



The Daily Whip

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2005

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Five "One Minutes" Per Side	5:00 p.m.

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

H.Res. 440 - Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 889 - Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2005, and a motion to suspend the rules relating to H.R. 3768 - Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005 (Rep. Capito - Rules). The Rules Committee has recommended a rule that provides one hour of general debate; makes in order only those amendments pre-printed in the Congressional Record; and provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

In addition, Section 2 of the Rule allows the Speaker to consider a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3768 on the legislative day of Thursday, September 15, 2005.

H.Res. 439 - Rule providing for consideration of H.Res. 437 - A resolution to establish the Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina (Rep. Dreier - Rules). The Rules Committee has recommended a closed Rule that provides one hour of general debate and one motion to recommit which may not include instructions. The Rule did not make in order an important amendment which would have substituted the text of HR 3764 for HRes 437. HR 3764, introduced by Rep. Hastings (FL), would create an independent commission to investigate and evaluate the local, state and Federal government's response to the events prior to, during and in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Instead, HRes 437 creates a partisan Republican controlled committee to investigate the failings of a Republican Administration. **Therefore, Democrats are urged to VOTE NO on the Previous Question and VOTE NO on the RULE.**

Suspensions (1 bill):

1) H.R. 3768 - Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005 (Rep. McCrery - Ways and Means). This bill includes bipartisan proposals for temporary changes to the tax code in response to Hurricane Katrina. The bill holds families harmless against the loss of EITC or child tax credits due to temporary relocations; ensures that families are not taxed on forgiven debt such as mortgages; provides tax relief for those who provide rent-free housing assistance to dislocated persons; allows full deductibility of personal casualty losses; provides a longer period of time (5 years) to replace damaged property without incurring tax on insurance proceeds; expands the availability of below-market mortgages in the disaster areas by waiving the first-time homebuyer requirement; encourages cash donations by individuals and corporations by removing the normal charitable limitations for donations related to Katrina made prior to January 1, 2006; increases the mileage reimbursement rate for charitable donation deduction from 14 cents to nearly 34 cents per gallon; and extends work opportunity tax credits and penalty-free withdrawals from certain retirement accounts to victims in the disaster area.

H.Res. 437 - A resolution to establish the Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina (Rep. Dreier - Rules). The resolution establishes a 20 Member Select House Committee (11 Republican and 9 Democrats),



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and authorizes \$500,000 to investigate the response to Hurricane Katrina. The Committee would have authority to subpoena documents and witnesses by a majority vote of the committee (or by the chairman if the committee gives him/her that power) and is to issue a report to the House no later than February 15, 2006.

H.R. 889 – Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2005 (*Rep. Young {AK} – Transportation and Infrastructure*) (*Subject to a Rule*). This bill authorizes approximately \$8.7 billion for the Coast Guard in FY06 including: \$5.6 billion for operations and maintenance; \$1.6 billion for the Deepwater program; \$35.9 million for the Alteration of Bridges Account; \$39 million for operating expenses to fund a West Coast Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron; \$24 million for Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation; and \$12 million for environmental compliance and restoration at former and current Coast Guard facilities. HR 889 would also allow the Coast Guard to establish Naval Vessel Protection Zones up to 12 nautical miles offshore; to conduct international training and provide technical assistance to international navies, coast guards and maritime authorities during regular Coast Guard operations; and to use one-step design and build construction contracts. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee ordered this bill to be reported by a voice vote on May 18th.

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule: on Friday, no votes are expected in the House.

Daily Quote...

"The president's overall approval has fallen to a record-low for Mr. Bush of 40%, reflecting a shrunken core of base supporters... Katrina has contributed to that decline in support. By a 58%-38% margin, Americans say they are dissatisfied with the Bush administration's response to the catastrophe... Assessments of the administration's handling of Social Security -- 28% say they are satisfied while 60% aren't -- are more negative than assessments of how it handled the response to Katrina."

- A story in today's *Wall Street Journal*