

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

House Meets At...	Votes Predicted At...
10:00 a.m. For Legislative Business Fifteen "One Minutes" Per Side	Last Vote: ???

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

- **H. Res. 1489 – Waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (Rep. Arcuri -Rules)**: The closed rule waives the two-thirds vote requirement to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Committee on Rules for today, September 24, 2008. The rule therefore provides for same-day consideration of a rule to provide for consideration of the Energy Production and Conservation Tax Relief Act of 2008. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rep. Arcuri, 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. Res. 1488 – Providing for Consideration of the Senate Amendment to H.R. 2638 – Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009 (Rep. McGovern -Rules)**: The closed rule provides for consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 2638. The rule provides for one hour of general debate on a motion by the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations that the House concur in the Senate amendment. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rep. McGovern, 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. 2638 – Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009 (Rep. Obey -Appropriations):** Pursuant to the rule, debate on the bill will be managed by Appropriations Committee Chairman Rep. Dave Obey, or his designee, and will proceed as follows:
 - One hour of debate on the bill.
 - Vote on final passage of the bill. **Democrats are urged to vote yes.**

- **H.R. 6049– Energy Production and Conservation Tax Relief Act of 2008 (Rep. Rangel –Ways & Means):** Debate on the bill will be proceed pursuant to a same-day rule to be reported from the Committee on Rules.

- **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.
 1. **Amendment to S. 3001** - National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Rep. Skelton/Sen. Levin– Armed Services)
 2. **H.Res. 1421** - Solemnly commemorating the 25th anniversary of the tragic October 1983 terrorist bombing of the United States Marine Corps Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon and remembering those who lost their lives and those who were injured (Rep. Walter Jones – Armed Services)
 3. **H.R. 7005** – The Alternative Minimum Tax Relief Act of 2008 (Rep. Rangel – Ways and Means)
 4. **H.R. 7006** – The Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2008 (Rep. Rangel – Ways and Means)
 5. **H.R. 6849** - To amend the commodity provisions of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to permit producers to aggregate base acres and reconstitute farms to avoid the prohibition on receiving direct payments, counter-cyclical payments, or average crop revenue election payments when the sum of the base acres of a farm is 10 acres or less, and for other purposes (Rep. Etheridge – Agriculture)
 6. **S. 2324 /H.R. 928** – Inspector General Reform Act of 2008 (Sen. McCaskill (MO) – Oversight and Government Reform)
 7. **H.R. 6406** - To elevate the Inspector General of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to an Inspector General appointed pursuant to section 3 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Rep. Larson – Oversight and Government Reform)

8. **H.R. 6847** - To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 801 Industrial Boulevard in Ellijay, Georgia, as the "First Lieutenant Noah Harris Ellijay Post Office Building (Rep. Deal – Oversight and Government Reform)
9. **H.Res. ____** - Providing for agreement by the House of Representatives to the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 2095, with an amendment (Rep. Oberstar – Transportation and Infrastructure)
10. **H.R. 6999** - The Integrated Deepwater Program Reform Act of 2008 (Rep. Cummings – Transportation and Infrastructure)
11. **S. 3009** - J. James Exon Federal Bureau of Investigation Building (Sen. Nelson (NE) – Transportation and Infrastructure)
12. **H.Res. 1376** - Commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Okeechobee Hurricane of September 1928 and its associated tragic loss of life (Rep. Hastings – Transportation and Infrastructure)
13. **S. 2162** - Veterans' Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act of 2008 (Sen. Akaka – Veterans' Affairs)
14. **S. 3023** - Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008 (Sen. Akaka – Veterans' Affairs)
15. **H.R. 6980** - To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the amount of the Medal of Honor special pension provided under that title by up to \$1,000. (Rep. Brown (SC) – Veterans' Affairs)

- **Postponed Suspension Votes:**

1. **H.R. 160** - Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Battlefield Protection Act (Rep. Holt – Natural Resources)
2. **H.R. 2933** - Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2008 (Rep. Gary Miller (CA) - Natural Resources)
3. **H.R. 4828** - Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park Boundary Expansion and Redesignation Act of 2008 (Rep. Ortiz – Natural Resources)
4. **S. 2606** - To reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, and for other purposes (Sen. Dodd – Science and Technology)
5. **H.R. 6323** - To establish a research, development, demonstration, and commercial application program to promote research of appropriate technologies for heavy duty plug-in hybrid vehicles, and for other purposes (Rep. Sensenbrenner – Science and Technology)

6. **H.Con.Res. 255** - Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the U.S. commitment to preservation of religious and cultural sites and condemning instances where sites are desecrated (Rep. Ferguson – Foreign Affairs)
7. **H.Res. 1451** - Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Establishment Resolution (Rep. McGovern – Foreign Affairs)
8. **H.Res. 1461** - Recognizing the Tenth Anniversary of the terrorist bombings of the United States embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and the memorializing of the citizens and families of the United States, Kenya and Tanzania whose lives were lost or who were injured as a result of these attacks (Rep. Scott (GA) – Foreign Affairs)
9. **H.R. 758** - The Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act of 2007 (Rep. DeLauro – Energy and Commerce)
10. **H.R. 6469** - The Stephanie Tubbs Jones Organ Transplant Authorization Act of 2008 (Rep. DeGette – Energy and Commerce)
11. **H.R. 1532** - Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Act of 2007 (Rep. Gene Green (TX) – Energy and Commerce)
12. **H.R. 2994** - National Pain Care Policy Act of 2007 (Rep. Capps – Energy and Commerce)
13. **H.R. 5265** - Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research and Education Amendments of 2008 (Rep. Engel – Energy and Commerce)
14. **H.R. 6901** - Meth Free Families and Communities Act (Rep. Hooley – Energy and Commerce)
15. **H.Con.Res. 393** - Supporting the Goals and Ideals of National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month (Rep. Pickering – Energy and Commerce)
16. **H.Res. 988** - Designating the month of March 2008 as "MRSA Awareness Month" (Rep. Matheson – Energy and Commerce)
17. **H.R. 1014** - Heart Disease Education, Analysis Research, and Treatment for Women Act (Rep. Capps – Energy and Commerce)
18. **H.R. 4544** - Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2008 (Rep. Boren – Financial Services)
19. **H.R. 6950** - Stephanie Tubbs Jones Gift of Life Medal Act of 2008 (Rep. Stark – Financial Services)
20. **H.R. 3018** - Family Self-Sufficiency Act of 2007 (Rep. Biggert – Financial Services)

Bill Summary and Key Issues

H.R. 2638 – Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009

Auto Efficiency Loans: \$7.5 billion to support \$25 billion in loans to help American automakers to update their factories in order to build more fuel efficient cars and trucks.

Nutrition for Women, Infants and Children(WIC): \$1 billion above 2008 to provide mothers and their children with proper nutrition. Costs are up as more families struggle with the economic downturn and rising food costs.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program: \$23.5 million above 2008 to prevent nearly 70,000 low-income women, infants, children, and elderly citizens, from losing access to food.

Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP): \$2.5 billion above 2008 to help families pay rising home energy bills, helping an additional 2 million households and raising the average grant from \$355 to \$550.

Offshore Drilling Ban: expires on September 30th, the White House rejected any language to provide for a responsible expansion of drilling in the OCS. All other laws and regulations concerning offshore leasing and development remain in place.

Pell Grants: \$2.5 billion above 2008, to prevent cuts to student aid midway through the school year.

Census: \$2.9 billion, to help the Census Bureau to ramp up operations for the 2010 Census.

H.R. 6049 - Renewable Energy and Job Creation Tax Act of 2008

The House Amendment to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 6049, the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Tax Act of 2008, will:

- provide approximately \$16 billion of tax incentives for investment in renewable energy, carbon capture and sequestration demonstration projects, energy efficiency and conservation.
- extend \$27 billion of expiring temporary tax provisions, including the research and development credit, special rules for active financing income, the State and local sales tax deduction, the deduction for out-of-pocket expenses for teachers, and the deduction for qualified tuition expenses.
- provide \$3 billion of additional tax relief for individuals through an expansion of the refundable child tax credit.
- be offset using the same revenue-raising provisions that were included in the Senate amendment to H.R. 6049:

1. prevent the understatement of foreign oil and gas extraction income in calculating foreign tax credits;
 2. freeze the section 199 deduction for oil and gas companies at 6%;
 3. provide for broker reporting of customer's basis in securities;
 4. extend the FUTA surtax for one year;
 5. extend and increase funding for the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund;
 6. close a tax loophole that allows individuals that work for certain offshore corporations, such as hedge fund managers, to defer tax on their compensation.
- These revenue-raising provisions passed the Senate today by a vote of 93 to 2.

Amendment to S. 3001 - National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 Conference Report Summary

RESTORING READINESS

- National Guard and Reserve equipment— \$800 million
- Equipment Reset— \$8.6 billion for Army and \$1.8 billion for Marine Corps
- Ensures our depots will be efficiently run and fully utilized now and in the future

INCREASING CAPABILITIES IN AFGHANISTAN

- Requires a report on the command and control structure for military forces operating in Afghanistan
- Requires a performance monitoring system for the PRTs in Afghanistan and Iraq
- Requires reporting on enhancing security and stability in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region

IMPROVING INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

- Establishes an advisory panel on ways to improve coordination among DOD, State and USAID on matters relating to national security

OUR SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

- A pay raise of 3.9%, an increase of 0.5% above the budget request.
- Prohibits increased premiums and co-pays for TRICARE recipients and increased user fees for the TRICARE retail pharmacy program.
- Increases the size of the Army by 7,000, the Marine Corps by 5,000, the Navy by 1,023 and the Air Force by 450 above the requested levels.
- Authorizes \$3.2 billion to expand quality family housing
- An entire section to increase the use of preventive care services by TRICARE beneficiaries.
- Establishes a task force on suicide prevention
- Provides tuition assistance and training opportunities for military spouses
- \$35 million for Impact Aid to help local educational agencies supporting our military children

- Authorizes a pilot program to allow a service member to be released from active duty for a maximum of three years to focus on professional goals outside of the military.
- Permanently prohibits service members from being charged for meals at military treatment facilities
- Authorizes ten days paternity leave
- Expands the phased-in annuity authorized in the FY08 NDAA to surviving spouses of members who die while serving on active duty.
- Increases the number of general and flag officers within the joint pool by 58, and requires that 5 of the general and flag officers be used for acquisition positions.

DOD CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES

- Series of provisions to address DOD's increased reliance on the use of contractors to perform functions that are inherently governmental in nature
- Series of provisions to improve the acquisitions workforce
- Takes care of deployed civilian employees

DOD ENERGY ISSUES

- Several provisions to make DOD more energy efficient

DOD ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- Authorizes conservation and environmental management programs

SHIPBUILDING HIGHLIGHTS

- LPD-17—\$600 million advanced procurement for two LPD-17 class ships;
- VA-Class Submarine—Authorizes one VA-class submarine and adds \$300 million in advanced procurement
- T-AKE Class—Authorizes two T-AKE class ships;
- Surface Combatants—Authorizes \$2.5 billion for the DDG 1000 program and \$350 million for the DDG 51 program
- Littoral Combat Ship (LCS)—Authorizes \$920 million for two LCS vessels
- Joint High Speed Vessel (JHSV)—Authorizes 2 JHSVs

AIRCRAFT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Presidential Helicopter—\$835 million and expects DOD to submit a Nunn-McCurdy cost overrun certification before restructuring the contract.
- Joint Strike Fighter (JSF)— \$2.9 billion for 14 F-35 Joint Strike Fighters (JSF), with an additional \$530 million for the JSF competitive engine.
- FA-18 E/F and EA-18G Aircraft—\$3.5 billion for 23 F/A-18E/F and 22 EA-18G.
- Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter (ARH)— \$229 million for procurement of 15 ARH aircraft, as well as \$43.8 million for advance procurement of 23 additional aircraft.
- KC-45 Tanker—\$831.8 million for the KC-45 tanker program
- C-130J— \$27.4 million, a reduction of \$25 million.
- F-22 Aircraft Procurement—\$2.9 billion for 20 F-22A aircraft in FY09 and \$523 million for the advance procurement of long-lead components for 20

additional aircraft in FY10. Also limit the obligation of the advance procurement funds to \$140 million until the next President decides whether to procure additional F-22s or to shut down the line.

- Joint Cargo Aircraft (JCA)— \$264.2 million for Army procurement of seven JCA and reduces the Air Force authorization by \$15.5 million.
- Strategic Airlift—\$2.1 billion for 6 C-17 aircraft

GROUND VEHICLES

- M1 Abrams and M2 Bradley—\$1.58 billion to upgrade M1 Abrams tanks and M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles
- Army Tactical Wheeled Vehicles—\$3.2 billion for Army tactical wheeled vehicles, including \$834 million for Up-Armored Humvees
- Stryker Vehicles—\$1.4 billion for new Stryker vehicles, armor kits, and vehicle upgrades

GROUND SYSTEMS

- Improves oversight and transparency of the FCS program. Reduces overall funding by \$104.7 million. Increases authorized R&D funding by \$33 million and reduces authorized procurement funding by \$137.7 million below the budget request of \$3.7 billion.
- Fully funds the budget request for Army tactical radio procurement and withholds 25 percent pending a report on plans for future radio procurement.
- Withholds 50 percent of R&D funding for WIN-T Increment 3 pending delivery of updated program cost estimates and technology assessments.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND (SOCOM)

- Authorizes \$100 million above the budget request for SOCOM and requires a plan for improving special operations manpower and readiness needs.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

- Sense of Congress that urge the Secretary of Defense to clarify lines of responsibility and accountability for nuclear weapons matters.
- Redirects \$33.3 million for RRW to other, higher priority activities.

MISSILE DEFENSE

- Patriot Systems—\$1.5 billion to purchase 108 Patriot PAC-3 missiles
- Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense—\$1.2 billion to procure additional SM-3 missiles
- Terminal High Altitude Area Defense—\$914.8 million to purchase advanced components for THAAD Fire Units #3 and #4.
- European Missile Defense Sites—\$465.8 million for the proposed missile defense sites in Europe, a reduction of \$246.3 million.
- Space Test Bed—Authorizes no funds for the proposed space test bed

GENERAL CONTRACTOR OVERSIGHT

Contains several provisions aimed at increasing oversight of contractors both at home and overseas. These include

- The Clean Contracting Act of 2008, to promote competition in federal contracting;

- Creation of Configuration Steering Boards for major acquisition programs; and
- A study on the use of off-shore subsidiaries by DOD contractors.
- A database of information on contractors who violate the law.

PROTECTING OUR SERVICE MEMBERS

- Authorizes \$1.7 billion for MRAP vehicles for our troops overseas.
- Authorizes \$2.2 billion for JIEDDO
- Directs additional research and development of unexploded ordnance detection technologies
- Adds authority for DOD to conduct proper oversight and survivability testing of personnel protective equipment

IRAQ POLICY

- Prohibits any funds for training and support of the Iraqi Security Forces from being used on infrastructure
- Bans CERP projects over \$2 million, unless the Secretary of Defense issues a waiver, and requires certification for all projects over \$1 million
- Requires DOD to report to Congress on details of any SOFAs that exist or are signed between the U.S. and Iraq
- Authorizes the hire of recipients of special visas granted to Iraqi translators who worked for U.S. forces in Iraq.
- Requires a strategy to establish measures of PRT effectiveness and performance
- Prohibits the use of funds to establish permanent bases in Iraq and prohibits U.S. control of Iraqi oil revenues.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIP CAPACITY

- Authorizes up to \$350 million to train and equip the military forces of friendly and partner nations and extends the authority for three years.

COUNTER-NARCOTICS (C-N) POLICY

- Requires DOD to prepare a region-wide, counter-drug plan for Africa, with a special emphasis on West Africa and the Maghreb.
- Reauthorizes Plan Colombia for one year, including the current troop cap level.
- Requires a report on DOD's efforts in the overall counter-narcotics activities in Afghanistan as part of a regional counter-narcotics strategy.

DOD COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION (CTR)

- Authorizes \$434.1 million, including \$9 million for weapons of mass destruction proliferation prevention and \$10 million for new CTR initiatives.

DOE NONPROLIFERATION PROGRAMS

Authorizes \$1.9 billion for CTR programs. This includes;

- \$451.7 million to secure nuclear weapons and weapons materials outside the U.S.;
- \$339.6 million for efforts that include securing high-priority radiological sources, and disposing of highly-enriched uranium outside the U.S.
- Fully funds the MOX project at \$487 million

- Requires a worldwide review of nuclear weapons including an inventory of nuclear weapons arsenals; a risk assessment and recommendations for improving the security of nuclear weapons.

IRAN POLICY

Directs an annual report on Iran's capability to produce nuclear weapons

PAKISTAN POLICY

- Authorizes \$25 million to train and equip the Pakistan Frontier Corps
- Requires reporting on enhancing security and stability in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region.

DETAINEE ISSUES

- Requires DOD to notify Congress and wait 60 days before implementing any new policies under a successor regulation to Army Regulation 190-8, (the regulation that has governed POW and detainee treatment for over 10 years)
- Requires a report on how detainee operations in Iraq and Afghanistan fit into overall counter-insurgency operations.

Quote of the Day

" There is no higher religion than human service. To work for the common good is the greatest creed."

- Woodrow Wilson

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