



# 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

14 October 2003

Week of 13 October 2003

## SUSPENSION CALENDAR

- 1) **Recognizing and Honoring America's Jewish Community on the Occasion of its 350th Anniversary, Supporting the Designation of an "American Jewish History Month"** (H.Con.Res. 106)   
This resolution has no budget implications.
- 2) **Supporting the Goals and Ideals of College Savings Month** (H.Con.Res. 270)   
This resolution has no budget implications.
- 3) **Recognizing and Congratulating the East Boynton Beach, Florida, Little League Team as the 2003 United States Little League Champions** (H.Con.Res. 273)   
This resolution has no budget implications.
- 4) **Recognizing Inspectors General Over the Last 25 Years in Their Efforts to Prevent and Detect Waste, Fraud, Abuse, and Mismanagement, and to Promote Economy, Efficiency, and Effectiveness in the Federal Government** (H.J.Res. 70)   
This resolution has no budget implications.
- 5) **Eddie Mae Steward Post Office Designation Act** (H.R. 1883)   
This bill neither increases direct spending – spending not subject to appropriations – nor reduces revenue.
- 6) **Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Act** (H.R. 1442)   
H.R. 1442 would authorize the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund [VVMF] to construct a visitor center on Federal property near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. No Federal funds would be used to build the center, but the National Park Service [NPS] would operate it at Federal expense. Because the VVMF is required to deposit 10 percent of the construction costs in the U.S. Treasury, the measure is expected to generate \$1 million in revenue. But the bill allows the NPS to spend these amounts for catastrophic maintenance.
- 7) **Nevada National Forest Land Disposal Act of 2003** (H.R. 1092)   
This bill directs the sale of 231 acres of Forest Service land in Nevada. Most of the proceeds would be available to the Department of Agriculture to administer the sale, develop

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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.

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and maintain parks, trails, and natural areas in Nevada, and expand a facility to support Federal and State wildland firefighting programs. The sale would generate offsetting receipts of about \$1 million a year, but would then allow those proceeds to be spent, without a further appropriation, resulting in a negligible effect on direct spending.

8) ***Irvine Basin Surface and Groundwater Improvement Act of 2003*** (H.R. 1598). 

This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the Irvine Ranch Water District, to participate in the design, planning, and construction of projects to treat surface water, reclaim groundwater, and dispose of brine in the San Diego Creek Watershed. The bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

9) ***Johnstown Flood National Memorial Boundary Adjustment Act of 2003*** (H.R. 1521). 

This bill expands the boundary of the Johnstown Flood National Memorial to include an additional 14 acres of land, which the National Park Service would be authorized to acquire by purchase, donation, or exchange. The bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

10) ***To Award a Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Dorothy Height in Recognition of Her Many Contributions to the Nation*** (H.R. 1821). 

This bill authorizes the President to award a gold medal to Dr. Dorothy Height on behalf of the Congress for her contributions to the Nation. The legislation authorizes the U.S. Mint to produce the gold medal, and – to defray some of the costs – it also authorizes the Mint to strike and sell bronze duplicates of the medal. The bill would cause direct spending to increase by a marginal amount – likely less than \$50,000 – due to the cost of buying and striking the gold. This would cause a violation of the Budget Act by exceeding the allocation to the Financial Services Committee, but not to any significant degree.

11) ***Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003*** (H.R. 1828).

This bill is intended to discourage Syrian support for terrorism, end its occupation of Lebanon, stop its development of weapons of mass destruction, cease its illegal importation of Iraqi oil and illegal shipments of weapons and other military items to Iraq. In addition, the bill authorizes the President to prohibit the exportation of certain items to Syria, and allows the President to waive this prohibition under circumstances specified in the bill. At the time of publication, a cost estimate was not available. To the degree that corporate profits are affected, implementation of the bill could lead to a reduction in corporate receipts, which are a form of revenue. The Budget Committee does not expect the bill, if enacted, to have a significant effect on revenue.

#### LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

**Bill:** ***Supplemental Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004.***

**Committee:** Appropriations

**Summary:** This measure provides funding for the reconstruction of Iraq, for the reconstruction of Afghanistan, and for additional funding for the United States military.

**Cost:** Although no Congressional Budget Office estimate was available at the time of the publication, preliminary estimates indicate this measure provides a total of \$86.9 in billion budget authority.

The bill provides \$18.6 billion is for Iraq relief and reconstruction. This amount consists of: \$3.243 billion for security and law enforcement; \$5.650 billion to repair and rehabilitate electrical operation and distribution infrastructure; \$4.332 billion for water resources and sanitation; \$2.1 billion to rebuild oil infrastructure and purchase energy stocks; \$1.318 billion for justice, public safety, and infrastructure; \$793 million for health care programs; \$500 million for transportation and communications programs; \$370 million for road and

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bridge construction; \$190 million for refugees, human rights, and governance programs; and \$153 million for private sector development. In addition, the supplemental provides \$858 million for operating expenses of the Coalition Provisional Authority.

The bill provides \$1.2 billion for Afghanistan relief and reconstruction. Of the \$672 million in economic support funds: \$191 million is for the construction of roads in Afghanistan; \$95 million is for schools and education; \$95 million goes to private sector development and power generation; \$70 million is to assist the central government of Afghanistan; and \$69 million is provided for elections and improved governance. In addition, the bill provides \$170 million for law enforcement training and equipment of the Afghan National Police and Border Police, and training of prosecutors, court officials, and the judiciary. A sum of \$297 million is provided for training for a new Afghan army, and \$35 million is provided for antiterrorism, demining, and security programs.

The measure provides \$64.7 billion for the U.S. military. Major provisions include an increase in funding for body armor, to contract for the clearing of unexploded ordnance, for contracting with civilian security guards to replace reservists currently performing these duties at Army installations. The measure directs an increase in the availability of modern hydration systems to soldiers in Iraq. The bill also includes a provision authorizing continued payment of per diem for the travel of family members of military personnel who are ill or injured as result of active duty service, and includes a provision to continue, through 30 September 2004, the increased monthly rate of Imminent Danger Pay and Family Separation Allowances. The measure includes \$563 million for recovery and repairs to damage to military facilities caused by Hurricane Isabel.

The Budget Committee plans to prepare an *Appropriations Update* on this measure when an official estimate from the Congressional Budget Office becomes available.

**Budget Act:** The measure includes language declaring the entire amount of budget authority in it to be an emergency, as authorized by H.Con.Res 95. Designated emergencies are not counted against the allocations in the budget resolution. The emergency designation included in the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act lapsed at the end of fiscal year 2002, but a similar designation has been included in the past two budget resolutions to allow for spending that can be considered to be for emergencies.

As defined in the fiscal year 2004 budget resolution, emergencies are *temporary* and *unforeseen* events that require *immediate* action, for which the spending designated is *necessary*. The Appropriations Committee is to justify applying the designation in these terms. Such a justification might be framed as follows. First, when reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan is complete, projects undertaken pursuant to this measure will not require further appropriations. That is also true of the funds for U.S. troops, whose funding is intended to suppress hostile action against them. Hence the funding will be temporary. The need was unforeseen when the budget resolution was adopted, because major combat operations in Iraq had just been completed and the ensuing events could not have been predicted. The need for action is immediate because both the countries and the U.S. troops would be in jeopardy if action is delayed. The funding also can be considered necessary because without it the countries and the troops would be in jeopardy.

Enactment of the recent continuing resolution (H.J.Res. 69, Public Law 108-84) had a full-year cost that exceeded – by \$3.719 billion – the amount provided in the 302(a) allocation to the Appropriations Committee. Assuming that the amounts in this supplemental appropriation are designated as emergency spending, the \$86.9 billion will not be added to the existing breach of the 302(a) allocations. It will simply not be counted for enforcement purposes.