



The Daily Whip

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THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2004

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
9:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Unlimited "One Minutes"	4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

The House will meet at 9:00 a.m. and recess immediately for the Former Members' Association annual meeting. The House will then reconvene at approximately 11:00 a.m. to consider H.R. 2844 - Continuity in Representation Act of 2003.

H.R. 2844 - Continuity in Representation Act of 2003 (Rep. Sensenbrenner - Judiciary / House Administration) (Subject to a Rule). This bill provides for the expedited special election of new Members of Congress to fill seats left vacant in "extraordinary circumstances." "Extraordinary circumstances" occur when the Speaker announces that vacancies in the representation from the States in the House exceed 100. Under this bill, when such "extraordinary circumstances" occur, a special election must be called within 45 days, unless a regularly scheduled general election for the office involved is to be held within 75 days. Within 10 days of such an announcement by the Speaker, the political parties of the State that are authorized to nominate candidates by State law may each nominate one candidate to run in the election.

In addition to a statutory approach to reconstitute the House in the event of a catastrophic event --- like the approach outlined by H.R. 2844 --- some Members believe it is necessary to amend the Constitution to better address this issue. The issues that would be addressed through a Constitutional amendment process include: how to deal with disabled or incapacitated Members; and the appointment of members to temporarily fill vacancies until expedited special elections are held.

The Rules Committee has recommended a structured rule that provides one hour of general debate; waives points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to include general performance goals and objectives in a committee report; and makes in order four amendments to be considered in the following order:

- **Larson Amendment (20 minutes).** This amendment extends the special elections period in the bill from 45 to 75 days.
- **Larson Amendment (20 minutes).** This amendment strikes paragraph 3 and adds language providing that candidates seeking to run in a special election would meet requirements for getting on the ballot subject to state law, and that states could extend the overall time deadline in the bill to accomplish that result (this would facilitate that minority party or independent candidates retain the right to participate in the election).
- **Skelton/Maloney Amendment (20 minutes).** This amendment directs states to accept and process any otherwise valid ballot from absent uniformed services voters or overseas voters so long as the ballot is received by the appropriate state election official no later than 45 days after the State transmits the ballot to the voter.
- **Jackson-Lee Amendment (10 minutes).** This amendment expands from 2 days to 7 days the time allowed to challenge the validity of the Speaker's announcement triggering special elections. It also extends the right to appeal decisions on the 45-day special state election called for under the Act, and expands the right to sue to citizens.

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

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

Daily Quote...

"The administration would be well-served here to come forward now, be honest about this, because the continuity and the confidence in this policy is going to be required to sustain it. And that means be honest with the Congress, be honest with the American people. Every ground squirrel in this country knows that it's going to be \$50 billion to \$75 billion in additional money required to sustain us in Iraq for this year."

- Sen. Chuck Hagel, member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, on the Bush Administration's reluctance to fully disclose war costs [*Associated Press*, 4/22/04]