

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

House Meets At...	Votes Predicted At...
10:00 a.m. For Legislative Business	Last Vote: 5:00-6:00 p.m.
Fifteen "One-minutes" Per Side	

Any anticipated Member absences for votes this week should be reported to the Office of the Majority Whip at 226-3210.

Floor Schedule and Procedure

- **Suspension Bills:** Today, the House will consider several bills on the Suspension calendar. Bills considered on the Suspension calendar are debatable for 40 minutes; may not be amended; and require a two-thirds vote for passage. If a recorded vote is requested, it will be postponed.
 - 1) **H.R. 6382** - Pension Protection Technical Corrections Act of 2008 (Rep. Rangel – Ways and Means)
 - 2) **H.Con Res. 375** - To honor the goal of the International Year of Astronomy (Rep. Giffords – Science and Technology)
 - 3) **H.Res. 1313** - Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the first American woman in space, Dr. Sally K. Ride, and honoring her contributions to the space program and to science education (Rep. Lampson – Science and Technology)
 - 4) **H.Res. 1312** - Commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Space Foundation (Rep. Lamborn – Science and Technology)
 - 5) **H.Res. 1315** - Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Rep. McCaul – Science and Technology)
 - 6) **H.R. 4174** - The Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2007 (Rep. Allen (ME) – Science and Technology)
 - 7) **H.R. 6216** - Asset Management Improvement Act (Mr. Sires – Financial Services)
 - 8) **H.R. 3329** - Homes for Heroes Act (Rep. Al Green (TX) – Financial Services)
 - 9) **H.R. 6184** - America's Beautiful National Parks Quarter Dollar Coin Act (Rep. Castle – Financial Services)
 - 10) **H.R. 4461** - Community Building Code Amendment Grant Act (Rep. Moore (KS) – Financial Services)
 - 11) **H.R. 5541** - Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act (FLAME Act) (Rep. Rahall – Natural Resources)

- 12) **H. Res. ____** - Commending the firefighters from California and throughout the United States for their courageous actions and sacrifices in fighting the California wildfires (Rep. Farr – Natural Resources)
 - 13) **S. 2607** - the DTV Transition Assistance Act (Sen. Snowe – Energy and Commerce)
 - 14) **H.Res.1260** - Supporting the goals and ideals of "National Internet Safety Month" (Rep. Bean – Energy and Commerce)
 - 15) **H. R. 6061** - To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 219 East Main Street in West Frankfort, Illinois, as the "Kenneth James Gray Post Office Building" (Rep. Costello – Oversight and Government Reform)
- **H. Res. 1318 –Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5811 – Electronic Message Preservation Act (Rep. Welch-Rules):** The closed rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rep. Welch, and consideration will proceed as follows:
 - One hour of debate on the rule.
 - Possible vote on a Democratic Motion ordering the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes.**
 - Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes.**
 - **H.R. 5811 – Electronic Message Preservation Act (Rep. Waxman-Rules):** Pursuant to the rule, debate on the bill will be managed by Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chair Rep. Henry Waxman, or his designee, and will proceed as follows:
 - One hour of debate on the bill.
 - Possible debate and vote on a Republican motion to recommit the bill.
 - Vote on final passage of the bill. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on passage of the bill.**

Bill Summary and Key Issues

H.R. 5811: The Electronic Message Preservation Act

Investigations by the Oversight Committee have revealed significant deficiencies in the preservation of e-mail by the White House and federal agencies. H.R. 5811, introduced on April 15, 2008, by Reps. Waxman, Clay, and Hodes, modernizes the requirements of the Presidential Records Act and the Federal Records Act to ensure that these vital records are preserved for historians.

Preservation of Presidential Records

Committee investigations have revealed that during the Bush Administration, numerous White House officials--including Senior Advisor Karl Rove--used e-mail accounts maintained by the Republican National Committee, which regularly deleted the e-mails from its servers. E-mails sent by White House officials over

these RNC accounts included e-mails concerning official government business, and potentially hundreds of thousands of these e-mails have been destroyed. In addition, the White House grossly mismanaged its own e-mail records and ignored concerns raised by the National Archives about the way it was storing its e-mails. The White House used an e-mail archiving system that a former White House information technology officer described as 'primitive.' While the problems have been particularly acute under the Bush Administration, other administrations, including President Clinton's, have encountered problems preserving e-mail records.

To ensure the retention of these important records, H.R. 5811 directs the archivist to establish standards for the capture, management, and preservation of White House e-mails and other electronic messages and to certify that the system meets the requirements established by the archivist.

Electronic Preservation of Federal Records

Under current law, federal agencies have broad discretion to determine how electronic records and electronic communications are preserved. Committee investigations and the Government Accountability Office have found that many agencies rely on unreliable "print and file" systems for preserving electronic records, including e-mails. As a result, many e-mails that should be saved as federal records may be lost.

H.R. 5811 directs the Archivist to issue regulations requiring agencies to preserve electronic messages that are records in an electronic format. These regulations must cover, at a minimum, the capture, management, preservation, and electronic retrieval of these electronic records, and must be implemented within four years of the enactment of the Act.

Quote of the Day

"Nothing is more difficult, and therefore more precious, than to be able to decide" -Napoleon I