

**Legislative Bulletin.....May 10, 2011**

**Contents:**

**H.R. 1016 - Assessing Progress in Haiti Act**

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**H.R. 1016 - Assessing Progress in Haiti Act (*Lee, D-CA*)**

**Order of Business:** The legislation is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 10, 2011, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 1016 would require the President, in consultation with the Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of Defense, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Centers for Disease Congress and Prevention to transmit a report to Congress on the status of post-earthquake humanitarian, reconstruction, and development efforts in Haiti, including efforts to prevent the spread of cholera and treat persons infected with the disease. This report would be due to Congress within six months.

The legislation contains several findings, including:

- “According to the Government of Haiti, more than 316,000 people died as a result of the earthquake, including 103 citizens of the United States and more than 100 United Nations personnel;
- “The Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) conducted by the Government of Haiti, the United Nations, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other experts estimates that damage and economic losses totaled \$7,804,000,000, approximately 120 percent of Haiti’s gross domestic product in 2009;
- “According to the Haitian Ministry of Public Health and Population, as of March 28, 2011—
  - “Approximately 4,766 people have died from cholera; and
  - “Approximately 270,991 have been infected from the disease;
- “The United States has provided more than \$62,523,017 worth of assistance to combat the cholera epidemic, including by assisting with stockpiling health commodities, equipping cholera treatments centers, providing public information, and improving water and sanitation systems;
- “The United Nations Office of the Special Envoy for Haiti estimates that nearly \$1,900,000,000 has been disbursed, with an additional amount of approximately \$2,000,000,000 committed;

- “Haiti will need the support of the international community in order to confront the ongoing cholera epidemic and to promote reconstruction and development.”

**Additional Information:** It should be noted that this legislation states that the United States has provided more than \$62,523,017 in aid to combat the cholera epidemic. This amount does not include amounts spent by the United States for search and rescue efforts, reconstruction or other humanitarian aid. The last finding of this legislation states that “Haiti will need the support of the international community in order to confront the ongoing cholera epidemic and to promote reconstruction and development.” This could be used to pressure Members to vote to increase spending at a later time.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 1061 was introduced on March 10, 2011, and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and a markup was held on April 14, 2011. The legislation was favorably reported, as amended, by voice vote.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is provided.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** CBO estimates that the cost of such a report, which would be direct spending, would be less than \$500,000 in 2012.

**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?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** Rep. Lee’s statement of constitutional authority, found in the Congressional Record, states Congress has the authority to enact this legislation based on “Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution, as clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.”

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