



The Daily Whip

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2005

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Ten "One Minutes" Per Side	12:00 p.m.

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

S. 397 – Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (*Sen. Craig – Judiciary*) (Closed Rule – One Hour of General Debate). This bill prohibits the bringing of a qualified civil liability action against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, and importers of firearms or ammunition products for the harm caused by the criminal or unlawful misuse of firearm products or ammunition products by others when the product functioned as designed and intended. The bill also prohibits such suits from being brought against trade associations. Any lawsuit now pending would be immediately dismissed upon enactment of this law. Civil actions could be brought against a person convicted of knowingly transferring a firearm, knowing that the firearm would be used to commit a violent crime or drug trafficking crime, when the suit is brought by an individual directly harmed by the conduct of the person convicted under those laws. S397 requires all handguns to be sold with a secure gun-storage or with safety devices (a child safety lock). If gun manufacturers or dealers sell handguns without such safety devices, they would face a suspension of license for up to six months, and fines of up to \$2,500. The bill also prohibits the manufacture or sale of armor-piercing ammunition — unless it is for the use of the federal or state government, for export only, or has been approved by the Justice Department for testing and experimentation uses. It increases penalties for individuals who use or carry armor-piercing ammunition in a violent or drug-trafficking crime to a minimum prison sentence of 15 years; or, if the crime results in any deaths, a sentence of execution or life imprisonment. S397 passed the Senate on July 29th by a vote of 65 to 31.

Postponed Vote on the DeLauro Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2744 - Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY06. The motion directs conferees to agree to bar the closing of Farm Service Agency offices and to limit the privatizing of administration of food stamps.

VOTE YES

Daily Quote...

"But don't be bamboozled by the self-satisfied claims of fiscal discipline you'll hear from those pressing these cuts: Their post-Katrina budget plan would add to the deficit, not reduce it.

That's because the required spending cuts don't come close to paying for the at least \$70 billion in new tax cuts provided for in the budget -- cuts that mostly benefit the wealthiest Americans and that apparently remain sacrosanct, no matter what expenses pile up. Meantime, the spending cuts, if approved, would probably come primarily from programs for the poor -- such as Medicaid, food stamps, child-care support, the earned-income tax credit and Supplemental Security Income."

- An editorial in today's *Washington Post*