



H.R. 4049 – MONEY SERVICE BUSINESS ACT OF 2007

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 4049 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 Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) on November 1, 2007. The House Committee on Financial Services agreed to the bill, as amended, by voice vote on June 24, 2008.

H.R. 4049 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

According to a Department of Treasury final rule, Money Services Businesses (MSBs) include businesses such as check cashers, currency exchanges, electronic bill payment services, money transmitters, and currency dealers. The Treasury Department operates the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and various other financial crimes. MSBs are frequently exploited by criminals wishing to engage in these types of financial crimes. FinCEN was established in 2004 within Treasury's Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence after the passage of the USA Patriot Act (P.L. 107-86), and in wake of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

According to current federal guidelines, insured depository institutions must conduct reviews of the compliance programs of their own MSB customers. H.R. 4049 is intended to remedy a situation in which banks are reluctant to offer banking and account services to Money-Service Businesses (MSBs) because they are unwilling to assume either the job of on-site examinations to ensure that the MSB has an adequate program to protect against the laundering of money and the financing of terror, or the liability of offering account services without doing such due-diligence.

BACKGROUND

SUMMARY

The bill provides that money services businesses (MSBs) may self-certify their compliance with anti-money and counter-terrorism regulations when establishing accounts with federally insured depository institutions. MSBs must certify that they are in compliance with federal banking law and registered as such. Additionally, the MSB must certify that it maintains an anti-money laundering program as required by federal law, be licensed or registered as an MSB by each State in which it operates, and meet such other regulations as the Treasury Secretary formulates to assure strong anti-crime regimes.

The MSB certification requirements under this bill also extend to agents of money transmitting businesses. In addition to the certification requirements for MSBs, agents of MSBs must provide that they are contract bound agents of an MSB, will comply with all applicable laws, and will notify any federally insured depository institution of any material changes to their relationship with the MSB to which they are a contracted agent.

The legislation states that Federally insured depository institutions are not subject to any increased liability for the failure of any MSB or agent to comply with the laws or regulations if they self-certify, but does not relieve banks from any other due-diligence requirements for anti-crime measures. Additionally, the bill includes civil and criminal penalties for the misrepresentation of these certifications by an MSB or their agent.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office did not have a cost estimate available for H.R. 4049 as of July 11, 2008.

STAFF CONTACT

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



H.R. 6455 - NASA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6455 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 Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) on July 10, 2008. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Financial Services, but was never considered.

H.R. 6455 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 6455 directs the Secretary of the Treasury to commemorate the 50th anniversary of NASA by issuing gold and silver coins in the amounts of \$50 and \$1 respectively. The bill requires up to 50,000 gold coins and 300,000 silver coins to be minted. The bill requires the coin sales to include a surcharge of \$50 per \$50 coin, and \$10 per \$1 coin. These coins will be considered legal tender.

The gold \$50 coin will be designed with an image of the sun and a design emblematic of the sacrifice of the United States astronauts who lost their lives in the line of duty over the course of the space program. The \$1 coin will bear an image of planets, as well as images emblematic of the contributions of the research and space centers.

The bill requires the first \$4 million in proceeds of coin sales to be distributed to the NASA Family Assistance Fund for financial assistance to the families of NASA personnel who die as a result of their duties. H.R. 6455 requires that the next \$500,000 million be distributed to the Dr. Ronald E. McNair Educational (D.R.E.M.E.) Science Literacy Foundation and the Challenger Center for Space Science Education. The remaining proceeds will be distributed to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution for the preservation, maintenance, and display of space artifacts at the National Air and Space Museum.

H.R. 6455 authorizes the Secretary of Treasury to sell bronze duplicates of the \$50 coins.

BACKGROUND

Created on July 29, 1958, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is the federal agency primarily responsible for the United States' public space program and aerospace research. The agency was established largely in response to the launch of the Soviet satellite *Sputnik* in 1957. The current NASA Administrator is Michael D. Griffin, who supervises about 17,000 employees. NASA was most recently authorized by the NASA Authorization Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-155).

NASA has accomplished several scientific and exploratory milestones during its fifty-year operation. In 1961, NASA launched the first-manned spacecraft, Freedom 7. In 1969, NASA was responsible for the Apollo 11 flight which landed a man on the Moon and returned to Earth safely. Today, NASA coordinates American efforts with the International Space Shuttle and operates the Hubble Space Telescope.

COST

There was no Congressional Budget Office cost estimate available for H.R. 6455 as of July 14, 2008.

STAFF CONTACT

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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

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SUSPENSION NAMING A UNITED STATES FEDERAL HIGHWAY

FLOOR SITUATION

S. 3145 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

The bill is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

S. 3145 designates a portion of United States Route 20A, located in Orchard Park, New York, as the "Timothy J. Russert Highway". This legislation was introduced by Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY) on June 18, 2008. The bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent on July, 24, 2008. The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure ordered the bill to be reported by voice vote on June 25, 2008.

BACKGROUND

Tim Russert was born May 7, 1950 in Buffalo, New York. He attended John Carroll University and later the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. Mr. Russert was a member of the bar in both New York and Washington, D.C. He earned 48 honorary doctoral degrees over his lifetime.

Mr. Russert worked in politics after graduating from law school, working on the Senate campaign of Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY) in 1976 and on Mario Cuomo's campaign for Governor of New York in 1982. He decided to work for NBC News in 1984 and supervised NBC's TODAY show from Rome in 1985. While supervising the TODAY show, Mr. Russert negotiated the first televised appearance of a Pope on American television with Pope John Paul II's appearance on the TODAY show. Mr. Russert led NBC News' weeklong broadcasts from South America, Australia, and China from 1986 to 1987.

He was the NBC News Washington bureau chief and vice president, orchestrating the NBC network's coverage of government and political news. Starting in 1991, Mr. Russert served as moderator of the political talk show *Meet the Press*, which is broadcast on Sunday mornings. *Meet the Press* began airing in 1947 and is the longest running program in the history of television. He was also a two-time New York Times best-selling author, writing about his strong relationship with his father in *Big Russ and Me* in 2004 and *Wisdom of Our Fathers* in 2006. Earlier this year, *Time* magazine listed Mr. Russert as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

While preparing for a recording of *Meet the Press*, Tim Russert died of a sudden heart attack on June 13, 2008. Mr. Russert is survived by his wife Maureen and his son, Luke.

From a statement released by President Bush: "As the longest-serving host of the longest-running program in the history of television, he was an institution in both news and politics for more than two decades. Tim was a tough and hardworking newsman. He was always well-informed and thorough in his interviews. And he was as gregarious off the set as he was prepared on it."

STAFF CONTACT

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S. 496 – APPALACHIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2007

FLOOR SITUATION

S. 496 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 George Voinovich (R-OH) on February 6, 2007. The bill passed the Senate, as amended, by unanimous consent on August 3, 2007.

S. 496 is expected to be considered on the Floor of the House on July 15, 2008, and will include a Manager's Amendment reflective of a bicameral agreement reached on the legislation after Senate passage. This Digest is reflective of the changes included in the Manager's Amendment.

Note: H.R. 799 is the House version of S. 496. H.R. 799 passed the House under suspension of the rules, as amended, by a vote of 332 – 70 on July 16, 2007. Legislative Digest for H.R. 799.

SUMMARY

SUMMARY

Under current law, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) may make grants towards promoting economic development in financially underserved areas of the Appalachian region.

S. 496 provides that these grants may not exceed 50 percent of administrative expenses; 75 percent of administrative expenses if the grant is for a county specially designated as economically "distressed" and with the consent of ARC; and 70 percent of administrative expenses if the grant is for a county specially designated as "at risk" of becoming economically distressed and with the consent of ARC. Additionally, the legislation incorporates ten additional counties into the Appalachian Region.

Note: The addition of ten counties to the Appalachian Region was not included in the bill as passed by the Senate.

The bill also provides that no more than 50 percent of the funds made available under this bill may go towards the total cost of any project eligible for assistance. However, for projects that are to be carried out in counties that are designated as "distressed" or "at risk," funds made available may cover no more than 80 and 70 percent of total costs, respectively. The bill applies these same percentage provisions to grants made for the planning, construction, and equipping of health facilities in the Appalachian Region; low- and middle-income housing projects in the Region; grants made to cover unrecoverable expenses incidental to planning and obtaining financing for economic improvement projects; projects intended to improve technology and telecommunications programs in the Region; and entrepreneurship and skilled business partnership initiatives intended to improve the job skills and labor training programs in the Region.

S. 496 also makes funds available through ARC to individuals and entities located in the Region to carry out projects intending to promote economic competitiveness in the Region, as well as energy efficiency initiatives increasing the use of renewable energy sources. Funding made available through this provision may cover no more than 50 percent of the total cost of any such economic competitiveness and energy related projects, and may cover no more than 80 and 70 percent of total costs in counties that are designated as "distressed" or "at risk," respectively. Also, the legislation required that any earmarks for programs under the ARC be derived from the ARC funds allocated for the state where the earmark project is located as opposed to being funded by the general appropriations for the ARC.

The legislation authorizes \$511 million in funding for fiscal years 2008-2012. Of this total, the bill authorizes \$87 million for use during FY2008, \$100 million for FY 2009, \$105 million or FY 2010, \$108 million for FY 2011, and \$110 million for FY 2012.



Note: These figures are not the same as those in S. 496 as passed by the Senate, nor as those passed by H.R. 799. However, the total level of authorization has remained approximately the same.

Also of this total, \$33 million of authorized funds are available for telecommunications and technology projects as well as \$64.4 million for economic competitiveness and energy related projects.

Note: H.R. 799 authorized \$48 million for energy initiative projects in addition to a general authorization of \$463 million, totaling \$511 million.

BACKGROUND

In 1965, Congress passed and President Johnson signed the Appalachian Regional Development Act (P.L. 89-4) for the creation of a program offering federal aid to improve the economic and social development of the Appalachian Region. Programs under this Act are administered by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). At that time, one in every three Appalachians lived in poverty, per capita income in the region was 23 percent lower than the U.S. average, and high unemployment and harsh living conditions led over 2 million residents of the region to relocate to other areas.

The program's goals are to increase job opportunities and per capita income in the region, by reducing the area's isolation through highway building programs and infrastructure development to make the region economically competitive in the global economy.

According to ARC, "Appalachia, as defined in the legislation from which the Appalachian Regional Commission derives its authority, is a 200,000-square-mile region that follows the spine of the Appalachian Mountains from southern New York to northern Mississippi. It includes all of West Virginia and parts of 12 other states: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

According to the ARC, "About 23 million people live in the 410 counties of the Appalachian Region; 42 percent of the Region's population is rural, compared with 20 percent of the national population. The Region's economic fortunes were based in the past mostly on extraction of natural resources and manufacturing. The modern economy of the Region is gradually diversifying, with a heavier emphasis on services and widespread development of tourism, especially in more remote areas where there is no other viable industry. Coal remains an important resource, but it is not a major provider of jobs. Manufacturing is still an economic mainstay but is no longer concentrated in a few major industries" ([ARC website](#)).

H.R. 799, the House version of S. 496, also authorized \$511 million for fiscal years 2007-2011. Of these funds \$48 million were designated to establish an Economic and Energy Development Initiative, which is a grant program promoting energy efficiency and increased use of renewable resources and alternative fuels in the Appalachian region. H.R. 799 required that any earmarks for programs under the ARC be derived from the ARC funds allocated for the state where the earmark project is located as opposed to being funded by the general appropriations for the ARC.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that "implementing S. 496 would cost \$294 million over the 2007-2012 period." [Full CBO cost estimate for S. 496](#)

STAFF CONTACT

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



H.CON.RES. 299 – SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL CYSTIC FIBROSIS AWARENESS MONTH

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Con.Res. 299 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 Edward Markey (D-MA) on February 14, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, but was never considered.

H.Con.Res. 299 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Con.Res. 299 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Honors the goals and ideals of National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month;
- Promotes further public awareness and understanding of cystic fibrosis;
- Advocates for increased support for people with cystic fibrosis and their families;
- Encourages early diagnosis and access to high-quality care for people with cystic fibrosis to improve the quality of their lives; and
- Supports research to find a cure for cystic fibrosis by fostering an enhanced research program through a strong Federal commitment and expanded public-private partnerships.

BACKGROUND

According to the National Institutes of Health, cystic fibrosis is an inherited disease affecting mucus and sweat glands. Normally, mucus is watery and keeps the lining of certain organs moist and protected from infection. Cystic fibrosis causes this mucus to become thick and sticky, blocking the airflow to organs which eventually leads to the growth of bacteria and infection. The effects of the disease most heavily impact the lungs, pancreas, liver, intestines, sinuses, and sex organs. The disease also causes perspiration to be abnormally salty, causing the body to lose large amounts of salt. This salt loss leads to an upset of mineral balance in the blood. There is no known cure for cystic fibrosis today.

The [Cystic Fibrosis Foundation](#) reports that about 70,000 children and adults suffer from cystic fibrosis world wide, with roughly 30,000 of those affected living in the United States. Few children suffering from the disease in the 1950s survived to attend elementary school, however, advances in medicine have extended the life expectancy for those suffering from cystic fibrosis into their 30s and 40s, and beyond.

STAFF CONTACT

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H.RES. 1259 – CONGRATULATING THE HAMILTON COLLEGE CONTINENTALS ON WINNING THE NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S LACROSSE CHAMPIONSHIP

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1259 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 Michael Arcuri (D-NY) on June 10, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1259 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 14, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1259 resolves that the House of Representatives congratulates the Hamilton College Continentals on winning the NCAA Division III women's lacrosse championship and commends them on their contributions to Hamilton College, women's athletics, and the sport of lacrosse.

BACKGROUND

Hamilton College is located in Clinton, New York, and is a liberal arts college with enrollment of 1,775 students. The college is a member of the New England Small College Athletic Conference, and its mascot is a Continental.

The Hamilton College women's lacrosse team brought home the college's first ever national team championship on May 18, 2008, by winning the NCAA Division III women's lacrosse tournament championship. The 21-1 Continentals defeated Franklin and Marshall College by a score of 13-6.

STAFF CONTACT

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



H.RES. 1088 – RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE AS A VITAL AMERICAN CULTURAL AMBASSADOR TO THE WORLD

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1088 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 Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) on April 8, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1088 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1088 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Recognizes and commends the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for 50 years of service as a vital American cultural ambassador to the world, during which it has provided world-class American modern dance to an estimated 21,000,000 people across the globe;
- Recognizes that the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has been a true pioneer in the world of dance by establishing an extended cultural community which provides dance performances, training, and community programs for all people while using the beauty and humanity of the African-American heritage and other cultures to unite people of all ages, races, and backgrounds; and
- Recognizes that Ailey II, the prestigious Ailey School, and Ailey's extensive and innovative Arts In Education and Community Programs train future generations of dancers and choreographers while continuing to expose young people from communities large and small to the arts.

BACKGROUND

BACKGROUND

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater was formed in 1958, when its namesake and founder, Alvin Ailey, and a group of African-American modern dancers performed at the 92nd Street Young Men's Hebrew Association in New York. Mr. Ailey was the Artistic Director for his company until his death in 1989. Over his lifetime he created 79 ballets and was awarded the United Nations' Peace Medal in 1982.

Following his death, the company was taken over by his chosen successor, Judith Jamison. Ms. Jamison was presented with a Kennedy Center Honor in December 1999. In 2001, President George W. Bush presented her with a National Medal of the Arts, which is the highest award presented to artists in the United States.

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has performed for an estimated 21 million people in 48 states and 71 countries. This year marks the company's 50th anniversary of "bringing African-American cultural expression and the American modern dance tradition to the world's stages."

[Alvin Ailey Dance Theater Website](#)

STAFF CONTACT

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H.Res. 1323 – Commending the Arizona State University softball team for their victory in the 2008 Women's College World Series

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1323 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 Harry Mitchell (D-AZ) on July 8, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1323 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1323 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Commends the Arizona State University softball team for their victory in the 2008 Women's College World Series;
- Recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, and staff whose hard work and dedication helped the Arizona State University Sun Devils win the championship; and
- Directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit a copy of this resolution to Arizona State University President Michael Crow, softball Coach Clint Myers, and Athletic Director Lisa Love for appropriate display.

BACKGROUND

The Arizona State University Sun Devils women's softball team won the 2008 NCAA Women's College World Series on June 3, 2008, defeating Texas A&M by a score of 11 to 0. This victory was the first national softball title for Arizona State. The Sun Devils had a regular season record of 56-5, and went undefeated in the ten game postseason. The coach of the team is Clint Myers, and the Most Valuable Player of the tournament was pitcher Katie Burkhart.

Arizona State University is a public university located in and around Phoenix, Arizona. The school was founded in 1885 and has an enrollment of about 64,000 students. The school colors of Arizona State are maroon and gold. The university participates in the Division I Pacific-10 Conference of the NCAA.

STAFF CONTACT

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H.Res. 1327 – Congratulating the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Baseball Champions, the Fresno State Bulldogs, on an outstanding and historic season

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1327 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 Devin Nunes (R-CA) on July 9, 2008. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1327 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1327 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Congratulates the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Baseball Champions, the Fresno State Bulldogs, on an outstanding and historic season; and
- Recognizes that the Bulldogs, in winning their first College World Series, concluded an unprecedented season and championship that captivated baseball fans across America.

BACKGROUND

The Fresno State Bulldogs baseball team defeated the University of Georgia Bulldogs in a three game series to win the 2008 College World Series held in Omaha, Nebraska in June, 2008. The Fresno State Bulldogs had a regular season record of 47-31. Fresno State had not previously played in the College World Series since 1991. Third baseman Tommy Mendonca was named the College World Series Most Outstanding Player. Each member of the championship baseball team is a native of California, and the coach of the Bulldogs is Mike Batesola.

California State University, Fresno (Fresno State) was founded in 1911 in Fresno, California. Fresno State has an enrollment of about 22,000 students. In athletics, Fresno State competes in the Western Athletic Conference of the NCAA. Fresno State's only other national championship was a softball title in 1998.

STAFF CONTACT

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H.RES. 1261 – CONGRATULATING EAST HIGH SCHOOL IN DENVER, COLORADO, ON WINNING THE 2008 'WE THE PEOPLE: THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION' NATIONAL COMPETITION

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1261 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 Diana DeGette (D-CO) on June 10, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1261 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1261 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Congratulates the East High School team on winning the 2008 'We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution' national competition;
- Recognizes the academic accomplishments of Isabel Breit, Nicholas Brown, Maya Burchette, Nitai Deitel, Gideon Hertz, Gideon Irving, Katherine Jablonski, Gavin Jacobs, Noah Kaplan, Brendan Lamarre, Zachary Lass, Alexandria Leenatali, Richard Londer, Nathan Mackenzie, Rebecca Nathanson, Alyse Opatowski, Marley Pierce, Alyssa Roberts, Paige Romer, Hayley Round, Ryan Saunders, Lindsay Shields, Jeffrey Thalhoffer, Shaquille Turner, Charlotte Vilkus, Taylor Want, and Jacob Zax;
- Recognizes the guidance and commitment of coach Susan McHugh;
- Recognizes the work of Loyal Darr, 'We the People' coordinator for Colorado's First District; and
- Directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit a copy of this resolution to Denver School District Superintendent Michael Bennet and coach Susan McHugh for appropriate display.

BACKGROUND

The 'We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution' is a nationwide competition for upper elementary, middle, and high school students intending to enhance their understanding of the history and principles of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. The national championship competition is held annually in Washington D.C., and is sponsored by the Center for Civic Education.

To qualify for the national championship competition, a school's team must first win its state championship. During each competition, teams are divided into six groups of three or more students with each group focusing on a different Constitutional area of interest. These groups then present short speeches on their particular area of interest before a panel of judges which is followed by a question and answer period.

According to the Center for Civic Education, since 1987 more than 28 million students and 90 thousand educators have participated in this competition. East High School has gone to the national finals 19 times, placed in the top ten 16 times, the top three 8 times, and the top two 4 times. East High School has previously won the competition in 2007 and 1992.

STAFF CONTACT

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



H.Res. 1090 – Honoring the esteemed former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela on the occasion of his 90th birthday

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1090 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 William Jefferson (D-LA) on April 8, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1090 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1090 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Honors former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela on the occasion of his 90th birthday on July 18, 2008, and extends best wishes to him and his family;
- Honors his many accomplishments;
- Congratulates him for his efforts to promote dialogue to peacefully resolve conflicts between people in Africa and around the world; and
- Celebrates his contributions to South Africa, the United States, and the international community.

BACKGROUND

Nelson Mandela was born on July 18, 1918 in Transkei, South Africa. Mr. Mandela was educated at University College of Fort Hare and later at the University of Witwatersrand where he earned a degree in law in 1942.

In 1944, Mr. Mandela joined the African National Congress (ANC) which was the party in opposition to the ruling National Party. Through the ANC, Mr. Mandela became engaged in resistance efforts against the apartheid policies of the National Party. After the ANC was banned in 1960, Mr. Mandela became a proponent for the establishment of a military wing within the ANC. The ANC decided to not oppose this movement and the Umkhonto we Sizwe was established as the military wing of the ANC.

Along with other ANC and Umkhonto we Sizwe members, Mr. Mandela was arrested in 1962. He was sentenced to five years of hard labor, and in 1963 was brought to stand trial for the plotting to overthrow the government by violence. On June 12, 1964, he was sentenced to life imprisonment along with eight other accused conspirators. From 1964 to 1982, Mr. Mandela was imprisoned on Robben Island Prison off of Cape Town and later at Poolsmoor Prison. Mr. Mandela never changed his political opinion or position during his imprisonment, even to obtain freedom.

Mr. Mandela was freed on February 11, 1990, and was elected President of the ANC in 1991. The practice of apartheid was ended over a series of negotiations from 1990 to 1993, and ended in 1994 with the South Africa's first election with universal suffrage. Mr. Mandela has been internationally recognized for his stance against apartheid and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.

STAFF CONTACT

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H.Con.Res. 385 – Condemning the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 1994, and for other purposes

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Con.Res. 385 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 Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) on June 26, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, but was never considered.

H.Con.Res. 385 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Con.Res. 385 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Reiterates its strongest condemnation of the 1994 attack on the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association (AMIA) Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, honors the victims of this attack, and expresses its sympathy to the relatives of the victims;
- Applauds the Government of Argentina for increasing the pace of the AMIA bombing investigation and for enacting counter-terrorism legislation;
- Urges the Government of Argentina to continue to dedicate and provide the resources necessary for its judicial system and intelligence agencies to investigate all areas of the AMIA case and to prosecute those responsible;
- Commends the General Assembly of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) for upholding and issuing the Red Notices supported by the Executive Committee of INTERPOL in March 2007;
- Expresses grave concern regarding the Government of Saudi Arabia's failure, when given the opportunity, to detain Iranian officials against whom Argentine arrest warrants or INTERPOL Red Notices are pending in connection with the AMIA case;
- Urges all nations to cooperate fully with the AMIA investigation, including by making information, witnesses, and suspects available for review and questioning by the appropriate Argentine authorities, and by detaining and extraditing to Argentina, if given the opportunity, any persons against whom Argentine arrest warrants or INTERPOL Red Notices are pending in connection with the AMIA case, including Iranian officials and former officials, Hezbollah operatives, and Islamist militants;
- Encourages the President to direct United States law enforcement agencies to provide support and cooperation to the Government of Argentina, if requested, for the purposes of deepening and expanding the investigation into the AMIA bombing; and
- Urges governments in the Western Hemisphere, who have not done so already, to draft, adopt, and implement legislation designating Hezbollah as a terrorist organization, banning fundraising and recruitment activities, and applying the harshest penalties on those providing support for activities involving Hezbollah and other such Islamist terrorist organizations



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

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BACKGROUND

BACKGROUND

This year marks the 14th anniversary of the July 18, 1994 bombing of the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association (AMIA) which killed 85 people and wounded 300 others. The AMIA is a Jewish community center located in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

STAFF CONTACT

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



H.R. 3032 – To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to permit candidates for election for Federal office to designate an individual who will be authorized to disburse funds of the authorized campaign committees of the candidate in the event of the death of the candidate

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 3032 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 Walter Jones (R-NC) on July 12, 2007. The Committee on House Administration ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by voice vote on April 2, 2008.

H.R. 3032 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

The bill amends the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (P.L. 92-225) to allow candidates for Federal office to designate an individual responsible for disbursing campaign funds in the event of the death of the candidate. H.R. 3032 also allows the candidate to designate a second individual with disbursement rights, in case the primary designee dies or is otherwise incapacitated. Candidates may designate such individuals for each relevant authorized campaign committee.

H.R. 3032 requires the candidate to file this designation with the Federal Election Commission, the agency responsible for registering this information and regulating the process.

BACKGROUND

Under current Federal law, the responsibility for disbursing campaign funds in the event of a candidate's death lies with the campaign treasurer. This legislation would allow Federal candidates to designate a separate primary and secondary individual with these disbursement rights.

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (P.L. 92-225) increased disclosure of Federal campaign contributions, and has been amended several times since its enactment. In 1974, the Act was amended to create the Federal Election Commission (FEC). The FEC is a regulatory agency which regulates Federal campaign finance regulation. The FEC is governed by six Commissioners, equally divided between political parties.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that "implementing H.R. 3032 would cost the FEC about \$500,000 in 2009." [Full CBO Cost Estimate](#)

STAFF CONTACT

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



H.R. 6296 – To extend through 2013 the authority of the Federal Election Commission to impose civil money penalties on the basis of a schedule of penalties established and published by the Commission

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6296 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 Robert Brady (D-PA) on June 18, 2008. The bill was referred to the Committee on House Administration, but was never considered.

H.R. 6296 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 6296 amends the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (P.L. 92-225) to extend the authority of the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to impose civil money penalties through December 31, 2013. This authority is currently set to expire on December 31, 2008.

BACKGROUND

The FEC currently has the authority under Federal law to require persons to pay civil money penalties if found to be in violation of FEC procedure. These penalties are based on the severity of the violation, any previous violations, and other appropriate factors. Persons found to be in violation of FEC procedure are allowed to appeal the decision to the Commission and may obtain a review of the FEC's determination in U.S. district court.

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (P.L. 92-225) increased disclosure of Federal campaign contributions, and has been amended several times since its enactment. In 1974, the Act was amended to create the Federal Election Commission (FEC). The FEC is a regulatory agency which regulates Federal campaign finance regulation. The FEC is governed by six Commissioners, equally divided between political parties.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not produced a cost estimate for H.R. 6296 as of July 14, 2008.

STAFF CONTACT

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H.R. 5803 – To direct the Election Assistance Commission to establish a program to make grants to participating States and units of local government which will administer the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2008 for carrying out a program to make backup paper ballots available in the case of the failure of a voting system or voting equipment in the election or some other emergency situation, and for other purposes

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 5803 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 Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) on April 15, 2008. The Committee on House Administration ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by a vote of 5-3.

H.R. 5803 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 5803 requires the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to establish an optional grant program for State and local governments to enact programs making paper ballots available in the case of equipment failure or other emergencies during the November 2008 Federal election. To become eligible for grants, States and local governments must apply to the EAC with a certification of a paper ballot program and agreement to repay the EAC any grant amounts received that exceed actual costs.

This legislation requires that any voter at a polling place participating in this grant program who experiences malfunction or another “emergency situation” be given a paper ballot. Voters must be provided notification of their right to a paper ballot and these ballots must be tabulated on the date of the election.

The bill authorizes the appropriation of \$75 million for these grants.

BACKGROUND

H.R. 5803 was favorably reported by the Committee on House Administration by a vote of 5-3, strictly along party lines. In addition, the Majority rejected five Republican amendments in full Committee markup. Among the defeated Republican amendments was a motion by Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) that would have required voters to show identification prior to voting at the polls on Election Day.

Currently, at least 39 States and the District of Columbia already provide paper or backup ballots in the event of voting machine failure, according to a [recent survey by the Election Center](#), a non-profit organization whose membership is entirely comprised of State and local government election officials.

Under this legislation, what constitutes an “emergency situation” at a polling place is the sole discretion of the State and local authorities. Such situations could include machine failure, long lines, staffing shortages, or any number of other difficulties.

The Election Assistance Commission (EAC) is an independent federal commission established by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-252). The EAC serves as a national clearinghouse of election administration information and adopts voluntary voting system guidelines.

[Election Assistance Commission](#)



ADDITIONAL VIEWS

Ranking Member Vernon Ehlers (R-MI): "H.R. 5803 provides an optional grant program for states or jurisdictions to purchase backup paper ballots for any subjectively determined emergency situations that may occur during the upcoming general elections for Federal office. We are not opposed to grant programs, so long as there is necessity for, sufficient funding for and ample time to administer such programs. While well intended, there is no exigency that warrants the Federal government establishing an optional grant program that provides states with funding to produce back-up paper ballots for the November 2008 general elections. A vast majority of states already have contingency plans in place in the event of a voting machine or voting system malfunction or other emergency situation. It would be impolitic and careless to support an incentive program that is unnecessary and has little chance of receiving the full appropriation of authorized funds...H.R. 5803 is an unnecessary and costly solution to a problem that does not exist." ([Minority Views, House Report 110-637](#))

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that "implementing H.R. 5803 would cost \$77 million in 2009." [Full CBO Cost Estimate](#)

STAFF CONTACT

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