



Legislative Bulletin.....May 14, 2007

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Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$30 million in FY08, \$208 million over a five year period

Effect on Revenue: \$0

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 0

Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 0

H.R. 1124 — To extend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999 (Tom Davis, R-VA)

Order of Business: H.R. 1124 scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 14, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1124 would reauthorize, at such sums as necessary, the District of Columbia Assistance Grant Program (DCTAG) for five years, through 2012.

Additional Information: According to Committee Report 110 – 112, the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999 authorizes funding for D.C. high school graduates who attend college in other states. The Act was initially proposed and adopted in order to address D.C.'s lack of a state university system. The Committee Report states that because D.C. has no university system, residents would be likely to move to surrounding states in order to take advantage of lower tuition rates.

The program, which is set to expire on September 30, 2007, gives grants to DC residents attending the following schools:

- those attending public colleges outside of DC;
- those attending private colleges in DC, Maryland or VA; or
- any historically black college or university.

Scholarships to students attending public schools are capped at \$10,000 per student per year, and at a \$50,000 lifetime limit per person. Private school students receive a \$2,500 maximum annual grant, with a lifetime limit of \$12,500. According to CBO, since its creation, the program has grown significantly and the District has doubled the total number of D.C. high school graduates attending college.

Committee Action: H.R. 1124 was introduced on February 16, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia, held a hearing on the bill on March 22, 2007. On March 27, 2007, the subcommittee held a markup forwarded the bill to the full committee, which held a markup on March 29, 2007, and reported the bill by voice vote.

Possible Conservative Concern: **Some conservatives may be concerned that this federally-funded program provides tuition assistance grants only to D.C students, and that a local effort such as this should be funded by the DC government, and not taxpayers across the country. In addition, some conservatives may be concerned that the legislation authorizes \$208 million and is being considered on the suspension calendar, and is therefore not open to amendments.**

Cost to Taxpayers: According to a CBO estimate, H.R. 1124 would authorize \$30 million in FY08, and \$208 million over a five year period. However, CBO also states that costs may very well exceed this amount.

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.

Constitutional Authority: Committee Report 110 – 112 cites Article I, Section 8, Clause 17 of the Constitution, which gives Congress the authority to “exercise exclusive legislation” over the District of Columbia.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.Res. 223 — Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims (Shadegg, R-AZ)

Order of Business: H.Res. 223 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 14, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 223 would express that Congress:

- “supports the goals and ideals of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims; and
- “recognizes the significant benefits of the organizations that provide services to the loved ones of murder victims.”

H.Res. 223 lists the following findings:

- “the death of a loved one is a devastating experience, and the murder of a loved one is exceptionally difficult;
- “the friends and families of murder victims cope with grief through a variety of support services, including counseling, crisis intervention, professional referrals, and assistance in dealing with the criminal justice system; and
- “the designation of a National Day of Remembrance For Murder Victims on September 25th of each year provides an opportunity for the people of the United States to honor the memories of murder victims and to recognize the impact on surviving family members.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 223 was introduced on March 7, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.R. 1260 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6301 Highway 58 in Harrison, Tennessee, as the “Claude Ramsey Post Office” (Wamp, R-TN)

Order of Business: H.R. 1260 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 14, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1260 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6301 Highway 58 in Harrison, Tennessee, as the “Claude Ramsey Post Office.”

Additional Information: Claude Ramsey is a former state legislator in Tennessee and three-term Mayor of Hamilton County, TN. By all accounts, Ramsey has been a diligent and successful public servant in the Chattanooga area for many years. According to Hamilton County’s website, Ramsey, “was successful in securing over \$2.8 million in grant funds for expansion of local industries. These funds helped leverage over \$264 million in private investments and helped create over 2,000 new jobs. He was a driving force for the transfer of the 1200-acre Enterprise South Industrial Park property from the U.S. Army. When operational, the park will generate over 8,000 new jobs with a payroll exceeding \$240 million a year.”

For further information about Claude Ramsey or Hamilton County, Tennessee, visit their website: <http://www.hamiltontn.gov/>.

Committee Action: H.R. 1260 was introduced on March 1, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which marked-up the bill and reported it by voice vote on May 1, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H.R. 1260 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

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.

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.R. 1617 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 561 Kingsland Avenue in University City, Missouri, as the “Harriett F. Woods Post Office Building” (Carnahan, D – MO)

Order of Business: H.R. 1617 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 14, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1617 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 561 Kingsland Avenue in University City, Missouri as the “Harriett F. Woods Post Office Building.”

Additional Information: Harriet F. Woods was a politician and activist from Missouri. Woods twice ran for the United States Senate as a Democrat, first in 1982 and 1986. In 1984 she was elected as Missouri’s Lieutenant Governor and became the first female to win a statewide election in Missouri. She served in that position until 1989 when she retired. Later, Woods became a leading advocate for women in politics and served as the President of the National Women’s Political Caucus from 1991 — 1995, where she was an outspoken advocate for the pro-choice movement. On February 8, 2007, Woods past away, losing her battle with cancer.

Committee Action: H.R. 1617 was introduced on March 21, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which marked-up the bill and reported it by voice vote on May 1, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H.R. 1617 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

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.

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.R. 2025 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11033 South State Street in Chicago, Illinois, as the “Willye B. White Post Office Building” (Jackson, D – IL)

Order of Business: H.R. 2025 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 14, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2025 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11033 South State Street in Chicago, Illinois, as the Willye B. White Post Office Building.”

Additional Information: According to the International Olympic Committee, Wylie B. White was the first track and field athlete to compete in five Olympics, which she did between 1956 and 1972. White was the United States’ preeminent long jumper during that period and won Olympic silver medals twice, once in 1956 and again in 1964. In 1991, White created the Willye White Foundation to help girls with problematic backgrounds. White died in the Chicago area on February 6, 2007.

Committee Action: H.R. 2025 was introduced on April 25, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which marked-up the bill and reported it by voice vote on May 1, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H.R. 2025 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

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.

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

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H.R. 1335 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 508 East Main Street in Seneca, South Carolina, as the “S/Sgt Lewis G. Watkins Post Office Building” (Barrett, R-SC)

Order of Business: H.R. 1335 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 14, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1335 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 508 East Main Street in Seneca, South Carolina, as the “S/Sgt Lewis G. Watkins Post Office Building.”

Additional Information: Lewis G. Watkins was an American War Hero who posthumously received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his courageous actions while fighting in Korea.

According to his Medal of Honor citation, Watkins led an attack on an enemy position, during which he “engaged the platoon with intense small-arms and grenade fire, he gallantly continued to lead his men. Obtaining an automatic rifle from one of the wounded men, he assisted in pinning down an enemy machine gun holding up the assault. When an enemy grenade landed among Staff Sergeant Watkins and several other Marines while they were moving forward through a trench on the hill crest, he immediately pushed his companions aside, placed himself in a position to shield them and picked up the deadly missile in an attempt to throw it outside the trench. Mortally wounded when the grenade exploded in his hand, Staff Sergeant Watkins, by his great personal valor in the face of almost certain death, saved the lives of several of his comrades and contributed materially to the success of the mission.”

Committee Action: H.R. 1335 was introduced on March 6, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which marked-up the bill and reported it by voice vote on May 1, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H.R. 1335 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

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.

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.Res. 385 — Recognizing National AmeriCorps Week
(Yarmuth, D-KY)

Order of Business: H.Res. 385 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 14, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 385 would express that Congress:

- “encourages all citizens to join in a national effort to salute AmeriCorps members and alumni to raise awareness about the importance of national and community service;
- “acknowledges the significant accomplishments of the AmeriCorps members, alumni and community partners;
- “recognizes the important contribution to the lives of our citizens by AmeriCorps members; and
- “encourages citizens of all ages to participate in service opportunities in their communities, including in AmeriCorps programs.”

H.Res. 385 lists the following findings:

- “the AmeriCorps national service program, since its inception in 1994, has proven to be an effective way to engage Americans in service to the Nation that meets a wide range of local and national needs and promotes the ethic of service and volunteerism;
- “the AmeriCorps program, working closely with its Nationwide network of Governor-appointed state service commissions, has strengthened America’s nonprofit sector community nonprofit groups, in every State in our Nation;
- “the AmeriCorps programs across our Nation have leveraged additional funds and in-kind donations from other sources to further service and volunteerism in America;
- “each year AmeriCorps provides opportunities for 75,000 citizens to serve in and work to improve communities in our Nation;
- “AmeriCorps members last year recruited and supervised more than 1,400,000 community volunteers, serving as a powerful volunteer catalyst;
- “AmeriCorps members, in return for their service, have earned nearly \$1,300,000,000 to further their own education at our Nation’s colleges and universities; and
- “AmeriCorps members, after their terms of service end, remain engaged in our communities as volunteers, teachers, and nonprofit professionals in disproportionately high levels.”

Possible Conservative Concerns: Some conservatives may be concerned that this bill would honor AmeriCorps, a program that some contend is an inefficient and expensive way of assisting individuals to pay for college—and stretches the notion of what constitutes a “volunteer.” In addition, AmeriCorps is not means-tested. As a result, children of wealthy people can edge out low-income children for participation. According to the Ludwig von Mises Institute, AmeriCorps “volunteers” have participated in activities such as going door to door to recruit individuals for food stamps, recruiting middle-class families to enroll their children for SCHIP, and putting on a puppet show to teach four year olds about earthquakes.

Committee Action: H.Res. 385 was introduced on May 9, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.

H.Res. 216 — Commending the Juniata College volleyball team for winning the NCAA Division III Women’s Volleyball Championship (Shuster, R-PA)

Order of Business: H.Res. 216 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 14, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 216 would express that Congress:

- “commends the Juniata College volleyball team for winning the 2006 NCAA Division III Women’s Volleyball National Championship; and
- “recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, and staff whose hard work and dedication made the Championship possible.”

H.Res. 385 lists the following findings:

- “the Juniata College volleyball team is one of the great little-known dynasties in college sports;
- “the Juniata College volleyball program has a remarkable 1,100 win and 172 loss record over 30 seasons;
- “Head Coach Larry Bock has the most wins of any coach in the history of NCAA women’s volleyball;
- “during this past season, senior Stephanie Kines was named the Division III Women’s Volleyball Player of the Year, just the second Juniata player to earn that honor;
- “Juniata College did not lose a match in 2006 to a Division III opponent all season, and the team's only 2006 loss was to Division I Princeton University;
- “Juniata College’s 41 win and 1 loss record during 2006 tied the program record for the fewest losses in a season, and was the team’s first 40-win season since 1997; and
- “Juniata defeated long-time rival Washington University-St. Louis in a thrilling five-game championship match that many described as the best championship match in the history of Division III volleyball.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 216 was introduced on March 6, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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.

RSC Staff Contact: Andy Koenig; andy.koenig@mail.house.gov; 202-226-9717.
