



H.Res. 575 – Commending the people and the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for their continued commitment to holding elections and broadening political participation, and for other purpose

Floor Situation

H.Res. 575 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 Brian Baird (D-WA) on July 26, 2007. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and was reported out by voice vote.

H.Res. 575 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House of Representatives on September 5, 2007.

Summary

H.Res. 575 commends the people and the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for their continued commitment to holding elections and serving as a model for other Arab countries.

In addition, this legislation also expresses the importance of women’s participation in the process and the significant relationship between the United States and the people of Jordan

Background

On November 8, 1989, the Kingdom of Jordan held their first general elections in twenty-two years. The fairness of the elections was acknowledged internationally and domestically by both winners and losers alike.

For the first time in the country’s history, the entire spectrum of Jordanian society participated in the legislative branch of government. Since that time, Jordan has continued along the democratic path. Parliamentary elections were held in 1993 and 1997.

A new reformed municipal elections law was passed on February 4, 2007. The new law includes a 20 percent quota for representation by women in the council and reduces the age of eligible voters from 19 to 18 years of age in order to expand the voter base.

Jordan continues to invest in reforming its educational system to incorporate democratic values and principles.

Cost

At the time of publication the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) had not yet scored H.Res. 575.

Staff Contact

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