



The Daily Whip

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2006

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
10:00 a.m.: Morning Hour Unlimited "One Minutes"	5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

*(263rd Calendar Day of the Year – 75th Voting Day of the Year – 7 Voting Days until Target Adjournment)***FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY**

[H.Res. 1015](#) - Rule providing for consideration of [H.R. 4844](#) – Voter ID Act of 2006 (Rules). The Rules Committee has recommended a closed rule that provides one hour of general debate and one motion to recommit with or without instruction. The rule blocked an important amendment by Ranking Member Millender-McDonald which would establish uniform standards for the treatment of provisional ballots; clarify criminal penalties for voter fraud under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA); codify a Federal Court decision that HAVA matching requirements are intended as an administrative safeguard, not as a restriction on voter eligibility; suggest to the states additional fraud prevention methods; and include provisions to address the needs of seniors, disabled, military voters and their families.

[H.R. 4844](#) – Voter ID Act of 2006 (Rep. Hyde – House Administration) (Subject to a Rule). This bill imposes new ID requirements on all voters in federal elections: 1) Starting in 2008, voters would have to present a government-issued photo ID, or send in a copy when voting absentee or by mail, before getting a ballot; 2) Starting in 2010, the ID would also have to show proof of U.S. citizenship. This would likely mean either a U.S. passport or the "REAL ID" card, which has yet to be implemented.

[H.R. 4844](#) has the potential to disenfranchise large numbers of legal voters at the same time that Republicans continue to refuse to fully fund the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), enacted with bipartisan support in 2002. Only several months after the much-celebrated bipartisan renewal of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Congress should not be developing new ways to limit the right to vote.

- **[H.R. 4844's Cost to Voters: A 21st Century Poll Tax.](#)** No citizen should have to pay money to vote. [H.R. 4844](#) would impose voters with what amounts to a new kind of poll tax. Photo ID laws disproportionately impact the elderly, people with disabilities, rural voters, students, racial and ethnic minorities, the homeless, low-income people, frequent movers, and members of large households – all of whom are less likely to have current and valid photo ID. Getting the supporting documents required to obtain photo ID takes both time and money. A birth certificate usually costs \$10 to \$15, a passport over \$100, and naturalization papers, if they are lost or damaged and need to be replaced, cost \$220.
- **[H.R. 4844 Will Discourage Voters and Enable Discrimination.](#)** Photo ID requirements place an inordinate amount of discretion in the hands of overworked (and usually unpaid) poll workers. Deciding whether a voter matches the photo in an ID card – which can often be many years old – is a subjective process, one easily prone to mistakes or worse. Because [H.R. 4844](#) does not explain how disputes over the validity of an ID card would be handled, it could easily open the door to widespread racial and ethnic discrimination at polling places. Even without [H.R. 4844](#), photo ID laws often lead to discrimination. Voters with photo ID will likely be turned away for more benign reasons as well. If an ID card does not contain the voter's current address or name, which is true of countless Americans who move or marry, he or she will likely be turned away from the polls.
- **[Opponents of H.R. 4844 include:](#)** AFL-CIO, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, League of United Latin American Citizens, League of Women Voters of the United States, Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), National Council of Jewish Women, National Council of La Raza, People for the American Way Foundation, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), and the United Auto Workers.

Democrats are urged to VOTE NO on [H.R. 4844](#).

Suspensions (12 bills):

- 1) [H.R. 5450](#) - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Act (Rep. Ehlers - Science)
- 2) [S. 418](#) - Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act (Sen. Enzi - Financial Services)
- 3) [S. 1025](#) - Wichita Project Equus Beds Division Authorization Act of 2005 (Sen. Roberts - Resources)
- 4) [H.R. 4957](#) - Tylersville Fish Hatchery Conveyance Act (Rep. Peterson {PA} - Resources)

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- 5) [S. 260](#) - Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act (*Sen. Inhofe - Resources*)
- 6) [H.R. 2334](#) - City of Oxnard Water Recycling and Desalination Act of 2005 (*Rep. Capps - Resources*)
- 7) [S. 2832](#) - Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments of 2006 (*Sen. Voinovich - Transportation and Infrastructure*)
- 8) [H.R. 4653](#) - To repeal a prohibition on the use of certain funds for tunneling in certain areas with respect to the Los Angeles to San Fernando Valley Metro Rail project, California (*Rep. Waxman - Transportation and Infrastructure*)
- 9) [H.R. 3858](#) - Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006 (*Rep. Lantos - Transportation and Infrastructure*)
- 10) [H.R. 5664](#) - Jacob Fletcher Post Office Building Designation Act (*Rep. King (NY) - Government Reform*)
- 11) [H.R. 4768](#) - Robert Linn Memorial Post Office Building Designation Act (*Rep. Hart - Government Reform*)
- 12) [H.R. 4586](#) - Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission Act of 2005 (*Rep. Castle - Government Reform*)

Postponed Suspension Votes (2 bills):

- 1) [H.Res. 942](#) – Recognizing the centennial anniversary on August 5, 2006, of the Iranian constitution of 1906 (*Rep. King {IA} – International Relations*)
- 2) [H.Res. 976](#) – Condemning human rights abuses by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and expressing solidarity with the Iranian people (*Rep. McCaul – International Relations*)

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule: on Thursday, the House will meet at 10:00 a.m. for legislative business and will consider: [H.R. 4830 – Border Tunnel Prevention Act](#) (*Rep. Dreier – Judiciary*); [H.R. 6094 - Community Protection Act](#) (*Rep. Sensenbrenner – Judiciary*); [H.R. 6095 – Immigration Law Enforcement Act](#) (*Rep. Sensenbrenner – Judiciary*); and may also consider [H.R. 5122 – National Defense Authorization Act Conference Report](#) (*Rep. Hunter – Armed Services*).

Daily Quote...

"The nation's airports face a looming crisis in their ability to screen checked luggage for bombs that will require billions of dollars to avert, a new report ordered by Congress says. Many airports have too few screeners and use slow, labor-intensive bomb detectors that are being overwhelmed by increasing passenger traffic."

- From a story in *USAToday* this morning