



House Update and Public Laws for the Week of May 19-May 23, 2008

Last Week in the House

On Monday, May 19, 2008, the House passed three suspension bills:

- H. Res. 1142, "Recognizing May 25, 2008, as National Missing Children's Day" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- H. Res. 1147, "Congratulating the Northern Kentucky University Norse women's basketball team, champions of the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II tournament" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- H. Con. Res. 354, "Recognizing the 100th birthday of Lyndon Baines Johnson, 36th President, designer of the Great Society, politician, educator, and civil rights enforcer" (Agreed to by voice vote)

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

On Tuesday, May 20, 2008, the House passed 22 suspension bills:

- H.R. 6081, "To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide benefits for military personnel, and for other purposes" (Passed 403-0, [Roll Call 331](#))
- H. Res. 1185, "Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should recognize the important contributions of Americans who serve as foster parents and, in doing so, unselfishly open their homes and family lives to children in need" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- H. Res. 1208, "Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that youth who age out of foster care should be given special care and attention" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- H. Res. 1054, "Honoring the service and achievements of women in the Armed Forces and female veterans" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- H. Res. 961, "Commending the Alaska Army National Guard for its service to the State of Alaska and the citizens of the United States" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- H. Con. Res. 32, "Honoring the members of the United States Air Force who were killed in the June 25, 1996, terrorist bombing of the Khobar Towers United States military housing compound near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- H.R. 2790, "To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the position of Director of Physician Assistant Services within the office of the Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- H.R. 3681, "To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to advertise in the national media to promote awareness of benefits under laws administered by the Secretary" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- H.R. 6074, "To amend the Sherman Act to make oil-producing and exporting cartels illegal and for other purposes" (Passed 324-84, [Roll Call 332](#))



- H. Res. 1144, "Expressing support for designation of a "Frank Sinatra Day" on May 13, 2008, in honor of the dedication of the Frank Sinatra commemorative stamp" (Agreed to 402-3, [Roll Call 333](#))
- H.R. 3889, "To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a longitudinal study of the vocational rehabilitation programs administered by the Secretary" (Passed by voice vote)
- H.R. 5554, "To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand and improve health care services available to veterans from the Department of Veterans Affairs for substance use disorders, and for other purposes" (Passed by voice vote)
- H.R. 5664, "To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to update at least once every six years the plans and specifications for specially adapted housing furnished to veterans by the Secretary" (Passed by voice vote)
- H.R. 5729, "To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide comprehensive health care to children of Vietnam veterans born with Spina Bifida, and for other purposes" (Passed by voice vote)
- H.R. 6048, "To amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide for the protection of child custody arrangements for parents who are members of the Armed Forces deployed in support of a contingency operation" (Passed by voice vote)
- S. 3029, "To provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes" (Passed by voice vote)
- H. Res. 1195, "Expressing condolences and sympathy to the people of the People's Republic of China for the grave loss of life and vast destruction caused by the earthquake of May 12, 2008 in Sichuan Province" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- S. 3035, "To temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965" (Passed by voice vote)
- H. Con. Res. 355, "Providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate" (Agreed to 239-175, [Roll Call 334](#))
- H.R. 1464, "To assist in the conservation of rare felids and rare canids by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of nations within the range of rare felid and rare canid populations and projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of rare felid and rare canid populations (Passed 294-119, [Roll Call 335](#))
- H.R. 2649, "To make amendments to the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992" (Passed 374-39, [Roll Call 336](#))
- H.R. 2744, "To amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to clarify the eligibility requirements with respect to airline flight crews" (Passed 402-9, [Roll Call 337](#))

On Wednesday, May 21, 2008, the House passed 29 suspension bills



- H.R. 1771, "To assist in the conservation of cranes by supporting and providing, through projects of persons and organizations with expertise in crane conservation, financial resources for the conservation programs of countries the activities of which directly or indirectly affect cranes and the ecosystems of cranes (Passed 304-118, [Roll Call 345](#))
- H.R. 4841, "To approve, ratify, and confirm the settlement agreement entered into to resolve claims by the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians relating to alleged interferences with the water resources of the Tribe, to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Interior to execute and perform the Settlement Agreement and related waivers, and for other purposes" (Passed by voice vote)
- H. Con. Res. 300, "Recognizing the necessity for the United States to maintain its significant leadership role in improving the health and promoting the resiliency of coral reef ecosystems, and for other purposes" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- S.J. Res. 17, "Directing the United States to initiate international discussions and take necessary steps with other Nations to negotiate an agreement for managing migratory and transboundary fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- H. Con. Res. 325, "Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission's Historical Preservation and Museum Program, which began on June 15, 1958, and for other purposes" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- H. Res. 1074, "Honoring the 60th anniversary of the commencement of the carving of the Crazy Horse Memorial" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- H.R. 3323, "To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey a water distribution system to the Goleta Water District and for other purposes" (Passed by voice vote)
- H. Con. Res. 334, "Supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- H. Res. 1152, "Honoring Arnold Palmer for his distinguished career in the sport of golf and his commitment to excellence and sportsmanship" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- H. Res. 1132, "Supporting the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- H. Res. 1153, "Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- H. Res. 1026, "Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Congressional Club" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- H.R. 752, "To direct Federal agencies to donate excess and surplus Federal electronic equipment, including computers, computer components, printers, and fax machines, to qualifying small towns, counties, schools, nonprofit organizations, and libraries" (Passed by voice vote)
- H.R. 5787, "To amend title 40, United States Code, to enhance authorities with regard to real property that has yet to be reported excess, and for other purposes" (Passed by voice vote)
- H.R. 3819, "To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reimburse veterans receiving emergency treatment in non-Department of Veterans Affairs



facilities for such treatment until such veterans are transferred to Department facilities, and for other purposes" (Passed 412-0, [Roll Call 347](#))

- H.R. 5826, "To increase, effective as of December 1, 2008, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes" (Passed 417-0, [Roll Call 348](#))
- H.R. 5856, "To authorize major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2009, and for other purposes" (Passed 416-0, [Roll Call 349](#))
- H. Res. 1137, "Supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Works Week, and for other purposes" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- H. Con. Res. 309, "Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- H. Res. 339, "Supporting the goals of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- H. Con. Res. 305, "Recognizing the importance of bicycling in transportation and recreation" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- H.R. 3480, "To direct the United States Sentencing Commission to assure appropriate enhancements of those involved in receiving stolen property where that property consists of grave markers of veterans, and for other purposes" (Passed to by voice vote)
- S. 2829, "To make technical corrections to section 1244 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, which provides special immigrant status for certain Iraqis, and for other purposes" (Passed by voice vote)
- H.R. 5571, "To extend for 5 years the program relating to waiver of the foreign country residence requirement with respect to international medical graduates" (Passed by voice vote)
- H. Res. 1106, "Expressing support for designation of April 2008 as "National Autism Awareness Month" and supporting efforts to devote new resources to research into the causes and treatment of autism and to improve training and support for individuals with autism and those who care for individuals with autism" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- H. Res. 1124, "Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Brain Tumor Awareness Month, and for other purposes" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- H. Res. 1022, "Reducing maternal mortality both at home and abroad" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- H. Con. Res. 134, "Expressing the sense of the Congress that there should be established a Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month to enhance public awareness of mental illness, especially within minority communities" (Agreed to by voice vote)
- H. Res. 369, "Supporting the goals and ideals of National Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month" (Agreed to by voice vote)



On Wednesday, May 21, 2008, the House passed two rule bills:

- H.R. 6049, "To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for energy production and conservation, to extend certain expiring provisions, to provide individual income tax relief, and for other purposes" (Passed 263-160, [Roll Call 344](#))
- The House voted on Wednesday to override the President's veto of H.R. 2419 "To provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes." The final vote was 316-108, [Roll Call 346](#))

On Thursday, May 22, 2008, the House passed two suspension bills:

- H. Res. 1194, "Reaffirming the support of the House of Representatives for the legitimate, democratically-elected Government of Lebanon under Prime Minister Fouad Siniora" (Passed 401-10, [Roll Call 354](#))
- H. Res. 986, "Recognizing the courage and sacrifice of those members of the United States Armed Forces who were held as prisoners of war during the Vietnam conflict and calling for a full accounting of the 1,729 members of the Armed Forces who remain unaccounted for from the Vietnam conflict (Passed 394-0, [Roll Call 366](#))

On Thursday, May 22, 2008, the House passed one rule bill:

- H.R. 5658, "To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2009, and for other purposes"

Public Laws Signed Last Week

Week of May 12-May 16, 2008, the President signed 2 bills into law:

- H.R. 6051, "To amend Public Law 110-196 to provide for a temporary extension of programs authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 beyond May 16, 2008"
- H.R. 6022, "[Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Protection Act of 2008](#)"
- H.R. 493, "[Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008](#)"
- H.R. 2419, "[Food and Energy Security Act of 2007](#)"
- S. 3029, "[A bill to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes](#)"

Thus far in the 110th Congress, the President has signed 235 bills into law. Of those bills, 93 (36%) were for the purpose of naming post offices or public buildings.