



Legislative Bulletin.....September 21, 2011

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**H.R. 2943—Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Extension
(Davis, R-KY)**

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 21, 2011 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The legislation extends the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program through December 31, 2011. The program would otherwise expire on September 30, 2011. The funding level provided in the legislation is the same as the baseline, \$16.5 billion on an annualized basis.

Additional Background: The TANF program is one of approximately 70 means-tested welfare programs, and is a small fraction of the total cost of the federal government’s total welfare budget. Since 1965, when the “War on Poverty” began, Americans have spent \$16 trillion on all of these programs. The budget for these programs has increased by 292% in the two decades leading up to 2008 (before the current economic downturn).

The RSC [Welfare Reform Act of 2011](#) (H.R. 1167) was introduced in March of this year. The bill, among other things, creates a budget for aggregate spending on these programs by placing a total spending cap on these means-tested welfare expenditures limited to the level of 2007 plus inflation growth (effective when unemployment falls below 6.5%). It was introduced by RSC Chairman Jim Jordan (OH), Rep. Tim Scott (SC), Rep. Scott Garrett (NJ), Rep. Dan Burton (IN), Rep. Louie Gohmert (TX), and Rep. Jason Chaffetz (UT).

RSC Bonus Fact: President Franklin D. Roosevelt eloquently warned against dependence on government in a 1935 speech to Congress, when he said the following:

“Continued dependence upon relief induces a spiritual and moral disintegration fundamentally destructive to the national fibre. To dole out relief in this way is to administer a narcotic, a subtle destroyer of the human spirit... We must preserve not only the bodies of the unemployed from destitution but also their self-respect, their self-reliance and courage and determination.”

Committee Action: The legislation was introduced on September 15, 2011 and referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Administration Position: No statement is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO score is available, but according to the committee, the legislation extends the TANF program consistent with the baseline.

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?: The legislation does not including earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: According to the sponsor this authority is derived from “Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, to ‘provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.’”

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H.R. 2883—Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act (Davis, R-KY)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 21, 2011 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The legislation authorizes \$2.625 billion over five years for two programs: **1)** the Child Welfare Services Program; and **2)** the Safe and Stable Families Program. Specifically, the Child and Welfare Services program would be authorized at \$325 million a year over the FY 2012-2016 period, and the Safe and Stable Families Program would be authorized at \$200 million a year over the same period. According to the committee, these spending levels are the **same** as current spending.

Also according to the committee: “These programs pay for services to families so children can safely remain with their own parents or be supported by other caretaker adults. They represent about 10 percent of all Federal child welfare spending (most of which is for payments to foster and adoptive parents and kin guardians and administrative costs). The legislation also extends child welfare waiver authority for three years.” The number of such waivers that the Secretary of Health and Human Services could grant would be capped at 10 per year.

The legislation ends the Mentoring Children of Prisoners program.

Committee Action: The legislation was reported out of the House Ways and Means Committee on September 19, 2011.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: The legislation authorizes \$2.625 billion over five years, with an annual funding amount equivalent to current spending.

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?: According to the committee: “With respect to clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee has carefully reviewed the provision of the bill, and states that the provisions of the bill do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits within the meaning of the rule.”

Constitutional Authority: According to the sponsor Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: “Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, to ‘provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.’”

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