various entities including the Federal Communications Commission, and State and local law enforcement. Additionally, the Coordinator must report to Congress annually on the status and effectiveness of State Silver Alert plans. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million annually over the 2009-2013 period for DOJ to make grants to states for activities to support the network, to be known as the Silver Alert program.

Sammy Kirk Electronic Monitoring Program: The legislation would authorize the appropriation of \$2 million annually over the 2009-2014 period for the Attorney General to award grants to State and local governments to carry out voluntary electronic monitoring services to elderly individuals. These services would assist in locating and recovering them if they were to be reported missing in the future.

Kristen's Act Reauthorization: H.R. 6604 authorizes the Attorney General to make competitive grants to organizations for the purpose of maintaining a national, interconnected resource center and clearinghouse for missing adults. Grants may also be used to train agencies and organizations, provide assistance to families, and assist in public notification efforts. The Attorney General must also coordinate federally funded programs and encourage coordination between State and local law enforcement, public agencies, and nonprofits which receive grants.

\$4 million is authorized for each year over the 2009-2019 period for this purpose.

BACKGROUND

Each year, thousands of older adults in the United States go missing as a result of foul play, or conditions such as dementia or Alzheimer's disease. Such conditions often have the effect of leaving victims disoriented and confused. It is estimated that over five million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's, and sixty percent of these persons are likely to wander from their homes. The Alzheimer's Foundation of America states that 50% of such wanderers risk illness, injury, or death if not located within 24 hours.

Currently, at least eight states including Texas, Michigan, Illinois, and California have developed programs and laws to locate missing adults. Kristen's Act was enacted in 2000 to create a national database to search for missing adults as a result of foul play. The law is named after Kristen Modafferi, who was an 18 year old Charlotte, North Carolina resident when she vanished in June 1997. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children was unable to help her family search for Kristen because she was 18, and thus considered an adult.

COST



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The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that implementing H.R. 6604 “would cost \$59 million over the 2009-2013 period, with remaining amounts spent in subsequent years.”

[Full CBO Cost Estimate](#)

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at 6-2302.



H.R. 6503 – MISSING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE PATIENT ALERT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION OF 2008

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6503 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 Maxine Waters (D-CA) on July 15, 2008. The House Committee on the Judiciary agreed to the bill by voice vote on July 30, 2008.

H.R. 6503 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 6503 reauthorizes the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program through fiscal year 2012. The bill authorizes the Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to award competitive grants to organizations to assist in locating missing patients with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and to expand the program to include locating other missing elderly individuals. When awarding grants, preference is to be given to national nonprofit organizations that have a direct link to patients with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

H.R. 6503 authorizes \$5 million annually for fiscal years 2009-2015, for the purposes of carrying out the program.

BACKGROUND

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, over 50,000 missing adult cases were pending as of January 2008. These adults, along with other adults whose unknown whereabouts have gone unreported, may have gone missing for reasons such as abduction, foul play, mental or physical illness, or other reasons. Adults with dementia and related illnesses are especially vulnerable to become missing, with higher incidences among the elderly.

In response to the growing number of elderly adults in the U.S., Congress passed the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (P.L. 103-322), under which the establishment and funding for the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert program was authorized, and subsequently reauthorized through fiscal year 2008.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that implementing H.R. 6503 would "cost \$17 million over the 2009-2013 period, with remaining amounts spent in subsequent years. Enacting H.R. 6503 would not affect direct spending or revenues."

[CBO cost estimate for H.R. 6503](#)

STAFF CONTACT

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



H.R. 2352 – SCHOOL SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS ACT OF 2008

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 2352 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 Steven Rothman (D-NJ) on May 16, 2007. The House Committee on the Judiciary approved the bill, as amended, by voice vote on June 11, 2008.

H.R. 2352 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 2352 directs the Secretary of Education and the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance to establish an interagency task force to develop and publicize advisory school safety guidelines. These guidelines are to be published no later than year after the date of enactment.

The legislation requires all educational institutions participating in federal student aid programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965 to conduct an annual campus safety assessment in consultation with local law enforcement officials and develop and implement a campus emergency response plan that addresses possible emergency situations, such as natural disasters, active shooter situations, and terrorism.

H.R. 2352 allows surveillance equipment to be placed and used in public elementary and secondary schools under a matching grant program. The bill also allows grant funds to be used to establish hotlines and tip-lines so that potentially dangerous student situations may be reported. Under H.R. 2352, Federal matching share of program costs are set at 80 percent.

The bill authorizes \$50 million annually for fiscal years 2009 and 2010.

BACKGROUND

According to a 2005 White House report, 18.5 percent of students reported having carried a weapon over preceding thirty days. Among these students, one-third reported carrying a gun and one-third reported bringing the weapon to school.

According to the Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) within the Department of Justice, most schools in need of increased surveillance programs have been unable to participate in the grant matching program, which was previously set at 50 percent non-federal grant matching. COPS estimates that increasing the Federal share of grant matching to 80 percent, as does H.R. 2352, would allow many school communities to participate in the program who were previously unable due to cost.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office did not have a cost estimate available for H.R. 6855 as of September 12, 2008.

STAFF CONTACT

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



H.R. 6855 – To extend the authority for the United States Supreme Court Police to protect court officials off the Supreme Court grounds, and for other purposes

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6855 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 Lamar Smith (R-TX) on September 10, 2008. The bill was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, but was never considered.

H.R. 6855 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 6855 extends the authority of the U.S. Supreme Court Police to protect court officials off the grounds of the Supreme Court for an additional five years, through 2013.

BACKGROUND

Under current Federal law, the U.S. Supreme Court Police have the authority to protect officials of the Supreme Court in the Supreme Court Building and grounds and adjacent streets. They are also authorized to protect the Chief Justice, Associate Justices, or any other officer or employee of the Court on official duty in any State. However, this authority expires on December 29, 2008.

The Supreme Court of the United States Police force was founded in 1949. Originally, the Police were tasked to provide protection for the recently completed Supreme Court Building. Previously, the Supreme Court had resided in the U.S. Capitol. Today, the Supreme Court Police are responsible for protecting the Chief Justice, Associate Justices, building occupants, and the Court's building and grounds. The force currently has about 125 sworn law enforcement officers.

COST

There is no Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost estimate available for H.R. 6855 as of September 12, 2008.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at 6-2302.



H.Con.Res. 410 – Recognizing the FBI on their 100th anniversary

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Con.Res. 410 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 Louie Gohmert (R-TX) on September 11, 2008. The resolution was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, but was never considered.

H.Con.Res. 410 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Con.Res. 410 resolves that the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring):

- Congratulates the men and women of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary;
- Honors the heroic sacrifice of the Bureau's employees who have given their lives, or have been wounded or injured, in the service of our Nation; and
- Gives heartfelt thanks to all the men and women of the FBI for their past and continued efforts to protect and defend the American people from threats both domestic and foreign, and their dedication to the pursuit of justice through the rule of law.

BACKGROUND

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was founded in 1908 by President Theodore Roosevelt as a Federal investigative agency. Today, the FBI is the primary investigative arm of the Department of Justice and has jurisdiction over hundreds of Federal crimes. The FBI combats white-collar crime, cyber attacks, public corruption, bank robberies, and many other crimes. The Bureau also protects the United States against terrorist and foreign intelligence threats.

The FBI, which is headquartered in Washington, D.C., operates 56 field offices and employs about 31,000 people. The FBI Director is Robert Mueller, who oversees a budget of approximately \$9 billion. 34 FBI special agents have been killed in the line of duty over the past century.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at 6-2302.



H.Res. 1425 – Honoring the life and music of the late Isaac Hayes, a passionate humanitarian, whose music laid the foundation for many musical styles, including R&B, disco, and rap

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1425 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 Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) on September 11, 2008. The resolution was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1425 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1425 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Honors the life of Isaac Hayes;
- Recognizes Isaac Hayes for his invaluable contributions to American culture;
- Recommits itself to ensuring that artists such as Isaac Hayes receive fair protection under the copyright laws for their creative endeavors; and
- Extends condolences to his family on the death of this talented and beloved man.

BACKGROUND

Isaac Hayes passed away on August 10, 2008. Hayes was a soul singer, actor, and record producer. Isaac Hayes also composed scores for several movies. He is well-known for the 1971 film "Shaft", for which he won an Academy Award for Best Original Song. Hayes also won three Grammy Awards for his music. Between 1997 and 2006, Isaac Hayes provided the voice for the character Chef on the popular TV series "South Park."

Isaac Hayes was born in 1942 in Covington, Tennessee. Hayes was a humanitarian and created the Isaac Hayes Foundation in 1999. Additionally, Hayes was active in the One Campaign which combats global AIDS.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at 6-2302.



H.Res. 1372 – Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the University of Nebraska at Omaha and recognizing the partnership between the City of Omaha, its citizens, and the University to build a vibrant and dynamic community

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1372 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 Lee Terry (R-NE) on July 23, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1372 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1372 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Requests that the President issue a proclamation recognizing the 100th anniversary of the founding of the University of Nebraska at Omaha and calls upon citizens to observe such an anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and
- Encourages State and local governments to recognize the partnership among the City of Omaha, its citizens, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha to build a vibrant and dynamic community.

BACKGROUND

In 1908, University of Omaha was established and classes commenced on September 19, 1909. The University was turned over to the City of Omaha, Nebraska, in 1929, and it was established as a municipal university. On July 1, 1968, the University regents agreed to merge the Municipal University of Omaha with the University of Nebraska.

The University of Nebraska – Omaha has undergraduate enrollment of 11,331. It is also home to the Peter Kiewit Institute of Information Science, Technology, and Engineering, which opened in 1999, and has received many accolades from the National Science Foundation and Carnegie Mellon. The mascot of the University of Nebraska – Omaha is the Mavericks.

The 100th anniversary of the founding of the school will begin October 8, 2008.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Brianne Miller at 6-2302.