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Daily

Floor Briefing

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2001

The House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and
2:00 p.m. for legislative business.

No recorded votes are expected before 6:00 p.m.

Suspensions (7 bills):

H.R. 642 - Chesapeake Bay Office of the National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration Reauthorization Act

H.R. 768 - Need-Based Educational Aid Act of 2001

H.Con.Res. 59 – Expressing the Sense of Congress regarding the
Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome

H.Res. 91 - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives
Regarding the Human Rights Situation in Cuba

H.Res. 56 - Sense of the House Calling upon the People's Republic of
China to end its Human Rights Violations in China and Tibet

H.R. 974 - Small Business Interest Checking Act of 2001

H.Con.Res. 66 - Revising and updating "Women in Congress, 1917-
1990"

Suspensions (7 bills):

Floor Situation

The House is scheduled to consider seven bills under suspension of the rules as its only order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and require a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary

H.R. 642 reauthorizes the Chesapeake Bay Office of the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration until September 30, 2006. The measure also requires the development of multiple species management strategies and the establishment of small grants programs.

In addition to reauthorizing the Office, this legislation requires (1) a five-year study leading to the development of a multiple species management strategy for the Chesapeake Bay; and (2) the establishment and administration of a community-based fishery and habitat restoration small grants and technical assistance program. The study will determine the current status and trends of selected fish and shellfish that live in the Chesapeake Bay estuaries, evaluate and assess interactions among the multiple species, and make recommendations for management actions to optimize the return to a healthy and balanced ecosystem for the Bay. The community-based program will pay the federal share, up to 75 percent, of projects that are carried out by eligible entities for the restoration of fisheries and habitats in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. To fund the Office and the improvements, H.R. 642 authorizes \$6 million a year for FY 2002-2006. H.R. 642 was introduced by Mr. Gilchrest on February 14, 2001. The measure was reported by the House Committee on Resources by voice vote on March 28, 2001. A CBO cost estimate was not available at press time.

For additional information or questions, please contact the Resources Committee at 5-2761.

H.R. 768 amends the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994, granting permanent exemptions in antitrust laws to private colleges that want to share information on need-based financial aid. The exemptions have been extended by law three times, most recently in 1997. H.R. 768 was introduced by Mr. Smith of Texas on February 28, 2001. The measure was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary and reported by voice vote on March 28, 2001.

For additional information or questions, please contact the Judiciary Committee at 5-3951.

H.Con.Res. 59 expresses the sense of Congress regarding the prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome. It states that Congress strongly supports efforts to protect children from abuse and neglect and encourages the people of the United States to educate themselves regarding shaken baby syndrome and the techniques to prevent it. H.Con.Res. 59 was introduced by Mr. McKeon on March 8, 2001. The measure was referred to the House Government Reform Committee, but was not considered.

For additional information or questions, please contact Rep. McKeon's office at 5-1956.

H.Res. 91 expresses the sense of the House regarding the repressive and totalitarian actions of the Government of Cuba against the Cuban people. It suggests the president have an action-oriented policy of directly assisting the Cuban people and independent organizations, modeled on United States support under former President Ronald Reagan (including support by United States trade unions, for Poland's Solidarity movement) to strengthen the forces of change and to improve human rights within Cuba. The resolution also directs the president to make all efforts necessary at the meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva later this year to obtain the passage by the Commission of a resolution condemning the Government of Cuba for its human rights abuses, and to secure the appointment of democratic and international human rights monitors in Cuba. H.Res. 91 was introduced by Mr. Smith (NJ) on March 19, 2001, and referred to the House Committee on International Relations. The measure was reported by voice vote on March 28, 2001.

For additional information or questions, please contact the International Relations Committee at 5-5021.

H.Res. 56 urges the representative of the United States to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to introduce a resolution calling upon the People's Republic of China to end its human rights violations in China and Tibet at the annual meeting of the Commission. The 57th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights began on March 19 and ends April 27 in Geneva, Switzerland. H.Res. 56 was introduced by Mr. Lantos on February 26, 2001. H.Res. 56 was referred to the Committee on International Relations, and was approved by voice vote on March 28, 2001. A similar measure, [S.Res. 22](#), passed the Senate on March 20, 2001.

For additional information or questions, please contact the International Relations Committee at 5-5021.

H.R. 974 authorizes the Federal Reserve to pay interest on the reserves that depository institutions maintain at Federal Reserve Banks. The legislation also eliminates the minimum statutory ratios that currently apply to those reserves, thereby giving the Federal Reserve Board greater flexibility in setting reserve requirements. To offset the revenue loss associated with allowing interest payments on reserve balances, the legislation requires that the Federal Reserve remit from its surplus fund to the Treasury an amount equal to the estimated annual revenue loss. The bill also increases the number of allowable transfers from money market deposit accounts to 24 per month, from the current limit of six, enabling depository institutions to sweep funds between non-interest bearing commercial checking accounts and interest bearing accounts on a daily basis.

The legislation also removes the prohibitions on the payment of interest on demand deposits contained in the Federal Reserve Act, the Home Owner's Loan Act, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Act. In addition, the measure provides for the repeal of the prohibition two years after enactment.

H.R. 974 allows depository institutions that are currently prohibited by State law from offering demand deposits to offer NOW accounts to all customers, including businesses. Negotiable order of withdrawal (NOW) accounts pay interest or dividends. A NOW account allows the owner of the account to make withdrawals by negotiable or transferable instrument for the purpose of making payment to third parties. Presently, State law prohibits some industrial banks from offering demand deposits. Therefore, they would be unable to offer their business customers interest bearing negotiable instrument accounts, even though they can presently offer non-business customers such accounts through the use of NOW accounts. The legislation authorizes those industrial banks to offer NOW accounts to all customers.

H.R. 974 was introduced Ms. Kelly on March 13, 2001. The measure was referred to the House Committee on Financial Services and was ordered reported by voice vote on March 28, 2001. A CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time.

For additional information or questions, please contact the Financial Services Committee at 5-7502.

H.Con.Res. 66 authorizes the printing of a revised version of the House Document titled 'Women in Congress, 1917-1990' by the Public Printer. The resolution also authorizes the printing of an additional 25,000 copies for the House Administration Committee and 5,700 copies for the Senate Rules and Administration Committee. H.Con.Res. 66 was introduced by Ms. Kaptur on March 15, 2001. The measure was referred to the House Administration Committee, but not considered.

For additional information or questions, please contact Rep. Kaptur's office at 5-4146.

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