



BUDGET WEEK

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
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Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation
scheduled for the House floor

8 July 2003

Week of 7 July 2003

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

1) **Garner E. Shriver Post Office Building Designation Act** (H.R. 1761). 

This bill has no budget implications.

2) **Francisco A. Martinez Flores Post Office Designation Act** (H.R. 2396). 

This bill has no budget implications.

3) **Medicare Prescription Drug Benefits Act** (H.R. 2631).

This bill provides a requirement for the actuarial value of the prescription drug benefits offered to Medicare eligible enrollees by a plan under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. It requires that these benefits shall be at least equal to the actuarial value of the prescription drug benefits offered by such plan to its enrollees generally. No estimate from the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] was available for this bill as of the preparation of this *Budget Week*.

4) **Peace Parks Foundation Resolution** (H.Con.Res. 80). 

This resolution expresses the sense of Congress relating to efforts of the Peace Parks Foundation in the Republic of South Africa to facilitate the establishment and development of transfrontier conservation efforts in southern Africa. The resolution has no budget implications.

5) **Regarding the Importance of International Efforts to Abolish Slavery and Other Human Rights Abuses in the Sudan** (H.Res. 194). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

6) **Supporting the Goals and Ideals of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month** (H.Con.Res. 6). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

7) **Supporting National Men's Health Week** (H.Con.Res. 208). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

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PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to address support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. **Also note:** Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives. It has not been approved by the full committee and therefore may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

**LEGISLATION SUBJECT
TO UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT**

- Bill:** *Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004* 
- Committee:** Appropriations
- Summary:** This measure funds the military activities of the Department of Defense [DOD]. This funding includes operation and maintenance of weapons and facilities, weapons procurement, pay and benefits for military personnel, and research and development. Though most of the budget authority is provided to the DOD, certain other agencies receive appropriations as well, such as classified amounts for national foreign intelligence activities administered by the Central Intelligence Agency.
- Cost:** In providing \$368.7 billion for programs in the defense category, this measure is equal to the 302(b) suballocation for budget authority, and \$521 million below its suballocation for outlays. The bill rescinds \$2 billion in budget authority from the fiscal year 2003 Wartime Supplemental (Public Law 108-11), with outlay savings of \$1.274 billion.
- Budget Act:** This measure will comply with the 302(b) allocations approved by the Appropriations Committee, and hence will not be subject to a point of order under section 302(f) of the Budget Act. The measure includes no advance appropriations, and no spending designated as an emergency.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

- Bill:** *Ready to Teach Act of 2003* (H.R. 2211). 
- Committee:** Education and the Workforce
- Summary:** This bill reauthorizes Higher Education programs, which are currently authorized through 2004. H.R. 2211 extends the reauthorization through 2008. It also creates a new grant program for higher education institutions that have historically served minority populations and authorizes these grants through 2008.
- Cost:** The bill authorizes discretionary appropriations of \$219 million in 2004 and an estimated \$1.8 billion over the 2004-08 period. The bill does not increase direct spending – spending not subject to appropriations – or reduce revenue.
- Budget Act:** The bill does not violate the Congressional Budget Act.
- Bill:** *Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act of 2003* (H.R. 438). 
- Committee:** Education and the Workforce
- Summary:** H.R. 438 makes two changes in the current teacher loan forgiveness program for Federal student loans. The first restricts the participation in those loan forgiveness provisions to only those teachers deemed "highly qualified" as defined in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. The other would make certain special education, mathematics, and science teachers eligible for additional and earlier loan forgiveness.
- Cost:** This legislation increases direct spending by \$60 million in 2003, \$25 million in 2004, and \$280 million over the 2004-13 period.

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Budget Act: Under the budget resolution currently in force, H.Con.Res. 95, this bill is within the allocation of new budget authority to the Committee on Education and the Workforce. The bill does not violate any provision of the Congressional Budget Act.

Bill: *Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004* 

Committee: Appropriations

Summary: This bill provides appropriations for activities directly serving Congress. Included are the budgets of the House, the Senate, the Office of Compliance, the Congressional Budget Office, the Architect of the Capitol, the Congressional Research Service and congressional printing and binding activities of the Government Printing Office. The bill also includes budget authority for activities not directly supporting Congress, such as the budgets of the Botanic Garden, the Library of Congress, other activities of the Government Printing Office and the General Accounting Office.

Cost: This measure is \$812 million below the 302(b) suballocation for budget authority. That amount is equal to the amount available for Senate items in the suballocation. These Senate provisions are not included in the House-reported bill, but rather will be added later by the other body.

Budget Act: This measure will comply with the most recently issued 302(b) allocations, and hence will not be subject to a point of order under section 302(f) of the Budget Act. The measure includes no advance appropriations, and no spending designated as an emergency.

Bill: *Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004*

Committee: Appropriations

Summary: This measure includes appropriations for Department of Labor, including the Employment and Training Administration, community service employment for older Americans, Federal unemployment benefits and allowances, State unemployment insurance and employment service operations, the Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and the Employment Standards Administration. It also provides appropriations for the Department of Health and Human Services, including funding for health resources and services activities, health education assistance loans, the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program Trust Fund, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the International Center, the National Library of Medicine, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality, and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. It also provides appropriations for the Department of Education including funds for the education for the disadvantaged, impact aid, school improvement programs, Indian education, bilingual and immigrant education, and special education. It also makes appropriations for various related agencies such as the Armed Forces Retirement Home, the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, and the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

Cost: The Appropriations Committee had not released the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] estimate of this bill as of the preparation of this *Budget Week* summary.

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Budget Act: Because the CBO estimate is not available, it has not been determined whether this appropriations bill is within its 302(b) allocation for fiscal year 2004. The measure, it is expected, will transfer \$2.244 billion in advance appropriations included in last year's appropriations act from fiscal year 2004 into 2003. Therefore the bill will be in breach of the allocation of budget authority for fiscal year 2003 by that amount, in violation of section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act. The aggregate level of budget authority would also be exceeded because there is \$1.396 billion in available room before that level is breached. It therefore also violates section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act.