



Legislative Bulletin.....July 23, 2008

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H.J.Res. 93—Approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 (Crowley, D-NY)

Order of Business: H.J.Res. 93 is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, July 23, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.J.Res. 93 would renew the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 (PL 108-61) for one year, through July 26, 2009. The Act prohibits the importation of Burmese products into the United States. The sanction was initially approved in response to the human rights abuses perpetrated by the military regimes in control of Burma. The sanctions could be lifted if the President assured Congress that certain human rights conditions have been met.

Additional Background: The Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 was enacted in 2003 to respond to the Burmese military regimes' rampant abuses of human rights. In order for the ban to be lifted, the President would have to report measured and lasting progress by the Burmese government in an effort to end human rights violations, uphold worker's rights, implement a democratic government and election process, allow free speech, allow freedom of religion, and release political prisoners. However, the militaristic regime in Burma has failed to make these efforts and the human rights conditions in Burma have worsened. In August, 2007, thousands of peaceful protesters marched in the streets of cities all across Burma in one of the nation's largest-ever peaceful protest against the regime. Within a month an estimated 100,000 people were marching peacefully in protest in Burma. The Burmese regime responded to the peaceful protests with a violent crackdown which culminated with beating and opening fire on

unarmed protesters. Outside organizations estimate that some 3,000 Burmese protesters were detained during the crackdown and that unwarranted arrests of anti-regime protesters persist in Burma.

Committee Action: H.J.Res. 93 was introduced on June 5, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score for H.J.Res. 93 was not available, however, 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. 1360—Honoring and commemorating the selfless acts of heroism
displayed by the late Detective John Michael Gibson and Private First Class
Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police on July 24, 1998
(Edwards, D-MD)**

Order of Business: H.Res. 1360 is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, July 23, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1360 would express the sense that the House of Representatives “honors and commemorates the selfless acts of heroism displayed by the late Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut and Detective John Michael Gibson of the United States Capitol Police on July 24, 1998, and expresses its condolences to the wives, children, and other family members of Private First Class Chestnut and Detective Gibson on the 10 year anniversary of their passing.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Detective Gibson, born March 29, 1956, was killed in the line of duty while protecting the office complex of the House Majority Whip;
- “Private First Class Chestnut, born April 28, 1940, was killed in the line of duty while guarding the Document Room Door entrance of the Capitol;
- “Detective Gibson and Private First Class Chestnut were the first police officers to lie in honor in the rotunda of the Capitol;
- “Private First Class Chestnut was the first African-American to lie in honor in the rotunda of the Capitol;
- “Detective Gibson was married to Evelyn and was the father of three children;
- “Private First Class Chestnut was married to Wen Ling and was the father of five children; and

- “10 years have passed since Detective Gibson and Private First Class Chestnut sacrificed their lives to protect the lives of hundreds of tourists, staff, and Members of Congress on July 24, 1998.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1360 was introduced on July 17, 2008, and referred to the Committee on House Administration, 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. 645—Expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the House of Representatives to the professionalism and dedication of the United States Capitol Police (Mario Diaz-Balart, R-FL)

Order of Business: H.Res. 645 is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, July 23, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 645 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “Expresses its gratitude and appreciation for the professional manner in which the United States Capitol Police carry out their diverse missions;
- “Expresses appreciation for the dedication United States Capitol Police officers have for protecting the Capitol Complex; and
- “Commends the United States Capitol Police for their continued courage and professionalism in protecting the Capitol Complex and its employees and visitors.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The United States Capitol Police force consists of over 1,500 officers who are dedicated to the protection and security of the Capitol Complex and its employees and visitors;
- “The United States Capitol Police continually sacrifice to provide safety and security to the Members, staff, and nearly 3 million visitors each year to the Capitol Complex;
- “The United States Capitol Police are on the front lines of the War on Terrorism and remain on constant alert against unauthorized access to Capitol buildings, terrorism, and other threats to the Capitol Complex;
- “Capitol Police officers stationed throughout the Capitol Complex act in a professional manner and treat Members, staff, and visitors with dignity and respect;

- “The United States Capitol Police consistently apply security and safety measures to all, including Members of Congress; and
- “The United States Capitol Police is one of the best trained, most highly respected law enforcement agencies in the United States.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 645 was introduced on September 10, 2007, and referred to the Committee on House Administration, 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. 1286—Recognizing and celebrating the 20th anniversary of the National Black Arts Festival (*Lewis, D-GA*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 1286 is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, July 23, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1286 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes the important role that arts and arts education plays in the lives of millions of Americans;
- “Recognizes the continuing contributions and influence of African-American art work to America’s cultural life;
- “Urges all citizens to support efforts to strengthen artistic training and appreciation in schools; and
- “Recognizes the 20th anniversary of the National Black Arts Festival.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The National Black Arts Festival (NBAF) is a nonprofit cultural institution based in Atlanta, Georgia, that celebrates the artistic contributions of people of African descent and their impact on world cultures;
- “The mission of the NBAF is to engage, cultivate, and educate diverse audiences about the arts and cultures of the African Diaspora and provide opportunities for artistic and creative expression;
- “The NBAF was founded in 1987 after a study commissioned by the Fulton County Arts Council found an unmet need for a festival celebrating and advancing the work of black artists;

- “Festival programming is carefully chosen to ensure that ‘three generations are at the table’, recognizing the need to appeal to a broad range of ages;
- “The mission of the NBAF has given the organization a clear focus and understanding of its niche, which has allowed the NBAF to succeed locally and nationally;
- “Dedicated volunteers, consistently high quality work, and continued support from the funding community has enabled the NBAF to stand above its peers;
- “The NBAF adds a unique and necessary dimension to Atlanta’s cultural landscape as one of the city’s leading art institutions;
- “The NBAF has touched more than 5,000,000 people through music, dance, theater, film, visual arts, literary arts, and family events over the past 2 decades;
- “The NBAF has become the premier festival of its kind in the United States; and
- “The 20th anniversary of the first summer festival provides an occasion to honor the importance of the NBAF in its cultural fabric of greater Atlanta and all of America.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1286 was introduced on June 16, 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. 1355—Expressing support for designation of Disability Pride Day and recognizing that all people, including those living with disabilities, have the right, responsibility, and ability to be active, contributing members of our society and fully engaged as citizens (*Davis, D-IL*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 1355 is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, July 23, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1355 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of Disability Pride Day;
- “Acknowledges the efforts of the City of Chicago’s 5th Annual Disability Pride Parade organizers to raise awareness concerning the value of people with disabilities;
- “Invites the Nation to join in celebrating the pride, the power, and the potential of people with disabilities by celebrating Disability Pride Day; and
- “Urges public officials and the general public to honor Americans with disabilities by educating themselves on ways to support and encourage understanding of persons with disabilities in our schools, within our diverse workforce, as well as in our communities.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “All people, including those with disabilities, should be guaranteed the right to receive a quality education, to be productive members of our workforce, to raise families, to exert control and choice over their own lives, and to have equal opportunity to access and participate in all facets of life;
- “Having a disability should be seen as a natural part of human diversity;
- “Many people with disabilities share a cultural experience and history;
- “18 years ago, on July 26, 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law, ending discrimination against and providing equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in employment, education, government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities, and transportation;
- “In spite of the recent efforts to restore the intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act, people with disabilities continue to face tremendous challenges in our society that test their resolve sociologically, emotionally, and psychologically, as well as face negative cultural assumptions based on fears and myths that need to be eliminated and replaced with presumptions of competence, strength, and individual worth;
- “July 26, 2008, is the City of Chicago’s 5th Annual Disability Pride Parade, a celebration that will seek to educate and change the way that people think about and define those with disabilities by promoting the belief that disability is a natural and beautiful part of human diversity in which people living with disabilities can take pride; and
- “July 26, 2008, would be an appropriate day to designate as Disability Pride Day.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1355 was introduced on July 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. 655—Honoring the life and accomplishments of Katherine Dunham (*Rangel, D-NY*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 655 is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, July 23, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 655 would express the sense that the House of Representatives “honors the life and accomplishments of Katherine Dunham and recognizes Katherine Dunham's immeasurable contributions to the arts and all of humanity.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Katherine Dunham, a pioneering dancer and choreographer, author, and civil rights activist was born on June 22, 1909, and passed away on May 21, 2006, at the age of 96;
- “At the age of 12, Katherine Dunham wrote her first published short story in a magazine edited by W.E.B. DuBois;
- “As class poet in high school, Katherine Dunham wrote a memoir entitled ‘A Touch of Innocence’;
- “In the 1930s, Katherine Dunham revolutionized American dance by incorporating the roots of Black dance and ritual to develop a uniquely different dance form;
- “In 1945, Katherine Dunham founded the Dunham School of Dance and Theatre in Manhattan, providing a centralized location for students to immerse themselves in dance technique and study topics in the humanities, languages, ethics, philosophy, and drama;
- “In 1993, Katherine Dunham went on a 47-day hunger strike to call attention to the plight of the Haitians, thereby helping to shift public opinion on United States relations with the Republic of Haiti and precipitating the return of the first democratically elected president of the Republic of Haiti;
- “Katherine Dunham was an activist, teacher, dancer, and mentor to young people throughout the world; and
- “With the death of Katherine Dunham on May 21, 2006, in New York City, the United States lost a prolific and premier artist and humanitarian.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 655 was introduced on September 17, 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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H.Res. 1296—Supporting the designation of a National Child Awareness Month to promote awareness of children's charities and youth-serving organizations across the United States and recognizing their efforts on behalf of children and youth as a positive investment for the future of our Nation (Calvert, R-CA)

Order of Business: H.Res. 1296 is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, July 23, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1296 would express the sense that the House of Representatives “supports the designation of a National Child Awareness Month to promote awareness of children’s charities and youth-serving organizations across the United States and recognizes their efforts on behalf of children and youth as a critical contribution to the future of our Nation.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Millions of American children and youth represent the hopes and future of our Nation;
- “Numerous individuals, children’s organizations, and youth-serving organizations that work with children and youth collaborate to provide invaluable services to enrich and better the lives of the young;
- “Heightening awareness of and increasing support for organizations that provide access to healthcare, social services, education, the arts, sports, and other services will result in the development of character and the future success of youngsters;
- “The President issued a proclamation on May 30, 2008, proclaiming June 1, 2008 as National Child’s Day to demonstrate a commitment to our youth;
- “September is a time when parents, families, teachers, school administrators, and communities in general increase their focus on children and youth nationwide as the school year begins;
- “September is a time for the people of the United States as a whole to highlight and be mindful of the needs of children and youth;
- “Designating September as National Child Awareness Month would recognize that a long-term commitment to children and youth is in the public interest, and will encourage widespread support for the charities and organizations that seek to provide a better future for the children and youth of the United States.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1296 was introduced on June 24, 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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