

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:**October 4, 1999**

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LAST WEEK -

HOUSE ADOPTS AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE REPORT - On Friday, the House adopted, 240-175, a House-Senate compromise agriculture spending measure for fiscal 2000 (HR 1906) that excludes contentious policy riders and includes a large amount of emergency aid to farmers. The \$8.7 million in emergency farm relief helped to ease tempers of lawmakers from both parties after a conference report was worked out behind closed doors by House and Senate GOP leaders.

The bill would provide \$69 billion for farm and food programs, of which \$14 billion is discretionary spending for fiscal 2000. Excluding the emergency funds, the bill is about 3 percent less than the administration requested but 11 percent more than fiscal 1999. Policy riders were left out of the measure that would have lifted sanctions against sending food and medicine to Cuba, and that would have extended the Northeast Dairy Compact, which favors small northeastern dairy farmers. Both issues faced possible veto by the Clinton administration.

HOUSE AND SENATE CLEARS CONTINUING SOLUTION - On Tuesday, the House passed a continuing resolution, 421-2, to keep the government in operation until October 21, three weeks beyond the start of the new fiscal year which began October 1. The Senate cleared the continuing resolution Tuesday night on a 98-1 vote, hours after the House passed the legislation. Once President Clinton signs the first of this fall's continuing resolutions, Congress and the chief executive will have until October 21 to complete the 13 fiscal 2000 spending bills. Senate Appropriations Chairman Ted Stevens, R-AK, said Republicans will be able to send Clinton the remaining spending bills by October 21, but that a least one more continuing resolution will be needed to give the president time to sign or veto the measure and Congress time to react to any additional vetoes.

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THIS WEEK

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES - The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (Chairman Chafee, R-RI) will hold a hearing on S. 188, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize the use of state revolving loan funds for construction of water conservation and quality improvements and on other pending water infrastructure legislation.

Oct. 7 10:00am 406 Dirksen Bldg.

BIOTECHNOLOGY ISSUES - The Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee (Chairman Lugar, R-IN) will hold hearings on public policy related to biotechnology, focusing on the domestic approval process, benefits of biotechnology and challenges facing farmers related to segregation of crops and animals produced with aid of biotechnology and those produced without the use of biotechnology.

Oct. 6,7 9:00am 328A Russell Bldg.

LOOKING AHEAD

USDA CIVIL RIGHTS PROGRAMS - The Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee (Chairman Goodlatte, R-VA) of the House Agriculture Committee will hold a hearing on the civil rights programs and responsibilities of the Agriculture Department.

Oct. 14 10:00am 1300 Longworth Bldg.

ENERGY FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP - The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Chairman Murkowski, R-AK) will markup S. 25, a bill to provide coastal impact assistance to state and local governments, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of 1978 and the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965.

date TBA time TBA 366 Dirksen Bldg.

RESOURCES FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP - The House Resources Committee (Chairman Young, R-Alaska) will meet to markup H.R. 701, a bill to provide Outer Continental Shelf Impact Assistance to state and local governments, to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 and the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act of 1978. The committee will also markup H.R. 798, a bill to provide for the permanent protection of the resources of the United States in the year 2000 and beyond.

date TBA time TBA 1324 Longworth Bldg.

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