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Legislative Bulletin.....May 5, 2011

Contents:

Amendments to H.R. 1230— Restarting American Offshore Leasing Now Act

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Thursday, May 5, 2011, under a structured rule. The rule ([H.Res.245](#)) provides for one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the majority and minority, waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI (earmarks & “pay-go”), provides for consideration of 2 amendments with 10 minutes for debate each, and provides for one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

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AMENDMENTS MADE IN ORDER UNDER THE RULE

1. **Connelly(D-VA)/Moran (D-VA)/Sarbanes(D-MD).** The amendment requires the President, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, to certify that drilling activity on areas involving the Virginia lease sale would not create a conflict for the military. The underlying bill already prohibits parcel sales if the President, through the Secretary of Defense, determines that drilling activity on that tract would create an unreasonable conflict.
2. **Holt (D-NJ).** The amendment removes the language in the underlying text that states the environmental impact statement requirements required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) are considered satisfied, and replaces it with language that requires NEPA “compliance” before lease sales can occur. Some conservatives may believe this would lead to additional and questionable litigation in order to further delay the lease sale process.

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