



H.RES. 1050 – RECOGNIZING PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS, AS BEING HOME TO THE EARLIEST KNOWN REFERENCE TO THE WORD "BASEBALL" IN THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS BEING THE BIRTHPLACE OF COLLEGE BASEBALL

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1050 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 Olver (D-MA) on March 13, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1050 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on June 23, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1050 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Recognizes the importance of college baseball to the Nation; and
- Recognizes the birthplace of college baseball as Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

BACKGROUND

In 2004, baseball historian John Thorn discovered a document in Pittsfield, Massachusetts that was of a bylaw passed during a Pittsfield town meeting on September 5, 1791. The bylaw stated; "for the Preservation of the Windows in the New Meeting House . . . no Person or Inhabitant of said town, shall be permitted to play at any game called Wicket, Cricket, Baseball, Football, Cat, Fives or any other game or games with balls, within the Distance of Eighty Yards from said Meeting House". The mentioning of baseball in the bylaw is the oldest documentation of the game in the known history of baseball.

Additionally, Pittsfield was also the site of the first intercollegiate baseball game that took place between Amherst College and Williams College on July 1, 1859. Amherst won in 26 innings, 73-32.

STAFF CONTACT

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