



Legislative Bulletin.....June 23, 2008

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Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 2

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$1.36 billion in FY 2009 and \$6.26 billion over the FY 2009—2013 period

Effect on Revenue: \$0

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: Numerous

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 2

Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 4

H.R. 4044—National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Act of 2008 *(Schakowsky, D-IL)*

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 23, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 4044 would exempt members of the Nation Guard and Reserve that had been deployed for more than 90 days from means testing requirements to file for chapter 7 bankruptcies. Under current law, persons filing for chapter 7 bankruptcy must meet a minimum income threshold to establish that the debtor is not financially able to repay the debt. H.R. 4044 removes the threshold with respect to members of the Nation Guard and Reserve that have been deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan since September 11, 2001.

Additional Background: The Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 amended bankruptcy laws in the U.S. in order to limit fraud and abuse in the system and to ensure that debtors with the ability to pay back debt did so. To that end, the law established a minimum threshold of income for debtors filing under chapter 7. Under this law, debtors who earn a certain level of income are not allowed to file for bankruptcy under chapter 7. H.R. 4044 would remove the income test from consideration if the debtor filing for chapter 7 bankruptcy was a member of the Nation Guard and Reserve that had been deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan for at least 90 days since September 11, 2001. According to [House Report 110-726](#), a similar exemption already exists for service-disabled veterans. The House Report also states that less than one-tenth of one percent of all chapter 7 filers are service members who were deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Committee Action: H.R. 4044 was introduced on November 1, 2007, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law. On April 24, 2008, the subcommittee held a mark-up and reported the bill, as amended, by voice vote. On June 11, 2008, the full committee held a mark-up and reported the bill, as amended, by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, H.R. 4044 would “have no significant impact on the federal budget.”

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? According the Committee on the Judiciary, in [House Report 110-726](#), the bill “contains no congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of the rule XXI.”

Constitutional Authority: The Committee on the Judiciary, in [House Report 110-726](#), cites constitutional authority in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4.

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H.R. 3546—To authorize the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program at fiscal year 2006 levels through 2012 (*Johnson, D-GA*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 23, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3546 would extend the authorization of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program at \$1.1 billion annually through FY 2012.

Additional Background: The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program was established in 1988 as an anti-drug program to provide federal law enforcement grants to state and local governments. The program offer grants for local drug task-force agencies, crime prevention initiatives and substance abuse programs, among other efforts. Byrne, the officer for whom the program is named, was killed while protecting a witness in a drug case in New York in 1988.

The Bush Administration has proposed eliminating funding for the program and it has been regularly appropriated at levels far lower than the \$1.1 billion authorization. Though the President did not request any funding for the program in FY 2008, the omnibus spending bill appropriated \$170 million for the program.

Possible Conservative Concerns: Some conservatives may be concerned that H.R. 3546 authorizes \$1.1 billion annually for a federal grant program that the Administration has attempted to defund in multiple budget requests.

Committee Action: H.R. 3546 was introduced on September 17, 2007, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. On June 18, 2008, the full committee held a mark-up and reported the bill by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score for H.R. 3546 was not available at press time, however, the bill would authorize \$1.1 billion in FY 2008 and \$5.5 billion over the FY 2008—FY 2012 period.

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? A committee report citing compliance with rules regarding congressional

earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of the rule XXI was not available.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority was not available.

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H.Res. 1293—Commemorating the 44th anniversary of the deaths of civil rights workers Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner in Philadelphia, Mississippi, while working in the name of American democracy to register voters and secure civil rights during the summer of 1964, which has become known as “Freedom Summer” (*Lewis, D-GA*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 23, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1293 would express the sense that the House of Representatives encourages all Americans to:

- “Pause and remember Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner and the 44th anniversary of their deaths;
- “Commemorate the life and work of Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner, and all of the other brave Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of civil rights and voting rights for all Americans; and
- “Commemorate and acknowledge the legacy of the brave Americans who participated in the civil rights movement and the role that they played in changing the hearts and minds of Americans and creating the political climate necessary to pass legislation to expand civil rights and voting rights for all Americans.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “44 years ago, on June 21, 1964, Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner were murdered in Philadelphia, Mississippi, while working in the name of American democracy to register voters and secure civil rights during the summer of 1964, which would become known as ‘Freedom Summer’;
- “Andrew Goodman was a 20-year-old White anthropology major from New York's Queens College, who volunteered for the Freedom Summer Project;
- “James Chaney was a 21-year-old African-American from Meridian, Mississippi, who became a civil rights activist, joining the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in 1963 to work on voter education and registration;
- Michael ‘Mickey’ Schwerner was a 24-year-old White CORE field secretary in Mississippi and a veteran of the civil rights movement, from Brooklyn, New York;
- “In 1964, Mississippi had a Black voting-age population of 450,000, but only 16,000 Blacks were registered to vote;

- “Most Black voters were disenfranchised by law or practice in Mississippi;
- “In 1964, Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner volunteered to work as part of the ‘Freedom Summer’ project that involved several civil rights organizations, including the Mississippi State chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and CORE, with the purpose of registering Black voters in Mississippi;
- “On the morning of June 21, 1964, the 3 men left the CORE office in Meridian and set out for Longdale, Mississippi, where they were to investigate the recent burning of the Mount Zion Methodist Church, a Black church that had been functioning as a Freedom School for education and voter registration;
- “On their way back to Meridian, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner were detained and later arrested and taken to the Philadelphia, Mississippi, jail;
- “Later that same evening, on June 21, 1964, they were taken from the jail, turned over to the Ku Klux Klan, and were beaten, shot, and killed;
- “2 days later, their burnt, charred, gutted blue Ford station wagon was pulled from the Bogue Chitto Creek, just outside Philadelphia, Mississippi;
- “The national uproar caused by the disappearance of the civil rights workers led President Lyndon B. Johnson to order Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara to send 200 active duty Navy sailors to search the swamps and fields in the area for the bodies of the 3 civil rights workers, and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy to order his Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) director, J. Edgar Hoover, to send 150 agents to Mississippi to work on the case;
- “The bodies of Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner, beaten and shot, were found on August 4, 1964, buried under a mound of dirt;
- “On December 4, 1964, 21 White Mississippians from Philadelphia, Mississippi, including the sheriff and his deputy, were arrested, and the Department of Justice charged them with conspiring to deprive Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner of their civil rights, since murder was not a Federal crime;
- “On December 10, 1964, the same day Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. received the Nobel Peace Prize, a United States District judge dismissed charges against the 21 men accused of depriving the 3 civil right workers of their civil rights by murder;
- “In 1967, after an appeal to the Supreme Court and new testimony, 7 individuals were found guilty, but 2 of the defendants, including Edgar Ray Killen, who had been strongly implicated in the murders by witnesses, were acquitted because the jury came to a deadlock on their charges;
- “On January 6, 2005, a Neshoba County, Mississippi, grand jury indicted Edgar Ray Killen on 3 counts of murder; and
- “June 21, 2008, will be the 44th anniversary of Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner’s ultimate sacrifice.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1293 was introduced on June 20, 2008, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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.R. 6109—Pre-Disaster Mitigation Act of 2008 (*Oberstar, D-IL*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 23, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 6109 would reauthorize the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program for three years, through FY 2011. The program, which is carried out by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), awards grants to state and local organizations to fund pre-disaster mitigation planning and projects. The bill would authorize \$250 million annually for the program through FY 2011.

H.R. 6109 would require FEMA to award each state at least the lesser of \$575,000, or 1% of the total amount appropriated. The bill would also prohibit FEMA from awarding more than 15% of the total appropriated amount to one state.

Additional Background: FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation program was initially authorized by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The program was based on a pilot program known as "Project Impact," which FEMA carried out from 1997 through 2001. The program awards technical and financial assistance to state and local government before disasters occur in order to reduce the physical and financial toll of disasters. According to [House Report 110-725](#), "Examples of mitigation activities include the seismic strengthening of buildings and infrastructure, acquiring repetitively flooded homes, installing shutters and shatter resistant windows in hurricane-prone areas, and the building of 'safe rooms' in houses and other buildings to protect from high winds." The program was appropriated \$114 million in FY 2008 and the Administration has requested \$75 million for the program in FY 2009.

Possible Conservative Concerns: Some conservatives may be concerned that H.R. 6109 increases the authorization for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program by \$136 million over the level appropriated for the program in FY 2008.

Committee Action: H.R. 6109 was introduced on May 21, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. On May 22, 2008, the committee held a mark-up and reported the bill by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, H.R. 6109 would authorize \$250 million in FY 2008 and \$750 million over the FY 2008—FY 2011 period.

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? According to the Committee on the Judiciary, in [House Report 110-725](#), the bill “contains no congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of the rule XXI.”

Constitutional Authority: The Committee on the Judiciary, in [House Report 110-725](#), cites constitutional authority in Article 1, Section 8, but does not cite a specific clause. House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific powers* granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.” *[emphasis added]*

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H.R. 5001—Old Post Office Building Redevelopment Act of 2008 *(Holmes-Norton, D-DC)*

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 23, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 5001 would require the General Services Administration (GSA) to move forward with a plan to redevelop the Old Post Office Building, located in Washington D.C. The GSA would be required to proceed with an existing redevelopment plan that was approved by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Appropriations and Environment and Public Works, in 2001. The plan would authorize funds for the GSA to enter into contracts with private firms to redevelop the building.

H.R. 5001 would authorize the GSA to provide replacement office space for any federal workers displaced during the redevelopment. The bill would also require the GSA to submit a report on any proposed redevelopment contracts to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Appropriations and Environment and Public Works. The GSA could not enter into a development contract until 30 legislative days after a report is submitted to the proper committees.

CBO estimates that the redevelopment project would cost \$18 million over the FY 2009—FY 2013 period.

Additional Background: The Old Post Office Building, located at 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, in Washington D.C., opened in 1899 and served as the headquarters of the Nation’s postal department. At the time it was built the building was the second tallest structure in D.C.,

exceeded only by the Washington Monument. Over the 20th Century, the building fell into disrepair and was considered for condemnation until it was refurbished in 1977. The building now houses portions of four federal agencies and commercial stores and restaurants. According to [House Report 110-724](#), the Old Post Office Building costs the GSA \$11.9 million to operate each year, while the GSA only received \$5.4 million in rent. At the request of Congress, the GSA created a redevelopment plan in 2001 in order to maintain the historic characteristics of the building while making the Old Post Office Building profitable for the federal government. While the plan was approved by Congress, the GSA never formally attempted to redevelop the building. This legislation would require the GSA to enter into contracts with private entities to get the project underway.

Committee Action: H.R. 5001 was introduced on January 16, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. On May 22, 2008, the full committee held a mark-up and reported the bill, as amended, by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, H.R. 5001 would cost \$18 million over the FY 2009—FY 2013 period.

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? According to the Committee on the Judiciary, in [House Report 110-724](#), the bill “contains no congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of the rule XXI.”

Constitutional Authority: The Committee on the Judiciary, in [House Report 110-724](#), cites constitutional authority in Article 1, Section 8, but does not cite a specific clause. House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific powers* granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.” [*emphasis added*]

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H.R. 2452—Raw Sewage Overflow Community Right-to-Know Act (Bishop, D-NY)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 23, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2452 would require publically owned and operated sewage treatment plants to monitor and notify the public within 24 hours of a sewage overflow. The bill would also require

owners and operators of publically owned sewage treatment facilities to notify public health officials in the event of a spill or overflow that could effect human health. The bill would require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure that the owners and operators meet the requirements of the bill in order to obtain water treatment permits under the Clean Water Act. The bill would define a “sewage overflow” as “an overflow, spill, release, or diversion of wastewater from a sanitary sewer system.”

H.R. 2452 would mandate that publically owned an operated sewage treatment plants take the following actions:

- Institute and utilize a monitoring program for sewer overflows;
- Notify the public of a sewer overflow within 24 hours if there are potential effects on human health;
- Notify public health authorities if there is a potential risk to human health due to a sewer overflow;
- Report each sewer overflow on monthly discharge monitoring reports to EPA or the state;
- Submit an annual report to EPA or the state on the number of overflows in a calendar year, including the details of magnitude, duration, location, potentially affected receiving waters, and mitigation efforts.

H.R. 2452 would require the EPA, within one year of enactment of the bill, to issue standardized regulations for publically owned and operated sewage treatment facilities to follow when monitoring, assessing, and reporting sewage overflows. The bill would also stipulate that nothing in the legislation would be construed to limit a state’s ability to enact more stringent monitoring or reporting regulations.

Additional Background: According to [Committee Report 110-723](#), “wastewater collection systems collect domestic sewage and other wastewater from homes and other buildings and convey it to wastewater treatment plants for proper treatment and disposal. These collection systems and treatment facilities are an extensive, valuable, and complex part of the nation’s infrastructure. Sewage treatment operators perform an important job that helps protect the public, and are critical in achieving the goals of the Clean Water Act.” The EPA reports that spills and overflows at sewage collection and treatment facilities result in between 3,500 and 5,500 individual cases of human illness each year.

Committee Action: H.R. 2452 was introduced on May 23, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. On May 7, 2008, the subcommittee held a mark-up and reported the bill, as amended, by voice vote. On May 15, 2008, the full committee held a mark-up and reported the bill by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, H.R. 2452 would cost \$1 million in FY 2009 and \$500,000 annually thereafter for the EPA to create and enforce new regulations.

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? Yes, the bill contains numerous local government mandates by requiring publically owned and operated sewage treatment facilities to follow new regulations regarding monitoring and reporting overflows of sewage waste. According to CBO, “Without knowing the precise nature of the regulations that EPA would issue as a result of this bill, CBO cannot make a precise estimate of the costs of the mandates. Based on information from affected entities, however, we estimate that the costs of the mandates could exceed the threshold established in UMRA (\$68 million in FY 2008, adjusted annually for inflation).”

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? According the Committee on the Judiciary, in [House Report 110-723](#), the bill “contains no congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of the rule XXI.”

Constitutional Authority: The Committee on the Judiciary, in [House Report 110-723](#), cites constitutional authority in Article 1, Section 8, but does not cite a specific clause. House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific powers* granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.” *[emphasis added]*

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H.R. 6040— To amend the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 to clarify the authority of the Secretary of the Army to provide reimbursement for travel expenses incurred by members of the Committee on Levee Safety (Mica, R-FL)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 23, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 6040 would amend the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA) to condition reimbursement for travel expenses incurred by members of the Committee on Levee Safety on the availability of appropriations. Currently, travel expenses are made on the condition that amounts are made available in advance in appropriations Acts.

Additional Background: Title 9 of WRDS instructed the Army Corps of Engineers to set up a Committee on Levee Safety. The bill included language which addressed how the members of the Committee could be reimbursed for their travel expenses. As of recently, the Army Corps of Engineers has expressed that their counsel believes this language to no longer be legal or applicable—and therefore, this bill makes a technical correction to address their concern.

According to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:

H.R. 6040, a bill to Amend the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 to Clarify the Authority of the Secretary of the Army to Provide Reimbursement for Travel Expenses Incurred by Members of the Committee on Levee Safety, makes a technical change to Title IX of the Act. Without including language “subject to the availability of appropriations”, the Committee on Levee Safety cannot convene to develop recommendations for nationwide standards on levee safety.

Committee Action: H.R. 6040 was introduced on May 13, 2008, and referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which took no further action.

Cost to Taxpayers: There is no CBO cost estimate for the bill, but the bill does not authorize any funds.

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? No House Report exists.

Constitutional Authority: No House Report exists.

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H. Res. 1229— Recognizing the achievements of America's high school valedictorians of the graduating class of 2008, promoting the importance of encouraging intellectual growth, and rewarding academic excellence of all American high school students (*Meeks, D-NY*)

Order of Business: H. Res. 1229 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 23, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H. Res. 1229 would express that the House of Representatives

- “honors and recognizes the valedictorians and graduating seniors of the class of 2008 for their academic achievements and contributions to their communities;
- “encourages all valedictorians and graduating seniors to further their intellectual inquiry and academic studies in universities and postsecondary educational institutions; and
- “supports the continued social engagement of valedictorians and graduating seniors, which utilizes their knowledge and skills for the betterment of their communities and the social, cultural, and economic advancement of the Nation.”

The bill lists numerous findings, including the following:

- “valedictorians are conferred as the highest academically-ranked student in their high school’s graduating class;
- “over 15,000 of our Nation’s secondary schools honor their highest academically-ranked students with the ‘valedictorian’ title;
- “valedictorians have demonstrated consistency in their intellectual inquiry, academic discipline, and utilization of teacher mentoring throughout their high school careers;
- “valedictorians serve as peer role models to fellow high school students by succeeding academically and contributing to community improvement;
- “valedictorians are charged with the duty of giving a graduation speech that reflects upon the intellectual development and community involvement of the graduating class and inspires all graduating students to further their academic studies and social engagement;
- “numerous valedictorians and graduating seniors will further their intellectual interests and academic studies by enrolling in universities and postsecondary educational institutions;
- “family members, teachers, school administrators, and community members have nurtured the intellectual growth and rewarded the academic achievements of valedictorians and graduating seniors; and
- “valedictorians and graduating seniors will become America’s future civic, business, and political leaders, maintaining our Nation’s global leadership position and strengthening its economic competitiveness.”

Committee Action: H. Res. 1229 was introduced on May 22, 2008 and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, which took no further 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. 1242— Honoring the life, musical accomplishments, and contributions of Louis Jordan on the 100th anniversary of his birth (*Snyder, D-AR*)

Order of Business: H. Res. 1242 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 23, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H. Res. 1242 would express that the House of Representatives

- “honors the life of Louis Jordan, on the 100th anniversary of his birth; and
- “recognizes his important contributions to American music as a musician, composer, and entertainer.”

The bill lists numerous findings, including the following:

- “Louis Thomas Jordan was born July 8, 1908, in Brinkley, Arkansas;
- “he studied music as a young child under his father James Aaron Jordan, who was the bandleader of the Brinkley Brass Band;
- “in the late 1920s he attended Arkansas Baptist College in Little Rock, Arkansas, and majored in music;
- “he joined Chick Webb’s Savoy Ballroom band in 1936 in New York where he played saxophone and performed occasionally as a singer;
- “in 1938 he started his own band, the Elks Rendez-Vous Band, and in 1939 he changed the name of the group to the Tympany Five;
- “his prolific musical career consists of 54 hit singles including, ‘Five Guys Named Moe’, ‘Let the Good Times Roll’, ‘Don’t Let the Sun Catch You Cryin’, and ‘Barnyard Boogie’, and 18 number 1 hits on Billboard’s R&B chart including ‘Beans and Cornbread’, ‘Run Joe’, ‘Ain’t That Just Like A Woman’, ‘Blue Light Boogie’, and the 1946 hit ‘Choo Choo Ch’Boogie’, which topped the Billboard’s R&B chart for 18 weeks;
- “15 of his hits made it onto the Pop charts, including ‘Baby It’s Cold Outside’, ‘Caldonia’, ‘Is You Is or Is You Ain’t My Baby’, ‘Ain’ t Nobody Here But Us Chickens’, ‘Buzz Me’, and ‘Beware’;
- “he actively recorded for the Armed Forces Radio Service and the V-Disc program during World War II, and one of the his songs recorded during this period, ‘G.I. Jive’, was number 1 on the Pop chart for 2 weeks;
- “he was featured in a variety of short musical films in the 1940s, such as the 1945 short film ‘Caldonia’, and played cameo roles in movies like ‘Follow the Boys’ and ‘Swing Parade of 1946’;
- “his 1949 recording of ‘Saturday Night Fish Fry’ was one of the earliest musical examples of what would later become known as ‘Rock and Roll’;
- “he died on February 4, 1975, in Los Angeles, California;
- “he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1987;
- “in 2004, Rolling Stone Magazine named him one of the 100 Greatest Artists of All Time; and
- “Louis Jordan will be highlighted on a United States Postal Service stamp, as part of the 2008 commemorative stamp program.”

Committee Action: H. Res. 1242 was introduced on June 5, 2008 and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, which took no further 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. 1050— Recognizing Pittsfield, Massachusetts, as being home to the earliest known reference to the word “baseball” in the United States as well as being the birthplace of college baseball (*Olver, D-MA*)

Order of Business: H. Res. 1050 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 23, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H. Res. 1050 would express that the House of Representatives

- “recognizes the importance of college baseball to the Nation; and
- “recognizes the birthplace of college baseball as Pittsfield, Massachusetts.”

The bill lists numerous findings, including the following:

- “Pittsfield, Massachusetts, is the home of a historic document discovered in Pittsfield’s archives by noted baseball historian John Thorn in 2004;
- “the historic document is a bylaw, passed by the Town of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, during a town meeting on September 5, 1791, which states that ‘for the Preservation of the Windows in the New Meeting House . . . no Person or Inhabitant of said town, shall be permitted to play at any game called Wicket, Cricket, Baseball, Football, Cat, Fives or any other game or games with balls, within the Distance of Eighty Yards from said Meeting House’;
- “this bylaw was created to protect the windows of the new meetinghouse in the Town of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, which is currently the Congregational Church, designed by renowned architect Charles Bulfinch in 1789 and completed in 1793;
- “Pittsfield, Massachusetts, through the First Home Plate project will commemorate being known as the home of the oldest known documentation of the game by erecting three permanent monuments, Bat, Ball, and Glove, to recognize Pittsfield’s unparalleled position in baseball history;
- “the monuments will highlight and represent the great virtues of the game that have solidified baseball as our national pastime;
- “the virtues of baseball are innocence, youth, bridging generations, and how it parallels the great history of our Nation;
- “Pittsfield, Massachusetts, is also the home of many historical baseball moments;
- “Pittsfield, Massachusetts, is the birthplace of college baseball in the United States as it is the sight of the first intercollegiate baseball game between Amherst College and Williams College, which took place on July 1, 1859;
- “in 1865, Ulysses F. ‘Frank’ Grant, generally considered the best African American player of the 19th century, was born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts;
- “Pittsfield, Massachusetts, is the home of Wahconah Park, an enclosed ballpark and grandstand, originally built in 1892 and placed on the National Historic Register in June 2005;
- “Pittsfield, Massachusetts, is where in 1921 and 1922, the Boston Red Sox played 2 exhibition games at Wahconah Park against the Hillies;
- “Boston won the first game with a score of 10 to 9 and the Hillies won the second with a score of 4 to 1;

- “in 1922, Jim Thorpe, considered one of the most versatile athletes in modern sports, played baseball at Wahconah Park;
- “in 1924, Lou Gehrig made his professional debut with the Hartford Senators at Wahconah Park, where he hit a home run into the Housatonic River;
- “Pittsfield, Massachusetts, hosted a vintage baseball game which was broadcast on national television in 2004;
- “Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in 2005, welcomed the Pittsfield Dukes, a member of the New England Collegiate Baseball League, who made their second season debut at Wahconah Park in 2005; and
- “on August 31, 2007, His Excellency, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, proclaimed September 5, 2007, to be Pittsfield Baseball Day in the Commonwealth.”

Committee Action: H. Res. 1050 was introduced on March 13, 2008 and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, which took no further 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. Con. Res. 372— Supporting the goals and ideals of Black Music Month and to honor the outstanding contributions that African American singers and musicians have made to the United States (*Kilpatrick, D-MI*)

Order of Business: H. Con. Res. 372 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 23, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H. Con. Res. 372 would express that the House of Representatives

- “supports the goals and ideals of Black Music Month;
- “honors the outstanding contributions that African-American singers, musicians, composers, and producers have made to this country;
- “calls on the people of the United States to take the opportunity to study, reflect on, and celebrate the majesty, vitality, and importance of African-American music; and
- “requests and authorizes the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such with appropriate ceremonies and activities.”

The bill lists numerous findings, including the following:

- “the Nation should be urged to recognize the exemplary contributions that African-American singers, musicians, and composers have made both to the United States and the world;
- “the music of African-Americans is the music of America, and has historically transcended social, economic, and racial barriers to unite people of all backgrounds;
- “artists, songwriters, producers, engineers, educators, executives, and other professionals in the music industry provide inspiration and leadership through their creation of music;
- “African-American music is indigenous to the United States and originates from African genres of music;
- “African-American genres of music such as gospel, blues, jazz, rhythm and blues, rap, and hip-hop have their roots in the African-American experience;
- “African-American music has a pervasive influence on dance, fashion, language, art, literature, cinema, media, advertisements, and other aspects of culture;
- “Black music has helped African-Americans endure great suffering and overcome injustice with courage and faith;
- “civil rights demonstrators often marched to the cadence of many songs written and composed as gospels or spirituals that were created on the fields of slaves;
- “June was first declared as Black Music Month in 1979 by President Carter and has yearly been designated as National Black Music Month by all concurrent Presidents;
- “African-American musicians have played a significant role in inspiring people across the generations in America and around the world with their vision and creativity by writing lyrics which speak to the human experience and express heartfelt emotion;
- “producers of African-American music have come to be known as some of the greatest musical talents who have enriched our culture and continue to influence fellow musicians today;
- “African-American musicians have helped shape our national character and have become an important part of our musical heritage; and
- “African-American music has millions of fans of different races and ages in cities and towns all across the United States.”

Committee Action: H. Con. Res. 372 was introduced on June 12, 2008 and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, which took no further 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. 1051—Congratulating James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, for 100 years of service and leadership to the United States (Goodlatte, R-VA)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 23, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1051 would express the sense that the House of Representatives “congratulates James Madison University for 100 years of leadership and service to the Harrisonburg/Rockingham County region, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Nation.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “On March 14, 1908, Virginia Governor Claude A. Swanson signed into law legislation for the establishment of the new State Normal School and Industrial School for Women;
- “In 1938, the institution was renamed Madison College in honor of the Nation's fourth president, James Madison;
- “In 1966, the Virginia General Assembly approved full coeducational status for the college, and men were enrolled as resident students for the first time;
- “James Madison University (JMU) enrolls nearly 17,000 students and employs 3,000 full-time and part-time faculty and staff;
- “In 2007, the US News and World Report ranked JMU as the top public, master's level university in the South for the 17th time;
- “Also in 2007, the US News and World Report noted JMU's graduation rate, at 80 percent, was the highest among all public and private schools in the South;
- “JMU has been led by presidents Julian Ashby Burress, Doctor Samuel Page Duke, Doctor G. Tyler Miller, Doctor Ronald E. Carrier, and Doctor Linwood H. Rose;
- “JMU offers 106 degree programs, including 68 undergraduate programs, 30 graduate programs, 2 education specialist programs, and 6 doctoral programs; and
- “JMU has conferred more than 98,000 degrees.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1051 was introduced on March, 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.Con.Res. 2—Expressing the sense of the Congress that schools in the United States should honor the contributions of individuals from the territories of the

United States by including such contributions in the teaching of United States history (*Christensen, D-VI*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 23, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 2 would express the sense that the Congress that “schools in the United States should honor the contributions of individuals from Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands by including such contributions in the teaching of United States history.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Individuals from Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands have contributed to many aspects of the history and culture of the United States, including its politics, athletics, and music;
- “Many students do not know the location or the significance of these places;
- “The diversity of the citizens of the United States strengthens the Nation, and individuals from the territories of the United States contribute to that diversity; and
- “It is important for students to study the history of these geographic areas as part of United States history.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 2 was introduced on January 4, 2007, 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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