



Legislative Bulletin.....June 13, 2011

Contents:

Amendments to H.R. 2055 (Part I) —FY 2012 Military Construction-Veterans Appropriations

The following Legislative Bulletin contains information on the three amendments pre-printed in the Congressional Record on June 2, 2011, and other potential amendments not pre-printed that may be offered.

Order of Business: The amendments to H.R. 2055, the FY 2012 Military Construction-Veterans Appropriations Act, are scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 13, 2011, under an open rule. The rule ([H.Res.288](#)) waives all points of order against consideration of the bill and provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI. The rule also provides for the bill to be read for amendment by paragraph and under the five minute rule. The rule ***provides priority for recognition to Members who have pre-printed their amendments in the Congressional Record*** and provides for one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Primary RSC Staff Contact: Joe Murray Joe.Murray@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-0718.

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS PREPRINTED IN THE
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD**

June, 2, 2011

1. **Meeks (D-NY).** This amendment adds a new section at the end of the bill prohibiting any funds made available by this Act to be used to declare as excess to the needs of the Department of Veterans Affairs or otherwise take any action to exchange, trade, auction, transfer, or otherwise dispose of, or reduce the acreage of, Federal land and improvements at the St. Albans campus. The St. Albans, New York campus consists of approximately 55 acres of land, with borders near Linden Boulevard on the northwest, 115th Avenue on the west, the Long Island Railroad on the northeast, and Baisley Boulevard on the southeast.
2. **Sherman (D-CA).** This amendment adds a new section at the end of the bill prohibiting any funds made available by this Act to used in contravention to the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S. C. 1541 et seq.).
3. **Altmire (D-PA).** This amendment reduces Department of Veterans Affairs funding for reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services by \$22 million and increases funding by that same amount for necessary expenses in carrying out programs of medical and prosthetic research and development.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS NOT PRE-PRINTED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

1. **Holt (D-NJ)/Runyan (R-NJ).** This amendment provides for \$20 million of funding from the \$1 billion in advance appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal years 2013 and 2014 to fund veterans' suicide prevention outreach via television advertising and social media. According to a recent Federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision relating to veterans' suicides, 18 veterans take their lives each day.
2. **Amash (R-MI).** This amendment adds a new section to the end of the bill that prohibits any funds made available by this Act to be used for a project or program named for an individual serving as a Senator in the United States Senate or as President of the United States.
3. **Amash (R-MI).** This amendment adds a new section to the end of the bill that prohibits any funds made available by this Act to be used to administer or enforce the wage-rate requirements of subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, commonly known as the "Davis-Bacon Act."
4. **King (R-IA).** This amendment adds a new section to the end of the bill that prohibits any funds made available by this Act to be used to employ workers described in section 274A(h)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act [8 U.S.C. 1324a(h)(3)]. Under section 274A(h)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act ("INA"), the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security have authority to determine who shall be authorized to work in the United States. That section says that "the term 'unauthorized alien' means, with respect to the employment of an alien at a particular time, that the alien is not at that time either an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, or authorized to be so employed by this Act or by the Attorney General."
5. **Engel (D-NY).** This amendment strikes section 415 in the bill. Section 415 prohibits funds from being used under H.R. 2055 to require contractors to enter into project labor agreements (PLAs) on large scale federal construction projects (where the cost to the federal government is \$25 million or more). In 2009, President Obama created Executive Order 13502 to require government contractors to collectively bargain with their workers before breaking ground on any major construction project. Once the contractors and the workers agreed on terms, these PLAs established basic terms and conditions of employment on the project.

According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, PLA's have been shown to decrease the pool of qualified contractors that will bid on federal contracts and have led to significant cost increases. Mandated project labor agreements also discriminate against contractors that are not unionized and employees who have exercised their rights to refrain from joining a union. **The Chamber will score this vote.**