

**House Republican Conference  
Office of Committee Relations**

J.C.WATTS, JR.  
Chairman  
4<sup>th</sup> District, Oklahoma

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2001**

The House will meet at 10:00 a.m. for legislative business.

**Suspensions (9 bills):**

- H.R. 725** – Made in America Information Act
- H.R. 364** – Marjory Williams Scrivens Post Office Building Designation
- H.R. 821** – W. Joe Trogdon Post Office Building Designation
- H.R. 741** – Madrid Protocol Implementation Act
- H.R. 809** – Antitrust Technical Corrections Act of 2001
- H.R. 860** – Multidistrict, Multiparty, Multiforum Trial Jurisdiction Act of 2001
- H.R. 861** – To Make Technical Amendments to Section 10 of Title 9 of United States Code
- S. 320** – Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2001
- H.R. 802** – Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act

**Suspensions (9 bills):****Floor Situation**

The House is expected to adopt a unanimous consent agreement to consider 9 bills under suspension of the rules as its only order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

**Summary**

**H.R. 725** provides for the establishment and operation of a three-year pilot program creating a toll free number to assist consumers in determining which products are "Made in America." The measure provides that all costs of the program are to be paid with modest fees collected from manufacturers who voluntarily choose to register their products under this program. Additionally, the measure requires the Secretary of Commerce to issue regulations establishing the program, as well as procedures for manufacturers to register products that are made in America. If there is sufficient interest in providing private sector funding, the Secretary is directed to enter into a contract for the establishment and operation of the program. Finally, H.R. 725 requires that only American-made products with a sale price of \$250 or more would be eligible for participation in the program. The legislation uses the same definition of "Made in America" as the Federal Trade Commission does for product labeling purposes.

The language reported by the Committee is identical in every material respect to H.R. 754, which passed the House by a vote of [390-2](#) on October 25, 1999. H.R. 725 was introduced by Mr. James Traficant on February 26, 2001, and ordered reported by the Energy and Commerce Committee by voice vote on February 28, 2001. CBO estimates that the bill will have no significant cost impact.

**H.R. 364** designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5927 Southwest 70th Street in Miami, Florida as the "Marjory Williams Scrivens Post Office". H.R. 364 was introduced by Ms. Meek of Florida on January 31, 2001. The measure was referred to the House Committee on Government Reform, but was not considered.

**H.R. 821** designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1030 South Church Street in Asheboro, North Carolina as the "W. Joe Trogdon Post Office Building". H.R. 821 was introduced by Mr. Coble on March 1, 2001. The measure was referred to the House Committee on Government Reform, but was not considered.

**H.R. 741** amends the Trademark Act of 1946 to implement provisions of the 1989 International Madrid Protocol. The purpose of the Madrid Protocol is to develop a low-cost international system for registering trademarks. Specifically, the bill authorizes the owner of a United States trademark to file an international application with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Once the application is processed and approved, both domestic and international law among the other 49 Madrid countries will protect the trademark. Therefore, a U.S. business will not have to register for trademarks in each individual nation in which it markets its products. Participation in the Madrid Protocol entitles holders of international registrations to the same trademark protection worldwide as is extended within the United States. Therefore, no additional constraints will be placed upon U.S.

industries and the protocol will alleviate the currently expensive and time-consuming process of applying for trademarks in nations abroad.

Although passage of this bill (which was passed by voice vote in the 106th Congress) will not allow for U.S. participation in the protocol agreement until Senate ratification, supporters claim it will send a signal to the international business community that the United States is serious about participating in such an international trademark protection agreement. H.R. 741 was introduced by Mr. Coble on February 27, 2001. The measure was reported from the House Committee on the Judiciary by voice vote on March 8, 2001.

**H.R. 809** makes six technical corrections to current antitrust law. Three of the changes repeal outdated provisions that (1) require antitrust case depositions to be conducted in public; (2) prohibit individuals in violation of antitrust law from passing through the Panama Canal; and (3) are redundant of other jurisdiction and venue provisions relating to the Clayton Act. A fourth change clarifies that Sec. 2 of the Sherman Act (dealing with monopolization) applies to the District of Columbia and U.S. territories.

The final two changes are highly technical in nature. The fifth change is an organizational change to The Wilson Tariff Act, and the sixth change adds a period to the end of a sentence in the Year 2000 Information Readiness and Disclosure Act (*P.L. 105-271*). H.R. 809 was introduced by Mr. Sensenbrenner on March 1, 2001. The measure was reported from the House Committee on the Judiciary by voice vote on March 8, 2001.

**H.R. 860** amends the federal judicial code to remove impediments to consolidating certain lawsuits within the federal court system. Specifically, the measure permits federal judges, before whom pretrial proceedings for multidistrict litigation were consolidated, to consolidate them for trial. Based on a 1998 court case that changed longstanding judicial practice, current law allows judges to consolidate only pre-trial proceedings in multidistrict litigation. The bill grants federal district courts original jurisdiction over civil actions arising out of an accident involving the death or injury of 25 or more individuals if the damages sought are more than \$150,000 per person and minimal diversity of citizenship exists. Minimal diversity is proved to exist between adverse parties if any party is a citizen of a state and any adverse party is (1) a citizen of another state, (2) a citizen or subject of a foreign state, or (3) a foreign state. Current law does not permit such cases to be filed in federal court or, if filed in state court, to be transferred to federal court. H.R. 860 was introduced by Mr. Sensenbrenner on March 6, 2001. The measure was reported from the House Committee on the Judiciary by voice vote on March 8, 2001.

**H.R. 861** makes certain modifications to correct a drafting error in subsection 10(a) of Title 9 of U.S. Code, which deals with domestic and international arbitration law. In addition, the measure corrects punctuation and other grammatical errors in the same subsection. H.R. 861 was introduced by Mr. Gekas on March 6, 2001. The measure reported from the House Committee on the Judiciary by voice vote on March 8, 2001.

**S. 320** makes a number of technical changes to the American Inventors Protection Act (AIPA) (*P.L. 106-113*). The bill amends existing patent and trademark law to emphasize the efforts of Congress to modernize these statutes and further protect intellectual property rights. S. 320 empowers inventors and other users of the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) by implementing these changes:

- **PTO modernization.** The bill establishes a Chief Financial Officer within the PTO, changes the titles of certain key officers of the agency, clarifies the authority of the Public Advisory Committee, and makes other minor changes to PTO administrative operations.
- ***Inter Partes* Patent Reexamination.** The bill amends the statutory provisions for the optional *inter partes* reexamination procedure that is an alternative to litigation while not altering its substantive procedures.
- **Early Publication of Patent Applications.** The bill amends the statutory procedures for the early publication of foreign-filed patents so as to conform with the procedures for accepting and processing international applications.
- **Trademark Law.** The bill provides for technical and clerical amendments to the Trademark Act.

In addition, S. 320 corrects miscellaneous technical and clerical drafting errors. The measure also makes grammatical corrections recommended to Congress by the U.S. Copyright office. S. 320 was introduced Mr. Hatch on February 13, 2001. The measure was referred to the House following Senate passage of the measure by voice vote on March 8, 2001. The measure was reported from the House Committee on the Judiciary by voice vote on March 8, 2001.

**H.R. 802** authorizes the president to award, and present in the name of Congress, a Medal of Valor to public safety officers for extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty. It establishes a National Medal Office within the Department of Justice to staff a permanent Medal of Valor Review Board and to establish criteria and procedures for recommending nominees for the medal. The review board will be composed of 11 members appointed by Congress and

the president. Its members will serve four-year terms and must be persons with knowledge or experience in the field of public safety, including firefighting, law enforcement and emergency services expertise. H.R. 802 was introduced by Mr. Smith of Texas on February 28, 2001. The measure was reported from the House Committee on the Judiciary by voice vote on March 8, 2001.

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1010 Longworth House Office Building • Washington, D.C. 20515 • (202) 226-2302