



H.RES. 1128 – Expressing support of the goals and ideals of National Carriage Driving Month

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1128 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 David Davis (R-TN) on April 22, 2008. The resolution was ordered reported by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform by voice vote on July 16, 2008.

H.Res. 1128 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 22, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1128 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Expresses support for National Carriage Driving Month, along with its goals and ideals; and
- Encourages supporters, historical organizations, and educational entities to observe the month and collaborate on efforts to further protect, preserve, and appreciate carriages as part of our Nation's history.

BACKGROUND

Carriages, four wheeled (usually horse-drawn) vehicles employed in private passenger transportation, were some of the first vehicles with a suspension system. Horse drawn closed carriages first gained popularity in Europe during the 16th century, when developments in spring technology made rides safer and more comfortable for passengers. Prior to that point, carriage springs were not highly developed and travelers tended to ride horses directly instead of using carriages.

Animal drawn vehicles, such as the carriage, left their mark on American history by facilitating the exploration and settlement of the American frontier. In the 1890s, as automobiles were invented, carriage-driving, or "coaching" developed into an upper-class sport in the United States and Europe. Today, variants on this carriage driving live on as competitive equestrian sport, cultural celebrations of American history, and in communities that resist modern conveniences.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Brianne Miller at (202) 226-2302.