

BUDGET WEEK

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
Majority Caucus • Jim Nussle, *Chairman*

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Volume 2, No. 28

Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation
scheduled for the House floor

7 October 2002

Week of 7 October 2002

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

1) **Wastewater Treatment Works Security Act of 2002** (H.R. 5169). 

The bill authorizes funds for the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] to make grants to States, municipalities, or intermunicipal or interstate agencies. The grants are to be for conducting vulnerability assessments at publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities, and for undertaking security enhancements at such facilities. The bill does not increase direct spending – spending not subject to appropriations – or reduce revenue.

2) **Mortgage Servicing Clarification Act** (H.R. 163). 

This bill amends the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to exempt from certain debt collection disclosure requirements particular servicers of federally related mortgage loans secured by first liens. The exemption would apply to servicers who also are debt collectors, and whose primary function is servicing loans. The bill does not increase direct spending or decrease revenues.

3) **Truth in Lending Inflation Adjustment Act** (H.R. 5507). 

This bill amends two existing laws concerning the borrowing and leasing of personal property.

The Truth in Lending Act requires creditors to disclose certain basic information about credit terms so that consumers can compare the cost of credit. The act applies, in part, to credit transactions with the following two characteristics: 1) they involve the acquisition of a security interest in real or personal property that is used as the principal dwelling; and 2) the total amount financed exceeds \$25,000. H.R. 5507 would raise this latter threshold to \$75,000.

The Consumer Leasing Act requires the disclosure of the terms of leases of personal property for personal, family, or household purposes so as to enable lessees to compare more readily the various lease terms available. The act applies to leases longer than 4 months with total obligations of \$25,000 or less. H.R. 5507 would raise this cap to \$75,000.

A Congressional Budget Office [CBO] estimate was not available at the time of publication. It is expected, however, that this bill will have no effect on direct spending or revenue. The laws amended are administered by the Federal Reserve. Although it is not expected that H.R. 5507 will increase the Federal Reserve's administrative costs, any increase would be scored as a reduction in revenue.


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PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to express support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. Note: Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the House Committee on the Budget. It has not been approved by the full committee and may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

4) ***Pledge of Allegiance Reaffirmation Act*** (S.2690). 

This bill affirms the reference to one Nation under God in the Pledge of Allegiance. This bill has no budgetary implications.

5) ***To Suspend for a Period of 6 Months the Determination of the Librarian of Congress of July 8, 2002, Relating to Rates and Terms for the Digital Performance of Sound Recordings and Ephemeral Recordings*** (H.R. 5469). 

This bill suspends certain payments that would be required for the use of copyrighted digital and ephemeral recordings for six months. Though no CBO estimate was available at the time of publication, the bill is not expected to have an impact on the Federal budget.

6) ***Federal Agency Protection of Privacy Act*** (H.R. 4561). 

The bill requires federal agencies to analyze proposed regulations to determine their impact on the privacy of individuals. It requires agencies that issue rules with a potentially significant impact on individual privacy to ensure individuals have been given ample opportunity to participate in such rulemakings. In drawing up these regulations, agencies with permanent administrative spending authority may incur higher costs, but they are estimated to be insignificant. Even though very small, these additional costs would cause a technical 302(f) violation of the Congressional Budget Act.

7) ***Supporting the Goals and Ideals of National Community Role Models Week*** (H.Con.Res. 409). 

This resolution has no budgetary implications.

8) ***Expressing Support for the President's 2002 National Drug Control Strategy to Reduce Illegal Drug Use in the United States*** (H.Res. 569). 

This resolution has no budgetary implications.

9) ***Accountability of Tax Dollars Act of 2002*** (H.R. 4685). 

This bill requires selected executive agencies to submit annual audited financial statements (excluding Government corporations) to Congress and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget [OMB]. The bill allows the OMB Director to waive the requirement for the first 2 fiscal years after enactment of this measure. The bill exempts an agency from preparing such a statement for any fiscal years for which the agency's total amount of budget authority is less than \$25 million. The bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

10) ***Francis Dayle 'Chick' Hearn Post Office Designation Act*** (H.R. 5340). 

This bill has no budgetary implications.

11) ***Augustus F. Hawkins Post Office Building Designation Act*** (H.R. 2578). 

This bill has no budgetary implications.

12) ***Child Abduction Prevention Act***. (H.R. 5422). 

This bill makes changes to various sections of the United States Code to strengthen sanctions for offenses against children. The bill creates stronger penalties for sexual abuse against minor children, kidnaping, and sex tourism. It also contains a "two strikes you're out" provision that establishes mandatory life imprisonment for repeated sex offenses against children. The bill makes changes to the manner in which investigations and prosecutions of these offenses are conducted. It does not allow for a statute of limitations for child abduction and sex crimes or pretrial release for those who rape or kidnap children. Additionally, it eliminates the waiting period to report missing children and the bill promotes a national coordination of amber alert communications network including grants to States for the development or enhancement of amber alert programs and activities. At the time of publication, a cost estimate was not available. The CBO estimates that enactment of this bill could lead to an increase in criminal fines (a form of revenue). The Budget Committee considers criminal

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finances to be too speculative and does not take them into account for purposes of enforcement. This bill is not expected to violate the Congressional Budget Act.

13) ***To Amend Title 5, United States Code, to Allow Certain Catch-Up Contributions to the Thrift Savings Plan to Be Made by Participants Age 50 or Over*** (H.R. 3340) 

This bill amends the Federal Employees Retirement System Act of 1986. The amendment allows the Federal Thrift Savings Plan [TSP] to permit Federal employees at least 50 years of age to make additional contributions to the TSP. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3340 would reduce revenue by \$280 million over the 2003-2007 period. The revenue loss is within the levels permitted by the House-passed budget resolution.

14) ***Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act of 2002*** (H.R. 5385) 

This bill makes various changes to trade laws, and specifically to tariff schedules. For example, it strikes a number of expired provisions from statute, and suspends the duty on select products that are not produced domestically. It also includes an extension of Normal Trade Relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Most of the changes are highly technical, but there may be some revenue loss associated with the overall measure. Any revenue losses related to the changes in trade laws are not expected to cause revenue to be less than that provided for in the budget resolution.

15) ***District of Columbia and United States Territories Circulating Quarter Dollar Program Act*** (H.R. 4005) 

This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue redesigned quarter dollars in 2009 to commemorate the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories. Although CBO has not prepared a cost estimate for this bill, it is expected to result in a reduction in direct spending through an increase in offsetting collections from sales of silver proofs.

16) ***Transatlantic Security and NATO Enhancement Resolution of 2002*** (H.Res. 468) 

This resolution affirms the importance of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO]; supports continued United States participation in NATO; and ensures that the enlargement of NATO proceeds in a manner consistent with United States interests. The resolution has no budgetary implications.

17) ***Recommending the Integration of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO]*** (H.Con.Res.116) 

This resolution has no budgetary implications.


18) ***Recommending the Integration of the Republic of Slovakia into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO]*** (H.Res. 253) 

This resolution has no budget implications.

19) ***Expressing Appreciation for the Prime Minister of Great Britain for His Loyal Support and Leadership in the War on Terrorism and Reaffirming the Strong Relationship Between the People of the United States and Great Britain*** (H.Res. 549) 

This resolution has no budgetary implications.


20) ***Sudan Peace Act*** (H.R. 5531).

This bill authorizes the President to provide increased assistance to the areas of Sudan not controlled by its government. It authorizes the appropriation of \$100 million a year for fiscal years 2003-2005 to carry out these relief activities. At the time of publication, a cost estimate was not available. Nevertheless, the bill is not expected to have any impact on direct spending or revenue. This bill is not expected to violate the Congressional Budget Act. 


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21) ***Russian Democracy Act of 2002*** (H.R. 2121). 


This bill declares it shall be U.S. policy to facilitate Russia's integration into the Western community of nations. It encourages the Government of the Russian Federation to strengthen democratic reform and institutions, to address cross-border issues and to honor its commitments to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE]. The bill encourages G-7 partners and international financial institutions to develop financial safeguards and transparency practices in lending to the Russian Federation. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$50 million over the 2002-2006 period. It would not affect direct spending or revenue. The bill does not violate the Congressional Budget Act.

22) ***Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2002*** (Concur in Senate Amendment) (H.R. 4085). 


This bill increases the amount paid to veterans for disability compensation and to their survivors for dependency and indemnity compensation by the same cost-of-living adjustment payable to Social Security recipients. This increase in benefits has been assumed in the baseline underlying the budget resolution and so no increase in direct spending or revenue will occur relative to that projected level of spending. The bill does not violate the Congressional Budget Act.

23) ***To Amend Title 38, United States Code, to Increase Amounts Available to State Approving Agencies to Ascertain the Qualifications of Educational Institutions for Furnishing Courses of Education to Veterans and Eligible Persons under the Montgomery GI Bill and under Other Programs of Education Administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs*** (H.R. 3731). 

This bill changes the amount to be paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to State and local agencies for the reimbursement of administrative expenses related to ascertaining the qualifications of educational institutions for furnishing courses to veterans and eligible beneficiaries under the Montgomery GI Bill and other veterans' educational assistance programs. Though no CBO estimate was available at the preparation of this *Budget Week*, it is expected that any additional costs generated by the bill will be offset through a small increase in the fee related to housing loans and guarantees.

24) ***Recognizing the Exploits of the Officers and Crew of the S.S. Henry Bacon, a United States Liberty Ship That Was Sunk on February 23, 1945, in the Waning Days of World War II*** (H.Con.Res. 411). 

This resolution has no budgetary implications.

25) ***Recognizing Commodore John Barry as the First Flag Officer of the United States Navy*** (H.J.Res.6). 


This resolution has no budgetary implications.

26) ***Recognizing, Applauding, and Supporting the Efforts of the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation*** (H.Con.Res. 465). 

This resolution has no budgetary implications.

27) ***To Amend the General Education Provisions Act to Clarify the Definition of a Student Regarding Family Educational and Privacy Rights*** (H.R. 5331). 


This bill amends the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 to extend its coverage to students who are schooled at home. Under the bill, any person educated at a home school is covered by the law, if an educational agency or institution maintains education records or personally identifiable information on such person. This provision applies whether or not the home-schooled person is in attendance at the agency or institution. The bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

28) ***Black Lung Consolidation of Administrative Responsibility Act*** (H.R. 5542). 

The responsibility for administering the Black Lung Benefits Act is currently split

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between the Commissioner of Social Security and the Secretary of Labor. This bill consolidates the administration of the act under the Secretary of Labor. Although no CBO estimate was available at the time of publication, it is expected that the bill will not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

29) ***Recognizing the Contributions of Patsy T. Mink*** (H.J.Res. 113). 
This resolution has no budget implications.

30) ***Joe Skeen Federal Building Designation Act*** (H.R. 5427). 
This bill has no budget implications.


31) ***Tony Hall Federal Building and United States Courthouse Designation Act*** (H.R. 5335). 
This bill has no budget implications.

32) ***Santiago E. Campos United States Courthouse Designation Act*** (H.R. 5083). 
This bill has no budget implications.

33) ***Wayne Lyman Morse United States Courthouse Designation Act*** (H.R. 2672). 
This bill has no budgetary implications.

34) ***Recognizing the Importance of Surface Transportation Infrastructure to Interstate and International Commerce and the Traveling Public and the Contributions of the Trucking, Rail, and Passenger Transit Industries to the Economic Well Being of the United States*** (H.Res. 567). 
This resolution has no budget implications.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

Resolution: ***Authorization for the Use of Military Force Against Iraq*** (H.J.Res.114). 
Committee: International Relations
Summary: This resolution provides authorization for the use of military force Against Iraq. It expresses support for the President's efforts to strictly enforce, through the United Nations Security Council, all relevant Security Council resolutions applicable to Iraq; and obtain prompt and decisive action by the Security Council to ensure that Iraq abandons its strategy of delay, evasion, and noncompliance and promptly and strictly complies with all relevant Security Council resolutions. It authorizes the President to use the U.S. armed forces to defend U.S. national security against the continuing threat posed by Iraq; and enforce all relevant Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq. It directs the President, before or as soon as possible (but no later than 48 hours) after exercising such authority, to make available to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate his determination that: reliance on further diplomatic or peaceful means alone will not achieve the above purposes; and acting pursuant to this resolution is consistent with the United States and other countries continuing to take necessary actions against international terrorists and terrorist organizations, including those who planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001. The resolution is intended to constitute specific statutory authorization for use of the armed forces, consistent with requirements of the War Powers Resolution and requires the President to report to Congress at least every 60 days on matters relevant to this resolution.
Cost: According to CBO, total costs of this effort are highly uncertain and depend on many unknown factors. CBO estimates that costs will involve non-recurring expenses on the average of \$17 billion and recurring expenses on the average of \$10 billion a month. Funding for this effort would be subject to the appropriation of necessary funds.
Budget Act: It is expected that this resolution will not violate the Congressional Budget Act.

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Bill: *Conference Report on Department of Defense Appropriations.*
Committee: Appropriations
Summary: The specifics of this measure were not available at the time of publication. This appropriations bill generally funds the operation and maintenance of weapons and facilities, weapons procurement, pay and benefits for military personnel, and research and development at the Department of Defense.
Cost: The Appropriations Committee had not released the CBO estimate of this bill as of the preparation of this Budget Week summary.
Budget Act: Because the CBO estimate is not available, it has not been determined whether the conference report on this appropriations bill is within the applicable 302(b) allocation.
Nevertheless, if the conference reports on the defense and military construction appropriations bills were enacted in combination with the level expected for the continuing resolution discussed below, discretionary spending would exceed the allocation in the budget resolution by as much as \$8.2 billion.

Bill: *Conference Report on Military Construction Appropriations.*
Committee: Appropriations
Summary: The specifics of the conference report were not available at the time of publication. This appropriations bill generally provides the main funding for the maintenance of the Department of Defense's physical infrastructure. The bill generally funds construction projects and real property maintenance of the active Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force, and their reserve components; additional defense-wide construction; U.S. contributions to the NATO Security Investment Program and military family housing operations and construction. As passed by the House, the bill also provided appropriations for the Base Realignment and Closure [BRAC] account, which finances most base realignment and closure costs, including construction of new facilities for transferred personnel and functions and environmental cleanup at closing sites.
Cost: The Appropriations Committee had not released the CBO estimate of this bill as of the preparation of this *Budget Week*.
Budget Act: Because the CBO estimate is not available, it has not been determined whether the conference report on this appropriations bill is within the applicable 302(b) allocation.
Nevertheless, if the conference reports on the defense and military construction appropriations bills were enacted in combination with the level expected for the continuing resolution discussed below, discretionary spending would exceed the allocation in the budget resolution by as much as \$8.2 billion.

Bill: *Making Continuing Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2003.*
Committee: Appropriations
Summary: The text of this measure was unavailable at the time of publication. The bill is necessary because none of the regular appropriations bills for fiscal year 2003 – which began on 1 October – has been enacted. This measure provides appropriations for Government agencies for an interim period identified in the bill.
Cost: Under congressional procedures, the amount appropriated is “annualized,” which makes the assumption that, though an expiration date is included, the bill extends for the entire year. Assuming the continuing resolution merely extends the previous CR for another week, it is expected to be \$744.3 billion in new budget authority. Nevertheless, were the Defense and Military Construction Appropriation bills enacted, the resulting level is expected to exceed the amount in the budget resolution by \$8.2 billion.
Budget Act: If the level of the continuing resolution is set at fiscal year 2002 amounts, the annualized

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figure would currently not exceed the amount provided for in the fiscal year 2003 budget. This assumes that spending for Defense and Military Construction remains at the 2002 levels rather than the higher amount provided in those two appropriations bills currently in conference. As noted above, were these bills to be enacted with the continuing resolution at this level, the budget resolution level of discretionary spending would be exceeded.