



**Legislative Bulletin.....September 19, 2002**

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**Year-to-Date Spending Totals**

As of the end of last week, the House has passed legislation this year that if enacted into law would authorize the expenditure of approximately **\$471 billion** of taxpayer funds over the next five years.

In addition, the House has approved mandatory spending increases that if enacted would cost taxpayers approximately **\$235 billion** over the next five years.

**H.Res. 525**—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the **107th Congress should complete action on and present to the President, before September 30, 2002, legislation extending and strengthening the successful 1996 welfare reforms (Northup)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, subject to a closed rule (H.Res. 527).

**Summary:** H.Res. 525 would express a sense of the House that “the 107th Congress should complete action on and present to the President, prior to September 30, 2002, legislation extending and strengthening the successful 1996 welfare reforms.”

**Additional Background:** On May 15, 2002, by a vote of 229-197, the House passed a bill (H.R. 4737) to reauthorize the 1996 welfare reforms. To view the roll-call, please visit this website: <http://clerkweb.house.gov/cgi-bin/vote.exe?year=2002&rollnumber=170>

To read the RSC Legislative Bulletin on H.R. 4737, please visit this website:  
<http://www.house.gov/burton/RSC/Lb51502.pdf>

The Senate Finance Committee reported H.R. 4737 with an amendment in the nature of a substitute on July 25, 2002. The full Senate has not yet considered the bill.

**Administration Position:** The Administration “strongly supports” the passage of H.R. 4737 (in its House-passed version), as indicated in this Statement of Administration Policy:  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/legislative/sap/107-2/HR4737-h.html>

**Cost to Taxpayers:** H.Res. 525 itself would authorize no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** No.

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## **H.Res. 524—Expressing the sense of the House that Congress should complete action on the Permanent Death Tax Repeal Act of 2002 (Nussle)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, subject to a closed rule (H.Res. 527).

**Summary:** H.Res. 524 would express a sense of the House that “the Congress should complete action on the Permanent Death Tax Repeal Act of 2002, and the Congress should present to the President prior to adjournment the Permanent Death Tax Repeal Act of 2002.”

**Additional Background:** On June 6, 2002, by a vote of 256-171, the House passed a bill (H.R. 2143) to make permanent the elimination of the estate (or “death”) tax, gift tax, and generation-skipping transfer tax. To view the roll-call, please visit this website:  
<http://clerkweb.house.gov/cgi-bin/vote.exe?year=2002&rollnumber=219>

To read the RSC Legislative Bulletin on H.R. 2143, please visit this website:  
<http://www.house.gov/burton/RSC/Lb6602.pdf>

The Senate has taken no action on H.R. 2143, other than putting it on the Senate Legislative Calendar on June 10, 2002. On June 12, 2002, an amendment offered by Senator Phil Gramm (S.Amdt. 3833) to make permanent the repeal of the death tax was ruled out of order when the 60 votes necessary to waive the Budget Act (with respect to permanent tax cuts) was not achieved. To view the 54-44 roll call in the Senate for Mr. Gramm’s amendment, please visit this website:

[http://www.senate.gov/legislative/vote1072/vote\\_00151.html](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/vote1072/vote_00151.html)

**Administration Position:** The Administration “strongly supports” the passage of H.R. 2143, as indicated in this Statement of Administration Policy:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/legislative/sap/107-2/HR2143-h.html>

**Cost to Taxpayers:** H.Res. 524 would authorize no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** No.

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### **Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 3295 (Help America Vote Act) (Waters)**

**Order of Business:** On Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Waters of California offered a motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 3295, the “Help America Vote Act.” A recorded vote will be taken on the motion today.

**Summary:** The Waters motion would instruct House conferees to take appropriate actions as needed to ensure that a conference report on the bill is filed before October 1, 2002.

**Additional Background:** For detailed information on H.R. 3295 as it passed the House, please visit these websites:

<http://www.house.gov/burton/RSC/electionreform.PDF>

<http://www.house.gov/burton/RSC/ElectionRefMgrsAmnd.PDF>

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### **H.Res. 523 — Recognizing the contributions of historically Black colleges and universities (Watts)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution was considered on Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. A recorded vote will be taken later today.

**Summary:** H.Res. 523 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “recognizes the significance of historically Black colleges and universities;
- “recognizes that historically Black colleges and universities have been educating students for more than 100 years;
- “commends the Nation's historically Black colleges and universities for their commitment to academic excellence for all students, including low-income and educationally disadvantaged students;

- “urges the presidents, faculty, and staff of the Nation's historically Black colleges and universities to continue their efforts to recruit, retain, and graduate students who might otherwise not pursue a postsecondary education;
- “recognizes the significance of title III of the Higher Education Act, which aids in strengthening the academic quality, institutional management, and financial stability of historically Black colleges and universities; and
- “requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States and interested groups to demonstrate support for historically Black colleges and universities in the United States during that week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.”

**Additional Background:** According to the resolution, there are 105 historically Black colleges and universities in the United States that provide a “quality education so essential to full participation in a complex, highly technological society” and “have a rich heritage and have played a prominent role in American history.”

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** No.

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### **H.Con.Res. 337—Recognizing the teams and players of the Negro Baseball Leagues for their achievements, dedication, sacrifices, and contributions to baseball and the Nation (Watts)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution was considered on Wednesday, September 18, 2002, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. A recorded vote will be taken later today.

**Summary:** The resolution has 11 findings regarding the “Negro Baseball Leagues” formed in 1920 and 1960 including:

“Whereas by achieving success on the baseball field, African-American baseball players helped break down color barriers and integrate African-Americans into all aspects of society in the United States,” and

“Whereas during an era of sexism and gender barriers, 3 women played in the Negro Baseball Leagues”

And resolves that the House (with the Senate concurring):

“recognizes the teams and players of the Negro Baseball Leagues for their achievements, dedication, sacrifices, and contributions to baseball and the Nation.”

**Cost to Taxpayers**: The resolution has no cost.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?** No.

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