

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 10 public bills, H.R. 3668–3677; and 1 resolution, H. Res. 684 were introduced. **Page H10939**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H10939–40**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 682, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3567) to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to expand opportunities for investments in small business (H. Rept. 110–350) and

H. Res. 683, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3121) to restore the financial solvency of the national flood insurance program and to provide for such program to make available multiperil coverage for damage resulting from windstorms and floods (H. Rept. 110–351). **Pages H10937–38, H10939**

Making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2008: The House agreed to H.J. Res. 52, to make continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2008, by a recorded vote of 404 ayes to 14 noes, Roll No. 911. **Pages H10913–20**

Agreed to the Lewis (CA) motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 341 yeas to 79 nays, Roll No. 910. Subsequently, Representative Obey reported the bill back to the House with the amendment and the amendment was agreed to. **Pages H10918–19**

H. Res. 677, the rule providing for consideration of the resolution, was agreed to by voice vote after agreeing to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 220 yeas to 192 nays, Roll No. 908. **Pages H10910–12**

Directing the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to issue a standard regulating worker exposure to diacetyl: The House passed H.R. 2693, to direct the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to issue a standard regulating worker exposure to diacetyl, by a yea-and-nay vote of 260 yeas to 154 nays with 2 voting “present”, Roll No. 913. **Pages H10920–32**

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment. **Page H10931**

Accepted:

Miller (CA) manager’s amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 110–349) that clarifies that a standard

will only be needed if diacetyl is still in use and clarifies that Section 4, calling for a NIOSH study, applies to potential substitutes for diacetyl. **Pages H10928–29**

Rejected:

Wilson (SC) amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 110–349) that sought to require the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to wait until the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) concludes there is sufficient data to support a recommended exposure limit and establishes such recommended exposure limit before issuing a final standard (by a recorded vote of 189 ayes to 233 noes, Roll No. 912). **Pages H10929–31**

H. Res. 678, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by voice vote after agreeing to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 221 yeas to 193 nays, Roll No. 909. **Pages H10908–10, H10912–13**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

Providing for the extension of transitional medical assistance (TMA), the abstinence education program, and the qualifying individuals (QI) program: H.R. 3668, to provide for the extension of transitional medical assistance (TMA), the abstinence education program, and the qualifying individuals (QI) program. **Pages H10932–35**

Recess: The House recessed at 3:17 p.m. and reconvened at 6:25 p.m. **Page H10937**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H10912, H10912–13, H10918–19, H10919–20, H10931, and H10932. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Committee Meetings

COMMODITY EXCHANGE ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management held a hearing to review reauthorization of the Commodity Exchange Act. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ARMY STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Committee on Armed Services: Held a hearing on Army Strategic initiatives. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Army:

Pete Geren, Secretary; and GEN George Casey, USA, Chief of Staff.

FOOD AND DRUG SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on H.R. 3610, Food and Drug Safety Import Act. Testimony was heard from Randall L. Lutter, Deputy Commissioner for Policy, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Financial Services: Ordered reported, as amended, the following bills: H.R. 3355, Homeowners' Defense Act of 2007; and H.R. 3524, HOPE VI Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2007.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: The Chairman asked Unanimous Consent to request consideration of the following measures in the House under suspension of the rules, and there was no objection: S. 1612, International Emergency Economic Powers Enhancement Act; H. Res. 635, amended, Recognizing the commencement of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting and spiritual renewal, and commend Muslims in the United States and throughout the world for their faith; H. Con. Res. 200, amended, Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the immediate and unconditional release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi; H.R. 2003, amended, Ethiopia Democracy and Accountability Act; H.R. 2828, amended, to provide compensation to relatives of United States citizens who were killed as a result of the bombings of United States embassies in East Africa on August 7, 1998; H. Res. 624, amended, Congratulating the State of Israel on chairing a United Nations committee for the first time in history; H. Res. 651, amended, Recognizing the warm friendship and expanding strategic relationship between the United States and Brazil, commending Brazil on successfully reducing its dependence on oil by finding alternative ways to satisfy its energy needs, and recognizing the importance of the March 9, 2007, United States-Brazil Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on biofuels cooperation; H. Res. 676, Declaring that it should continue to be the policy of the United States, consistent with the Taiwan Relations Act, to make available to Taiwan such defense articles and services as may be necessary for Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability; H. Con. Res. 203, amended, Condemning the persecution of labor rights advocates in Iran; H.R. 3432, amended, 200th Anniversary Commemoration Commission of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade Act of

2007; and H. Res. 405, as amended, Expressing the strong support of the House of Representatives for implementation of the July 8, 2006, United Nations-brokered agreement between President of the Republic of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat relating to the reunification of Cyprus.

NATIONAL PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PREPAREDNESS

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, and Science and Technology held a hearing entitled "Beyond the Checklist: Addressing Shortfalls in National Pandemic Influenza Preparedness." Testimony was heard from Bernice Steinhardt, Director, Strategic Issues, GAO; B. Tilman Jolly, M.D., Associate Chief Medical Officer for Medical Readiness, Office for Health Affairs, Department of Homeland Security; RADM W. Craig Vanderwagen, M.D., Assistant Secretary, Preparedness and Response, Department of Health and Human Services; L. Anthony Cirillo, M.D., Chief, Center for Emergency Preparedness and Response, Department of Health, State of Rhode Island; Peter A. Shult, Director, Communicable Diseases Division, Laboratory of Hygiene, State of Wisconsin; Michael C. Caldwell M.D., Commissioner, Dutchess County Health Department, Poughkeepsie, New York; and David L. Lakey, M.D., Commissioner, Center for Consumer and External Affairs, Department of State Health Services, Texas.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee Natural Resources: Ordered reported, as amended, the following bills: H.R. 1483, To amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for certain national heritage areas, and for other purposes; and H.R. 3058, Public Land Communities Transition Assistance Act of 2007.

MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESS FEDERAL CONTRACTING

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization, and Procurement held a hearing on Federal Contracting: Removing Hurdles from Minority-Owned Small Businesses. Testimony was heard from Calvin Jenkins, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Government Contracting and Business Development, SBA; Anthony Martocchio, Director, Office of Small Business Programs, Department of Defense; William B. Shear, Director, Office of Financial Markets and Community Investment, GAO; Preston Jay Waite, Deputy Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce; and public witnesses.

WALTER REED OVERSIGHT

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs held a hearing entitled “Third Walter Reed Oversight Hearing: Keeping the Nation’s Promise to Our Wounded Soldiers.” Testimony was heard from the following officials of GAO: John Pendleton, Acting Director, Health Care; and Daniel Bertoni, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security; MG Eric Schoomaker, USA, Commander, Walter Reed Army Medical Center; Michael L. Dominguez, Principal Deputy Under Secretary (Personnel and Readiness), Department of Defense; Patrick W. Dunne, Assistant Secretary, Policy and Planning, Department of Veterans Affairs.

FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM AND MODERNIZATION ACT

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a vote of 8 to 3, a structured rule providing 1 hour of general debate on H.R. 3121, Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act of 2007, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except for clauses 9 and 10 of rule XXI. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services, modified by the amendment printed in Part A of the Rules Committee report, shall be considered as adopted. The bill as amended shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill as amended.

The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in Part B of the Rules Committee report. The further amendments made in order may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the further amendments except for clauses 9 and 10 of rule XXI are waived. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Finally, the rule provides that the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to a time designated by the Speaker. Testimony was heard from Chairman Frank and Representatives Waters, Cardoza, Castor, Arcuri, Taylor, Blumenauer, Biggert, Burton, Rohrabacher, and Miller of Michigan.

SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT EXPANSION ACT OF 2007

Committee on Rules: The Committee granted, by a voice vote, a structured rule providing 1 hour of general debate on H.R. 3567, Small Business Investment Expansion Act of 2007, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Small Business. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except clauses 9 and 10 of rule XXI. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived.

The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. The amendments made in order may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendments except for clauses 9 and 10 of rule XXI are waived. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Finally the rule provides that, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to a time designated by the Speaker. Testimony was heard from Chairman Velázquez and Representative Chabot.

HEALTH IT INTEROPERABILITY/SECURITY

Committee on Science and Technology: Held a hearing on meeting the need for Interoperability and Information Security in Health IT. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SMALL BUSINESS ENERGY TAX INCENTIVES

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology held a hearing on Small Business Renewable Energy Tax Incentive Possibilities. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

AIRLINE DELAYS AND CONSUMER ISSUES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing on Airline Delays and Consumer Issues. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Transportation: Robert A. Sturgell, Deputy Administrator and Interim Chief Operating Officer, Air Traffic Organization, FAA; D. J. Gribbin, General Counsel; and Calvin L. Scovel, III, Inspector General; and public witnesses.

FTA NEW STARTS/SMALL STARTS PROGRAM

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a hearing on Federal Transit Administration's Proposed Rule on the New Starts and Small Starts Programs. Testimony was heard from James S. Simpson, Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation; and public witnesses.

VA IT REORGANIZATION

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Held a hearing on VA IT Reorganization: How Far Has VA Come? Testimony was heard from the following officials of the GAO: Valerie Melvin, Director, Human Capital and Management Information Issues; and Gregory C. Wilshusen, Director, Information Security Issues; and the following officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs: Robert T. Howard, Assistant Secretary, Information and Technology; Arnaldo Claudio, Executive Director, Office of IT Oversight and Compliance; Paul Tibbits, M.D., Deputy Chief Information Officer for Development, Office of Information and Technology; and J. Ben Davoren, M.D., Director, Clinical Informatics, San Francisco VA Medical Center.

HOME MORTGAGE AID; MENTAL HEALTH COVERAGE

Committee on Ways and Means: Ordered reported, as amended, the following bills: H.R. 3648, To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude discharges of indebtedness on principal residences from gross income, and for other purposes; and H.R. 1424, Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007.

FORGING A GLOBAL SOLUTION FOR GLOBAL WARMING: INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Select Committee on Energy Independence: Held a briefing entitled "Forging A Global Warming: International Perspectives." The Committee was briefed by the following officials of the UN Special Envoy on Climate Change: Gro Harlem Brundtland; Ricardo Lagos; and Han Seung-soo; and a public witness.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2007

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Gen. William E. Ward, United States Army, for reappointment to the grade of General and to be Commander, United States Africa Command, Gen.

Kevin P. Chilton, to be General, United States Air Force, for reappointment to the grade of General and to be Commander, United States Strategic Command, Lt. Gen. James N. Mattis, United States Marine Corps, to be General and to be Commander, United States Joint Forces Command and Supreme Allied Commander for Transformation, and Admiral Gary Roughead, United States Navy, for reappointment to the grade of Admiral and to be Chief of Naval Operations, 9:30 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security, to hold hearings to examine congestion and delays impacting travelers, focusing on possible solutions, 10:30 a.m., SR-253.

Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1578, to amend the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 to establish vessel ballast water management requirements, S. 1889, to amend title 49, United States Code, to improve railroad safety by reducing accidents and to prevent railroad fatalities, injuries, and hazardous materials releases, S. 1453, to extend the moratorium on taxes on Internet access and multiple and discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce imposed by the Internet Tax Freedom Act, S. 1965, to protect children from cybercrimes, including crimes by online predators, to enhance efforts to identify and eliminate child pornography, and to help parents shield their children from material that is inappropriate for minors, S.J. Res. 17, directing the United States to initiate international discussions and take necessary steps with other Nations to negotiate an agreement for managing migratory and transboundary fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean, and S. Con. Res. 39, supporting the goals and ideals of a world day of remembrance for road crash victims, and a promotion list in the United States Coast Guard, 2:30 p.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine hard-rock mining on federal lands, 9:30 a.m., SD-366.

Subcommittee on National Parks, to hold hearings to examine S. 148, to establish the Paterson Great Falls National Park in the State of New Jersey, S. 189, to decrease the matching funds requirements and authorize additional appropriations for Keweenaw National Historical Park in the State of Michigan, S. 697, to establish the Steel Industry National Historic Site in the State of Pennsylvania, S. 1341, to provide for the exchange of certain Bureau of Land Management land in Pima County, Arizona, S. 128, to amend the Cache La Poudre River Corridor Act to designate a new management entity, make certain technical and conforming amendments, enhance private property protections, S. 1476, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct special resources study of the Tule Lake Segregation Center in Modoc County, California, to determine suitability and feasibility of establishing a unit of the National Park System, S. 867 and H.R. 299, bills to adjust the boundary of Lowell National Historical Park, S. 1709 and H.R. 1239, bills to amend the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998 to provide additional staff and oversight of funds to carry out the Act, S. 1808, to authorize