



Legislative Bulletin.....February 25, 2008

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Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$

Effect on Revenue: \$0

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: \$0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 1

Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 0

H.Res. 978—Expressing support for the designation of the week of March 3-7, 2008, as “School Social Work Week” to promote awareness of the vital role of school social workers in schools, and in the community as a whole, in helping students prepare for their future as productive citizens (*Kennedy, D-RI*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 978 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, February 25, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 978 would express the sense that the House:

- “Honors and recognizes the contributions of school social workers to the success of students in schools across the Nation; and
- “Encourages the people of the United States to observe ‘School Social Work Week’ with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the vital role of school social workers in schools, and the community as a whole, in helping students prepare for their future as productive citizens.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The School Social Work Association of America declared the week of March 3-7, 2008, ‘School Social Work Week’;
- “The House of Representatives recognized the importance of school social work through the inclusion of school social work programs in the current authorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;
- “There is a growing need for school districts to offer the mental health services that school social workers provide when working with families, teachers, principals, community agencies, and other entities to address the emotional, physical, and environmental needs so that students may achieve behavioral and academic success;
- “Fewer than 1 in 5 of the 17,500,000 children in need of mental health services actually receive these services, and the President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health indicates that school mental health programs improve educational outcomes by decreasing absences, decreasing discipline referrals, and improving academic achievement;
- “School mental health programs are critical to early identification of mental health problems and in the provision of appropriate services when needed;
- “The celebration of ‘School Social Work Week’ highlights the awareness of the vital role school social workers play in the lives of students in the United States.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 978 was introduced on February 12, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

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H.Res. 930—Supporting the goals and ideals of “Career and Technical Education Month” (*Baird, D-WA*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 930 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, February 25, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 930 would express the sense that the House:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of Career and Technical Education month;
- “Recognizes the importance of career and technical education in preparing a well-educated and skilled workforce in America; and
- “Encourages educators, counselors, and administrators to promote career and technical education as an option to students.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “There are over 15,000,000 secondary and postsecondary career and technical education students in the United States;
- “Nationwide, there are over 10,000 secondary high schools and career tech centers and over 9,000 postsecondary institutions offering career and technical education programs;
- “A competitive global economy requires workers trained in skilled professions;
- “Career and technical education plays a crucial role in preparing a well-educated and skilled workforce in America;
- “According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, nearly 75 percent of employers report severe conditions when trying to hire qualified workers and 40 percent say that applicants are poorly skilled;
- “In 2006, Congress reauthorized with bipartisan support the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, which provides states with Federal resources to support career and technical education programs; and
- “The Association for Career and Technical Education has designated February as ‘Career and Technical Education Month’ to celebrate career and technical education across the country.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 930 was introduced on January 17, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

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**H.Res. 961—Commending the Alaska Army National Guard for its service to
the State of Alaska and the citizens of the United States
(Young, R-AK)**

Order of Business: H.Res. 961 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, February 25, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 961 would express the sense that the House:

- “commends the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry of the Alaska Army National Guard upon its completion of deployment and brave service to the Commonwealth of Alaska and the citizens of the United States; and
- “directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard for appropriate display.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “the 297th Infantry and the scout group of the Alaska Army National Guard deployment of almost 600 Alaskans was the largest deployment of the Alaska National Guard since World War II;
- “the Alaskans of the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry came from 80 different communities across Alaska;
- “the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry included 75 soldiers from New York, Mississippi, Illinois, Georgia and Puerto Rico;
- “the 586 soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry were mobilized in July of 2006 and deployed to Camp Shelby, Mississippi;
- “the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry was deployed to Camp Virginia, Camp Navstar and Camp Buehring in Northern Kuwait;
- “the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry courageously performed route and perimeter security missions, mounted combat patrols and inspections and searches of vehicles going into Iraq from Kuwait, among other assignments;
- “the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, over the course of 12 months in Kuwait and Iraq, inspected and searched over 30,000 semi-trucks;
- “the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry designed all force protection plans in northern Kuwait;
- “the families of the members of the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry have provided unwavering support while waiting patiently for their loved ones to return;
- “the employers of members and family members of the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry have displayed patriotism over profit, by keeping positions saved for the returning soldiers and supporting the families during the difficult days of this long deployment, and these employers are great corporate citizens through their support of members of the Armed Forces and their family members;

- “the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry has performed admirably and courageously; gaining the gratitude and respect of Alaskans and all Americans; and
- “members of the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry received 3 Bronze Stars, 12 Meritorious Service Medals, 142 Army commendations and more than 200 Army Achievement Medals for their outstanding service.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 961 was introduced on February 6, 2008, and referred to the Committee on House Committee on Armed Services where no further action was taken.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

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**H.Res. 944—Honoring the service and accomplishments of Lieutenant General Russel L. Honore, United States Army, for his 37 years of service on behalf of the United States
(Scott, D-GA)**

Order of Business: H.Res. 944 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, February 25, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 944 would express the sense that the House:

- “honors Lieutenant General Honore for his 37 years of service on behalf of the United States;
- “commends Lieutenant General Honore for his dedication and commitment to the Army and his leadership in the post-Katrina recovery effort; and
- “recognizes Lieutenant General Honore as a soldier, commander, and leader and for displaying throughout his distinguished military service the highest levels of leadership, professional competence, integrity, and courage.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Lieutenant General Russel L. Honore is a native of Lakeland, Louisiana;
- “Lieutenant General Honore graduated from Southern University and A&M College in 1971 with a bachelor’s degree in vocational agriculture and, upon graduation, was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army;
- “Lieutenant General Honore graduated from Troy State University with a master’s degree in human resources and received an honorary doctorate in public administration from Southern University and A&M College;

- “Lieutenant General Honore served in a number of infantry command positions in the Army, including overseas tours in Germany and as a commanding officer in the Second Infantry Division in Korea;
- “Lieutenant General Honore saw action in Iraq and Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm;
- “Lieutenant General Honore served as vice director for operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, District of Columbia; deputy commanding general and assistant commandant of the United States Army Infantry Center and School at Fort Benning, Georgia; and assistant division commander, maneuver/support for the First Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas;
- “Lieutenant General Honore commanded the Standing Joint Force Headquarters-- Homeland Security;
- “Lieutenant General Honore commanded the First United States Army, responsible for the training and deployment of 500,000 National Guardsmen and reserve service members;
- “the awards and decorations of Lieutenant General Honore include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters;
- “Lieutenant General Honore led the Joint Task Force Katrina following the hurricane’s destruction of the Gulf Coast in 2005, where he commanded all active-duty troops from all military branches dedicated to the storm recovery operations; and
- “Lieutenant General Honore and his wife Beverly raised four children, Stephanie, Kimberly, Stephen, and Michael, and their son Michael has served in Iraq as an Army sergeant.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 944 was introduced on January 28, 2008, and referred to the Committee on House Committee on Armed Services where no further action was taken.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

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H.R. ____—To provide for the continued minting and issuance of certain \$1 coins in 2008 (*Frank, D-MA*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, February 25, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. ____ would allow the continued production (through 2008) of the Sacagawea design dollar coin for collectors purposes only (estimated to be 5-10 million coins). The bill makes a technical correction to the recently enacted Native American \$1 Coin Act for which coins will be

issued starting in 2009. That Act removed authority of the U.S. Mint to continue production of the coin. The correction in this bill would allow the U.S. Mint to issue proof sets for collectors that include the old-design Sacagawea, dated for the current calendar year of production. CBO has provided an informal estimate to the Republican Financial Services Committee staff that the bill would create a negligible credit against direct spending.

Committee Action: H.R. ____ will be introduced today, February 25, 2008.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score for H.R. ____ is not available.

Additional Information: The Native American \$1 Coin Act (P.L. 110-82) was passed in the House by voice vote on June 12, 2007, and passed in the Senate by unanimous consent on August 3, 2007, with an amendment to change the effective date in order to have the correct year on the coins.

According to the Financial Services Committee, “This bill is designed to save taxpayers \$50-100 million a year by creating demand for ‘Sacagawea-design’ dollar coins which under current law must comprise one-third of all US dollar coins minted annually. Modeled after the popular 50-state quarter program, H.R. 2358 leaves the Sacagawea design on the front of the coin, but changes the reverse each year to represent different contributions of Native Americans to the United States.”

Initially offered to the general public, the Sacagawea coin has significantly decreased in mintage since it was produced. H.R. 2358 was intended to spark interest in the coin by adding new, collectable designs annually. The bill also reduced the percentage of Sacagawea coins that are required to be made in order to make room for the new Presidential series of one dollar coins.

According to the U.S. Mint and the CBO, coins are cheaper to use than paper money, particularly since they stay in circulation thirty or forty years, while the average dollar bill wears out after just eighteen months. However, according to a PBS NewsHour report in 1997, surveys have shown that 75 percent of the public prefers a paper dollar to a coin and past efforts to encourage the public to use dollar coins have not been successful. In March of 2002, after supplies outpaced demand for the Sacagawea Golden Dollar \$1 coin, the U.S. Treasury halted production.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? Currently, no House Report exists.

Constitutional Authority: Currently, no House Report exists.

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