

Legislative Bulletin February 9, 2011

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S. 188 - A bill to designate the United States courthouse under construction at 98 West First Street, Yuma, Arizona, as the "John M. Roll United States Courthouse" (Sen. John McCain, R-AR)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, February 8, 2011, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: S. 188 will designate the United States courthouse under construction at 98 West First Street, Yuma, Arizona, as the "John M. Roll United States Courthouse".

Additional Information: John McCarthy Roll was a United States federal judge, who had served as the chief judge for the United States District Court for the District of Arizona. Roll died after being shot while attending a constituent outreach event held by U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords in Casas Adobes, near Tucson, Arizona.

Committee Action: On February 1, 2011 the bill was passed and agreed to without amendment by unanimous consent on the Senate floor.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is provided.

Cost to Taxpayers: A report from CBO was unavailable at press time.

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 (Senate Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: House rules do not require a statement of constitutional authority for resolutions.

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H.R. __ - To secure the return to the United States the \$179 million overpaid into the United Nations Tax Equalization Fund as of December 31, 2009, and for other purposes (Ros-Lehtinen, R-IL)

Order of Business: The legislation is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, February 9, 2011, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. __ would direct the United Nations (U.N.) to return to the U.S. \$179,010,326 in overpaid funds. These funds were overpaid to the U.N. Tax Equalization Fund (additional information below).

The legislation would also direct the U.N. to reform its TEF assessment procedures to reduce the repeated discrepancies between TEF income and expenditures, and it would annually instruct the U.N. to return any surplus U.S. funds to the TEF to the U.S.

Until the Secretary of State confirms that the U.N. has returned the \$179,010,326 by July 29, 2010, this legislation states that this same amount will be withheld by the U.S. from its regularly assessed biennial U.N. budget.

Additional Background: The U.S. has overpaid the U.N. Tax Equalization Fund (TEF) in recent years. In 2008 – 2009, the U.S. overpaid the TEF by \$52.2 million. Overpaid amounts to this fund are not automatically returned to the U.S. Instead, overpaid funds accumulate at the U.N. According to a July 29, 2010 U.N. financial report, as of December 31, 2009, the U.S. has overpaid the TEF by \$179,010,326.

The U.N. TEF is a fund that reimburses certain U.N. staff, who are subject to U.S. income taxes, for those U.S. income taxes.

Committee Action: H.R. __ has yet to be introduced.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is provided.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO estimate was unavailable at press time.

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: A statement of constitutional authority is currently unavailable.

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