



H.R. 5618 –NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 5618 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 Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU) on March 13, 2008. The House Committee on Natural Resources ordered the bill to be ordered, as amended, by voice vote on June 12, 2008.

H.R. 5618 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 14, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 5618 amends the National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization Act of 1998 to encourage collaboration among Sea Grant colleges and universities. The bill also amends the Sea Grant program performance review standards.

H.R. 5618 amends the National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization Act of 2002 to require a report every two years on efforts to include minority and economically disadvantaged students in the program. The bill also designates the National Sea Grant Review Panel as the "National Sea Grant Advisory Board". The Board is required to report to Congress every two years on the state of the National Sea Grant program.

The bill exempts the Dean John A. Knars Marine Policy Fellowship Program from having to match grant awards in order to achieve parity between fellows in Congress and the Executive branch. The percentage of funds exempt from the non-federal match requirement is raised from 1 percent to five percent, under this provision.

The bill authorizes the appropriation of \$498 million for the purposes of this Act over fiscal years 2009-2014.

BACKGROUND

The National Sea Grant College program was first established in 1966, and was most recently reauthorized by the National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002. The program is currently authorized at \$88 million for fiscal year 2008. The program is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). There are over 30 Sea Grant programs at coastal colleges and universities in the United States which sponsor marine science research, education, and training. The program also operates two fellowship programs: the John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship, and the Sea Grant/NOAA Fisheries Graduate Fellowship.

Once a program is designated as a Sea Grant College, it may compete for federal grants for up to two-thirds of the cost of the project. The other one-third of funding must come from non-federal matching funds. The National Sea Grant College Program is currently overseen by the National Sea Grant Review Panel, which is comprised of 15 members and advises the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program on scientific and administrative policy.

[National Sea Grant College Program](#)

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that implementing H.R. 5618 "would total \$316 million over the 2009-2013 period, in addition to \$51 million from funding provided in previous years. An



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additional \$182 million would be spent after 2013, including \$100 million authorized to be appropriated for 2014." [Full CBO Cost Estimate](#)

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at (202) 226-2302.



H.R. 1714 – TO CLARIFY THE BOUNDARIES OF COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM CLAM PASS UNIT FL-64P

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 1714 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 Connie Mack (R-FL) on March 27, 2007. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, but was never considered.

H.R. 1714 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 14, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 1714 updates the map of the Coastal Barrier Resources System in Collier County, Florida, which is currently subtitled 'FL-64P'. The legislation replaces 'FL-64P' with another map of the System entitled 'Coastal Barrier Resources System Clam Pass Unit, FL-64P'.

This revised map would exclude 48 acres of private land mistakenly included in the System and include 65 acres of county land that are within the Clam Pass Conservation Area. The addition of this land to the System would enable those owning condominiums on the property to purchase flood insurance.

BACKGROUND

The 'John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System' was established by the Coastal Barriers Resources Act of 1982 (P.L. 97-348). This System is comprised of several undeveloped coastal barrier systems (such as the system in Collier County, Florida) found along the coasts of the Atlantic, Gulf, and Great Lakes. The geographic locations of these coastal barriers make them susceptible to hurricane damage. The Coastal Barriers Resources Act seeks to preserve these areas by restricting Federal expenditures in these areas which may encourage their development. Such restrictions include the purchasing of Federal flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program. While these areas may be developed by private individuals, no such investment may be underwritten by the Federal government under the Act.

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System](#)

[Current map of FL-64P](#)

COST

The Congressional Budget Office has not released a cost estimate for this legislation as of July 10, 2008.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at (202) 226-2302.



H.R. 3227 – TO DIRECT THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CONTINUE STOCKING FISH IN CERTAIN LAKES IN THE NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK, ROSS LAKE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, AND LAKE CHELAN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 3227 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 Doc Hastings (R-WA) on July 30, 2007. The House Committee on Natural Resources agreed to the bill, as amended, by voice vote on June 25, 2008.

H.R. 3227 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on XXXXXXXX, XX XXXX

SUMMARY

H.R. 3227 directs the Secretary of the Interior to stock fish in the Washington state lakes located in the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

The legislation permits the Secretary, acting through the National Park Service and in coordination with the state of Washington, to stock up to 42 lakes with fish that are native to the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

The bill requires the Secretary to monitor the impacts of fish stocking in these lakes and report to Congress on these findings every five years.

BACKGROUND

These three lakes comprise the North Cascades National Park Service Complex, which is a mountainous region of Washington State that includes waterfalls, deep valleys, and over 300 glaciers.

According to the National Park Service, salmon are the best known fish in the North Cascades region. Every year, thousands of salmon swim up the regions rivers to spawn and while thousands of fish return, logging, dam building, over harvesting, cross-breeding with harmful results, and other factors have led to declining fish runs. The region is home to other varieties of fish, including steelhead, rainbow trout, sea-run and resident cutthroat. All of these are evolutionarily related to the salmon and are known as salmonoids.

[U.S. National Park Service - North Cascades National Park Service Complex](#)

COST

The Congressional Budget Office “estimates that enacting H.R. 3227 would have no effect on revenues or direct spending and no significant effect on discretionary spending.”

[Full CBO cost estimate for H.R. 3227](#)

STAFF CONTACT

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H.Res. 984 –Expressing support for the designation of July 26, 2008 as "National Day of the Cowboy"

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 984 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 Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ) on February 13, 2008. The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform ordered the resolution to be ordered by voice vote on June 12, 2008.

H.Res. 984 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 14, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 984 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Expresses support for the designation of a 'National Day of the Cowboy'; and
- Encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

BACKGROUND

The cowboy is an important figure in the history, literature, film, and music of the American West. Cowboys in the United States still exist today, but date back to the nineteenth century when they primarily herded cattle and performed other ranching roles. There are currently about 727,000 ranchers, or cowboys, working in the U.S. The word "cowboy" is thought to be an English version of the Spanish word *vaquero*, meaning cattle handler.

Rodeo and ranch rodeo events, which incorporate cowboy culture, remain very popular in the United States. Rodeo is the seventh most watched sport in America, and over 27 million fans attend rodeo events each year.

STAFF CONTACT

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SUSPENSIONS NAMING UNITED STATES FEDERAL BUILDINGS

FLOOR SITUATION

The following bills are being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

These bills are expected to be considered on the floor on July 14, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 5506 designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 369 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the "Bishop Ralph E. Brower Post Office Building". This legislation was introduced by Representative Albio Sires (D-NJ) on February 27, 2008. The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform ordered the bill to be reported by voice vote on June 12, 2008.

H.R. 4010 designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 West Percy Street in Indianola, Mississippi, as the "Minnie Cox Post Office Building". This legislation was introduced by Representative Bennie Thompson (D-MS) on October 30, 2007. The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform ordered the bill to be reported by voice vote on June 12, 2008.

STAFF CONTACT

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H.RES. 1067 – RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CROSSING OF THE NORTH POLE BY THE USS NAUTILUS (SSN 571) AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN THE HISTORY OF BOTH OUR NATION AND THE WORLD

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1067 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 Joe Courtney (D-CT) on April 1, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Armed Services, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1067 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 14, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1067 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Recognizes the historic significance of the journey to the North Pole undertaken by the USS *Nautilus*;
- Commends the officers and crew of the USS *Nautilus* on the 50th anniversary of their magnificent achievement;
- Recognizes the importance of the USS *Nautilus*' journey to the North Pole as not only a military and scientific accomplishment, but also in confirming America's longstanding interest in this vital region of the world;
- Commends the role of the USS *Nautilus* and the United States Submarine Force in protecting the interests of the free world during the Cold War; and
- Supports the continuing role of the United States Submarine Force in defending our Nation in the 21st century.

BACKGROUND

The USS *Nautilus* was a submarine constructed and launched in Groton, Connecticut, on January 21, 1954. It was the world's first nuclear powered vessel. On August 3, 1958, the USS *Nautilus* crossed the North Pole while submerged under polar ice and became the first vessel to accomplish this. Navy Commander William R. Anderson was awarded the Legion of Merit for his command of the USS *Nautilus* during this crossing and the ship itself was awarded the meritorious vessel award of the Presidential Union Citation, becoming the first naval vessel to receive this award in peacetime.

In addition to crossing the North Pole, the USS *Nautilus* has accomplished several other naval records over a twenty-five year active career, including being the first submarine to achieve a depth of '20,000 leagues under the sea.' The USS *Nautilus* was based out of the Naval Submarine Base New London, in Connecticut, and is currently on display at Base New London.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at (202) 226-2302.



H.RES. 1080 – HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE AND EXCEPTIONAL SACRIFICE OF THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION (AIR ASSAULT), KNOWN AS THE SCREAMING EAGLES

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1080 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 Ed Whitfield (R-KY) on April 3, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Armed Services, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1080 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 14, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1080 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Recognizes the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), also known as the Screaming Eagles, as one of the great Divisions in American military history;
- Recognizes that America owes a tremendous debt to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) for the extraordinary service, sacrifice, and patriotism of the soldiers of the Division and their families; and
- Acknowledges that the contributions of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) to ensure the continued safety and security of this nation will not go unnoticed.

BACKGROUND

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), or the Screaming Eagles, was formed on August 16, 1942, at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, and is currently headquartered in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. The Screaming Eagles were the first Americans to land in France on June 6, 1944, as part of the Allied invasion of Europe on D-Day. After the attacks of September 11, 2001, the Screaming Eagles were among the first units deployed to Afghanistan in November of 2001 to partake in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 101st Airborne Division has actively served in five U.S. wars, with twenty-two members of the Division awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. The first commander of the 101st Airborne Division, Major General William C. Lee stated that "The 101st has no history, but it has a rendezvous with destiny", making 'Rendezvous With Destiny' the motto of the 101st Airborne Division.

STAFF CONTACT

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H.CON.RES. 295 – EXPRESSING THE DEEPEST APPRECIATION OF CONGRESS TO THE FAMILIES OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Con.Res. 295 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 Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) on February 13, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Armed Services, but was never considered.

H.Con.Res. 295 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 14, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Con.Res. 295 resolves that Congress expresses its deepest appreciation to the families, both immediate and extended, of members of the United States Armed Forces for the unwavering support, both physical and emotional, that family members give their loved ones while they answer the call to serve their country and keep the United States safe.

BACKGROUND

According to the Department of Defense, there currently are more than 2 million personnel serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. A February 2007 report by the Presidential Task Force on Military Deployment Services for Youth, Families and Service Members found that there were more than 700,000 with at least one parent deployed on active military duty. Military families provide support to deployed family members through activities such as e-mail and letter correspondence and sending personal items such as family pictures.

The Department of Defense (DOD) provides support resources to assist military personnel and their families during periods of deployment. One such resource is Military Homefront, which provides information about DOD Quality of Life programs and services to both active and retired service members, and their families. These programs provide information about topics that military families may need information about such as child and spouse education, financial management, psychological support programs, and other opportunity programs that are intended to help support the well-being of these families.

[DOD Military Homefront website](#)

STAFF CONTACT

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H.Con.Res. 297 – Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the integration of the United States Armed Forces

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Con.Res. 297 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 Mike Rogers (R-AL) on February 14, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Armed Services, but was never considered.

H.Con.Res. 297 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 14, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Con.Res. 297 resolves that it is the sense of Congress to honorably and respectfully recognize the historic significance and to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of President Truman's Executive Order 9981 signed on July 26, 1948 that declared it to be the policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin thereby beginning the process of ending segregation in the United States Armed Forces.

BACKGROUND

According to the U.S. Army, President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981 on July 26, 1948, establishing the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services. To accompany this Order, President Truman also issued Executive Order 9980 which created a Fair Employment Board to eliminate racial discrimination in federal employment hiring practices. Executive Order 9981 had set the Armed Forces on course towards full integration, and on September 30, 1954, the Secretary of Defense announced that the last all-black military unit had been abolished.

In observance of Executive Order 9981, the U.S. Army Material Command has requested that each of its major subordinate commands hold events and programs commemorating the beginning of the integration of the U.S. Military. Towards this effort, the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command will publish a series of articles highlighting the contributions of African Americans to the military and a chronology highlighting the effects of Executive Order 9981 in the military today.

STAFF CONTACT

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H.R. 3564 - Regulatory Improvement Act of 2007

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 3564 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 Chris Cannon (R-UT) on September 18, 2007. The House passed H.R. 3564 on October 22, 2007, by voice vote. The Senate agreed to an amended version of the bill, by unanimous consent, on June 27, 2008.

H.R. 3564 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 14, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 3564, as amended by the Senate, authorizes \$9.6 million over fiscal years 2009 – 2011 to fund the Administrative Conference of the United States.

As passed by the House, H.R. 3564 authorized funding levels of \$1 million for 2008, \$3.3 million for 2009, \$3.4 million for 2010, and \$3.5 million for 2011. The Senate version removed 2008 authorization and reduced funding levels to \$3.2 million for each of fiscal years 2009-2011.

BACKGROUND

The Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS) was established in 1964 as an independent agency charged with studying administrative agencies and making recommendations to the President, Congress, and the administrative agencies on ways to improve the efficiency of administrative procedures. ([5 U.S.C. 594](#)) The ACUS was comprised of between 75 – 101 members, consisting of a Chairman who was appointed by the President, up to 40 members appointed by the Chairman from both the public and private sectors, and every head of an executive department, agency, independent regulatory board or commission, or their designee(s). ([5 U.S.C. 593](#))

The ACUS was comprised of members such as Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia who served as Chairman of the Conference from 1972 to 1974, and Justice Stephen Breyer, who served as a member of the Conference from 1981 – 1994. The funding for the ACUS was terminated in 1995, effectively eliminating the program.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) did not have a cost estimate available for the Senate amended version of H.R. 3564 as of July 7, 2008.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson (202) 226-2302.



H.Con.Res. 381 – Honoring and Recognizing the dedication and achievements of Thurgood Marshall on the 100th anniversary of his birth

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Con.Res. 381 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 Donald Payne (D-NJ) on June 24, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, but was never considered.

H.Con.Res. 381 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 14, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Con.Res. 381 resolves that the House of Representatives, with the Senate concurring:

- Honors the dedication and achievements of Thurgood Marshall;
- Recognizes the contributions of Thurgood Marshall to the struggle for equal rights and justice in the United States; and
- Celebrates the lifetime achievements of Thurgood Marshall on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

BACKGROUND

Thurgood Marshall was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on July 2, 1908. Marshall attended Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and went on to graduate from the Howard University School of Law at the top of his class. Thurgood Marshall had a distinguished legal career, arguing 32 cases before the Supreme Court, including *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954.

In 1961, Thurgood Marshall was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, where he served for four years. From 1965 to 1967, Marshall served as Solicitor General after being appointed by President Lyndon Johnson. In 1967, President Johnson nominated Marshall to the U.S. Supreme Court where he served for 24 years as the first African-American Supreme Court Justice. Thurgood Marshall died in 1993, at age 84.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at (202) 226-2302.



H.Res. 1182 – Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that American flags flown on Federal Government buildings and on Federal property be made in the United States

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1182 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 Bob Filner (D-CA) on May 8, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1182 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 14, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1182 resolves that it is the sense of the United States House of Representatives that all American flags flown over Federal buildings be entirely produced in the United States.

BACKGROUND

The United States flag consists of thirteen horizontal alternating red and white stripes and a blue rectangle bearing 50 white stars. The stripes represent the original thirteen States, and the stars represent the current States. The national flag of the United States was officially adopted on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress.

Nicknames for the American flag include the Stars and Stripes, Old Glory, and the Star-Spangled Banner. The United States Flag Code, a federal law, outlines standards for the display, use, and disposal of the flag.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at (202) 226-2302.



H.Con.Res. 369 – Honoring the men and women of the Drug Enforcement Administration on the occasion of its 35th anniversary

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Con.Res. 369 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 Mark Souder (R-IN) on June 10, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, but was never considered.

H.Con.Res. 369 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 14, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Con.Res. 369 resolves that Congress:

- Congratulates the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) on the occasion of its 35th anniversary;
- Honors the heroic sacrifice of the agency's employees who have given their lives or have been wounded or injured in service of our Nation; and
- Gives heartfelt thanks to all the men and women of the DEA for their past and continued efforts to defend the American people from the scourge of illegal drugs and terrorism.

BACKGROUND

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) was created in 1973 by an Executive Order of President Richard Nixon to combat "an all-out global war on the drug menace." The DEA is tasked with countering drug smuggling and use within the United States, as well as U.S. drug investigations abroad. The DEA currently operates 227 offices in the United States, as well as an additional 87 offices in foreign countries. The Acting Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration is Michele Leonhart. The DEA has a workforce of almost 11,000 employees.

In 2007, the DEA made over 27,000 domestic arrests and seized over 454,000 kilograms of narcotics. Over 70 DEA Agents and other personnel have been killed in the line of duty. Many other DEA employees have also been wounded in the line of duty.

[Department of Justice – Drug Enforcement Administration](#)

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at (202) 226-2302.



S. 3218 – Criminal History Background Checks Pilot Extension Act of 2008

FLOOR SITUATION

S. 3218 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 Senator Joseph Biden (D-DE) on June 26, 2008. The Senate passed the bill by unanimous consent on June 26, 2008.

S. 3218 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 14, 2008.

SUMMARY

S. 3218 amends the PROTECT Act of 2003 to extend the Criminal Background Checks Pilot for an additional six months.

BACKGROUND

The Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to End the Exploitation of Children Today (PROTECT) Act of 2003 was signed into law by President George W. Bush on April 30, 2003. This legislation strengthened several laws dealing with the prosecution and law enforcement of crimes involving children.

The PROTECT Act also established a pilot national criminal history background check system to enable volunteer groups (Boys and Girls Clubs of America, National Mentoring Partnership, and the National Council for Youth Sports) to obtain national and State criminal history background checks for adults. The Child Safety Pilot program uses fingerprints to search the database of the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. S. 3218 extends the authorization for this pilot program for an additional six months.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not produced a cost estimate for S. 3218 as of July 11, 2008.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at (202) 226-2302.



H.R. 5464 – A Child is Missing Alert and Recovery Center Act

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 5464 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 Ron Klein (D-FL) on February 14, 2008. The resolution was reported by voice vote from the House Committee on the Judiciary on May 14, 2008.

H.R. 5464 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 14, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 5464 requires the Attorney General to make an annual grant to the A Child Is Missing Alert and Recovery Center (ACIM). The grant is authorized at \$5 million for each fiscal year 2009 through 2014 and may be used to operate and expand ACIM's services to Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to promote the recovery of a missing child, to maintain and expand technologies and techniques, and to establish and maintain regional centers. The grant may also be used to share information with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the AMBER Alert Coordinator, and appropriate Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, and to assist them with education programs.

BACKGROUND

A Child Is Missing (ACIM) is a non-profit corporation that was established in January 1997. ACIM is a service made available to law enforcement agencies to assist with the search for a missing child, elderly, or disabled person. The law enforcement agency contacts ACIM in the event of a missing person and ACIM then enters the location the person was last seen and identifies a search area. Their computers then generate a list of phone numbers of the residents and businesses in the search area and a recorded message is sent out to the community.

According to testimony before the House Committee on the Judiciary on April 17, 2008, the founder of ACIM, Sherry Friedlander, stated that ACIM has worked 9,000 cases and has launched more than 16 million alert calls. ACIM has been credited by law enforcement with 340 safe, assisted recoveries.

COST

According to the Congressional Budget Office, "CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5464 would cost about \$15 million over the 2009-2013 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts."

STAFF CONTACT

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S. 231 – To authorize the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program at fiscal year 2006 levels through 2012

FLOOR SITUATION

S. 231 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 Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) on January 1, 2007. The bill was passed by the Senate by unanimous consent on May 24, 2007.

**Note: The House passed identical legislation (H.R. 3546) on June 25, 2008, by a vote of 406 to 11. ([Roll no. 456](#))*

S. 231 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 14, 2008.

SUMMARY

S. 231 authorizes appropriations for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program through fiscal year 2012.

S. 231 authorizes \$1.095 billion annually through FY2012 for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program.

**Note: The program was authorized at \$1.095 billion in FY2006 and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2007-2009.*

BACKGROUND

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG) allows states and local governments to improve their criminal justice system by supporting activities that help prevent and control crime. Funding under the JAG program has six targeted purpose areas: law enforcement; prosecution and court programs; prevention and education programs; corrections and community corrections programs; drug treatment and enforcement programs; planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs; and crime victim and witness programs.

The JAG program provides state and local governments with a single funding mechanism that simplifies the administration process for grants going towards crime control programs. The formula used to distribute funds under JAG is based on state population and crime statistics, along with a minimum allocation for each state, to help ensure that each state receives an appropriate share. The JAG program was authorized under the Violence against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-162).

[Department of Justice - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program](#)

COST

On March 26, 2007, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated that "S. 231 would cost about \$2.3 billion over the 2007-2012 period." (CBO Cost Estimate for H.R. 231) However, CBO had to use different assumptions for the enactment date of the House passed legislation and now estimates that the bill "would cost about \$3 billion over the 2008-2013 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts." (CBO Cost Estimate for H.R. 3546)

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