



Legislative Bulletin.....March 20, 2002

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H.R. 3924—Freedom to Telecommute Act

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Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, March 20th, subject to an open rule.

Summary: H.R. 3924 would permit telecommuting for federal contractors in the course of fulfilling contracts with executive agencies. That a potential contractor allows its employees to telecommute could not disqualify or reduce the chances of the company to win a federal contract (unless the contracting officer initially determines that the contract could not be fulfilled by telecommuters).

The GAO would be required to report to Congress within one year of enactment on the compliance by executive agencies with the telecommuting regulations and on the conformance of such regulations with existing law.

Additional Background: This bill was originally part of the Federal Information Technology Workforce and Acquisition Improvement Act that was scheduled for consideration (but was never actually considered) on March 7, 2002.

Cost to Taxpayers: Though no CBO cost estimate is available for this legislation, the House Budget Committee “does not expect it to increase direct spending or to cause a decrease in revenue.”

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: The bill would amend federal acquisition law to allow telecommuting for federal contractors.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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