



**Legislative Bulletin.....July 30, 2008**

**Contents:**

- H.Res. 1351**—Expressing support for the United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID)
- H.Res. 1008**—Condemning the persecution of Baha'is in Iran
- H.R. 6432**—Animal Drug User Fee Amendments of 2008
- H.R. \_\_**—Employee Verification Amendment Act of 2008

**Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:**

**Total Number of New Government Programs:** 0

**Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations:** \$15 million in FY 2009 and \$101 million over the FY 2009—FY 2013 period

**Effect on Revenue:** Increased \$101 million over the FY 2009—FY 2013 period

**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:** 2

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

**H.Res. 1351—Expressing support for the United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and calling upon United Nations Member States and the international community to contribute the resources necessary to ensure the success of UNAMID (Chabot, R-OH)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 1351 is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, July 30, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1351 would express the sense that the House:

- “Condemns in the strongest terms the attack on the United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) peacekeepers and expresses its condolences to the

- people of Rwanda, Ghana, and Uganda, and to the family and friends of those killed and wounded;
- “Calls upon the Sudanese Government to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice;
  - “Expresses its commitment to the Darfuri people;
  - “Expresses support for UNAMID and the UNAMID peacekeepers; and
  - “Calls upon United Nations Member States and the international community to contribute the resources necessary to ensure the success of UNAMID.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “On July 8, 2008, seven United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) peacekeepers were killed and another 22 wounded, including seven critically, while carrying out UNAMID in the Darfur region of Sudan to bring stability and security to the region;
- “The attacks on July 8, 2008, were the latest, and most severe, in a string of attacks on UNAMID peacekeepers, which include an attack on June 30, 2008, when 38 peacekeepers were taken hostage and on April 9, 2008, when a UNAMID police officer was beaten and UNAMID vehicles hijacked;
- “On June 25, 2008, the United Nations announced that UNAMID in Darfur lacked critical resources including troops, police officers, and air transport, hindering UNAMID’s effectiveness;
- “The United Nations’ announcement on June 25, 2008, restated concerns recognized in October 2007, that the shortage of resources could ‘jeopardize its efforts to stabilize a region’;
- “On July 31, 2007, the United Nations Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 1769 authorizing the deployment of 26,000 peacekeeping troops to the region;
- “Since that time UNAMID has been thwarted by the Sudanese Government and rebels; and
- “The success of the mission is dependant on the support and contributions of member nations and the international community.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1351 was introduced on July 16, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. On July 24, 2008, the committee held a mark-up and reported the bill, as amended, by unanimous consent.

**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.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Andy Koenig; [andy.koenig@mail.house.gov](mailto:andy.koenig@mail.house.gov); 202-226-9717.

---

## **H.Res. 1008—Condemning the persecution of Baha’is in Iran (Kirk, R-IL)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 1008 is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, July 30, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1008 would express the sense that the House:

- “Condemns the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of Baha’is, calls on the Government of Iran to immediately cease activities aimed at the repression of the Iranian Baha’i community, and continues to hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding all the rights of its nationals, including members of the Baha’i community;
- “Condemns the Government of Iran’s continued imprisonment of individuals without due process and a fair trial;
- “Calls on the Government of Iran to immediately release three Baha’is: Ms. Raha Sabet, Mr. Sasan Taqva, and Ms. Haleh Roohi; and
- “Calls on the Government of Iran and the Iranian Parliament to reject a draft Islamic penal code, which violates Iran’s commitments under the International Covenants on Human Rights.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “In 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 2000, and 2006, Congress declared that it deplored the religious persecution by the Government of Iran of the Baha’i community and would hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all Iranian nationals, including members of the Baha’i faith;
- “The United Nations Special Rapporteur expressed ‘grave concern and apprehension’ about the implications of this letter for the safety of the Baha’i community;
- “In May 2006, 54 Baha’is were arrested in Shiraz and held for several days without trial in the largest roundup of Baha’is since the 1980s;
- “In August 2006, the Iranian Ministry of the Interior ordered provincial officials to ‘cautiously and carefully monitor and manage’ all Baha’i social activities;
- “In 2006, the Central Security Office of Iran’s Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology ordered 81 Iranian universities to expel any student discovered to be a Baha’i;
- “In 2007, more than two-thirds of the Baha’is enrolled in universities were expelled upon identification as a Baha’i;
- “In February 2007, police in Tehran and surrounding towns entered Baha’i homes and businesses to collect details on family members;
- “On January 23, 2008, the State Department released a statement urging the Iranian regime to release all individuals held without due process and a fair trial, including the 3 young Baha’is being held in an Iranian Ministry of Intelligence detention center in Shiraz;

- “The Government of Iran is party to the International Covenants on Human Rights; and
- “In December 2007, the Iranian Parliament published a draft Islamic penal code, which violates Iran’s commitment under the International Covenants on Human Rights by requiring the death penalty for ‘apostates’, a term applied to Baha’is and any convert from Islam.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1008 was introduced on February 28, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Andy Koenig; [andy.koenig@mail.house.gov](mailto:andy.koenig@mail.house.gov); 202-226-9717.

---

## **H.R. 6432—Animal Drug User Fee Amendments of 2008** *(Pallone, D-NJ)*

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, July 30, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 6432 would reauthorize the Animal Drug User Fee Act of 2003, which imposes fees on animal drug makers submitting products for FDA approval in order to fund an expedited approval process for drugs used on pets and livestock. The bill would make a number of technical changes to the Animal Drug User Fee Act of 2003, and extend the user fee program for animal drug manufacturers through FY 2013. If it is not reauthorized, the user fee will expire on September 30, 2008.

According to CBO, the bill would authorize \$15 million in FY 2009 and \$101 million over the FY 2009—FY 2013 period to expedite animal drug approval. Spending authorized by the bill, however, would be offset by fees on animal drug manufacturers when they submit new products for approval. Fees collected under the legislation could only be obligated to the extent and in the amounts provided in advance by appropriation acts. CBO estimates that fees collected under the bill would match outlays for the drug approval program.

Among the changes made by H.R. 6432, the bill would require animal drug manufacturers to submit reports to the FDA regarding certain drugs that contain antimicrobial active ingredients. The FDA would then be required to make the contents of those reports publicly available. The legislation would also require the FDA to submit

reports regarding its animal drug performance under the program, and on the overall fiscal status of the program.

**Additional Information:** According to the FDA:

The Animal Drug User Fee Act of 2003 (ADUFA), amended the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) and authorized FDA to collect fees to support the review of animal drugs. These additional resources support FDA's responsibilities under the Act to ensure that new animal drug products are safe and effective for animals as well as human consumers with respect to animals intended for food consumption. This program is similar to the very successful programs for human drugs and medical devices, the Prescription Drug User Fee Act and the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act.

For more information on the Animal Drug User Fee Act of 2003, visit [this Website](#).

**Committee Action:** H.R. 6432 was introduced on July 8, 2008, and referred Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Health. The following day the subcommittee held a mark-up and reported the bill by voice vote. On July 17, 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. 6432 would authorize \$15 million in FY 2009 and \$101 million over the FY 2009—FY 2013 period to expedite animal drug approval. However, those authorized funds would be offset by fees on animal drug manufacturers when they submit new products for approval.

**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 House Report citing compliance with House rules regarding congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of Rule XXI, was not available.

**Constitutional Authority:** A House Report citing constitutional authority was not available.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Andy Koenig; [andy.koenig@mail.house.gov](mailto:andy.koenig@mail.house.gov); 202-226-9717.

---

---

**H.R. \_\_\_\_—The Employee Verification Amendment Act of 2008**  
*(Giffords, D-AZ)*

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, July 30, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. \_\_\_\_ would extend the current employment eligibility verification pilot program (known as “E-Verify”) for five years, through FY 2013.

The bill would also require the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to enter into an agreement that would fully supply the SSA with funds for its E-Verify program. Funds for the program would include the cost of acquiring, installing, and maintaining equipment and systems necessary to carry out the program, and the cost of responding to individuals who contest a tentative non-confirmation.

The bill would require that E-Verify system funds be provided to the SSA quarterly, and in advance each quarter. The bill states that the agreement between SSA and DHS must require an annual accounting and reconciliation of the actual costs incurred and the funds provided under the agreement.

In the absence of a timely agreement between SSA and DHS, the legislation would continue the E-Verify system on interim basis by deeming the last agreement to be in effect until a new agreement is reached. The bill would require the Commissioner of SSA and the Secretary of the DHS to notify Congress when they fail to reach an agreement and to report the status of their negotiations to Congress every 90 days thereafter.

Finally, the measure would require the Government Accountability Office to conduct studies regarding the occurrence of erroneous tentative non-confirmations under the pilot program, and the effects of the pilot program on small business.

**Additional Information:** According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services:

E-Verify is a free Internet-based system that allows employers to confirm the legal working status of new hires in seconds. With one click, E-Verify can match your new hire’s Social Security Number and other Form I-9 information. E-Verify reduces unauthorized employment, minimizes verification-related discrimination, is quick and non-burdensome to employers, and protects civil liberties and employee privacy. Initial verification returns results within 3 to 5 seconds. Employers ran nearly 2 million employment eligibility verification queries in Fiscal Year 2006. The top industries using E-Verify include food services and drinking places, administrative and support services, professional and technical services, other information services, and clothing and accessories stores.

For more information on the E-Verify system, visit [this Website](#).

**Committee Action:** H.R. \_\_\_\_ will likely be introduced on July 30, 3008.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for H.R. \_\_\_\_ was not available.

**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 House Report citing compliance with House rules regarding congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of Rule XXI, was not available.

**Constitutional Authority:** A House Report citing s constitutional authority was not available.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Andy Koenig; [andy.koenig@mail.house.gov](mailto:andy.koenig@mail.house.gov); 202-226-9717.

---

---