

April 16, 2007

**H.Con.Res. 76 - Honoring the 50th Anniversary of the International Geophysical Year and its past contributions to space research, and looking forward to future accomplishments**

**Floor Situation**

H.Con.Res. 76 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 Udall (D-CO) on March 1, 2007. The bill was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology.

H.Con.Res. 76 is expected to be considered on the floor on April 16, 2007.

**Summary**

H.Con.Res. 76 resolves, with the Senate concurring, that the House of Representatives:

- Honors the 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year (IGY) and its contributions to the scientific investigations of the Earth and outer space; and,
- Encourages the public, and especially American youth, to attend IGY celebrations and seminars, such as those being planned at locations around the United States by the National Academy of Sciences and other organizations, and participate in discussions about the future of space science and Earth science.

**Background**

The IGY initiated the Space Age with the successful launch of the first artificial satellites, Sputnik by the former Soviet Union, and Explorer I by the United States. IGY occurred during the years of 1957-1958.

Explorer I, with its official name of Satellite 1958 Alpha, was the first American satellite sent to space. It was launched on January 31, 1958 at Cape Canaveral (now Cape Kennedy), Florida, and orbited for approximately 115 minutes.

On October 4, 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik I, marking the first occurrence that man sent an artificial satellite into space. This launch marked the beginning of the

space age and the space race between the United States and the Soviet Union.

**Cost**

This bill has not been scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

**Staff Contact**

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