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# Legislative Bulletin......May 17, 2004

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#### Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

<u>Total Number of New Government Programs</u>: 0 Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: 17

<u>Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations</u>: \$0 (cost estimates not available on several bills) Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: At least \$205.25 billion<sup>#,</sup> over five years

<u>Total Amount of Revenue Reductions</u>: \$0 Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: \$67.4 billion over five years

<u>Total Change in Mandatory Spending:</u> \$0 Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: -\$3.9 billion over five years

<u>Total New State & Local Government Mandates:</u> 0 *Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills:*  $15^{\#}$ 

<u>Total New Private Sector Mandates:</u> 1 Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: 11

<sup>#</sup> This figure does not include H.R. 3873, the Child Nutrition Improvement and Integrity Act. A CBO analysis of this bill is not yet completed.

# H.R. 3505—To amend the Bend Pine Nursery Land Conveyance Act to specify the recipients and consideration for conveyance of the Bend Pine Nursery (Walden)

<u>Order of Business</u>: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary**: H.R. 3505 would convey the 185 acres of land known as the Bend Pine Nursery from the Deschutes National Forest to the Bend Metro Park and Recreation District for \$3.5 million. Of the 185 acres, 15 would subsequently be conveyed to the Bend-La Pine School District.

<u>Additional Background</u>: The Bend Pine Nursery Land Conveyance Act (P.L. 106-526) authorized the U.S. Forest Service to sell 1,536 acres of land in Central Oregon and throughout the state to finance a new headquarters building for the Deschutes National Forest. The Bend Parks and Recreation District had first right to purchase the centerpiece of the sale, the 210-acre pine nursery in northeast Bend, which it intended to convert into a major new park and open space.

In the three years it has taken the Forest Service to complete the appropriate environmental analysis and land appraisal pertaining to the land conveyance, the fair market value of the property has increased from approximately \$3.5 million to \$5.8 million. The bill would convey the land based on the <u>lesser</u> amount.

<u>**Committee Action**</u>: The Resources Committee considered H.R. 3505 on May 5, 2004, and reported the bill (amended) to the full House by unanimous consent.

<u>Administration Position</u>: A representative from the Forest Service testified on February 12, 2004: <u>http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/archives/108/testimony/2004/elizabethestill.htm</u>

H.R. 3505 would amend the Bend Pine Nursery Land Conveyance Act (P.L. 106-526) to require the Secretary to offer to sell 170 acres of the Bend Pine Nursery Administrative Site, on the Deschutes National Forest to the Bend Metro Park and Recreation District in Deschutes County, Oregon for \$3.5 million. Proceeds from this sale would be deposited in the fund established under Public Law 90-171 (16 U.S.C. 484a), commonly known as the Sisk Act. The funds would then be available to the Forest Service for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of administrative and visitor facilities and associated land in connection with the Deschutes National Forest in the Bend community, and the acquisition of lands and interests in lands in Oregon. The Forest Service has been working with the community of Bend, Oregon to implement P.L. 106-526.

H.R. 3505 would also direct the conveyance of 15 acres located in the northwest corner of the Bend Pine Nursery Administrative Site, for no consideration, to the Administrative School District, No. 1, Deschutes County, Oregon, in accordance with section 202 of the Education Land Grant Act (16 U.S. C. 479a).

The Department believes a better approach than what is identified in H.R. 3505 would be for the 170acres to be re-appraised for recreational purposes. We point out that severing the 15-acre tract for conveyance under the Education Land Grant Act to the Bend-La Pine School District may cause unintended delay, because additional survey work and analysis would be needed. In lieu of this twoconveyance process, we suggest a single conveyance of the 185-acre tract, which has already been surveyed, to the District, with the requirement that the District then convey the 15-acre tract as envisioned in the legislation.

# However, according to the Resources Committee, the Administration is satisfied with the current, amended language of H.R. 3505.

<u>**Cost to Taxpayers**</u>: Although a Congressional Budget Office cost estimate is not available, the land is being sold for less than its most recently appraised value, which would likely be scored as a cost to taxpayers.

#### Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-**Sector Mandates?: No.

<u>Constitutional Authority</u>: A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available.

Staff Contact: Lisa Bos, lisa.bos@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-1630

# H.R. 3768—Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Boundary Revision Act (Crenshaw)

**Order of Business**: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary**: H.R. 3768 would modify the borders of the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve to add 12.5 acres of land located in Nassau County, Florida. This land consists of American Beach, Amelia Island.

#### Additional Background: From the National Park Service:

The 46,000-acre Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve was established to protect one of the last unspoiled coastal wetlands on the Atlantic Coast, and to preserve historic and prehistoric sites within the area. The estuarine ecosystem includes salt marsh, coastal dunes, and hardwood hammocks, all rich in native vegetation and animal life.

Archaeological evidence indicates 6,000 years of human habitation in the area. The arrival of Europeans over 400 years ago resulted in exploration, colonization, agriculture, and commerce under the flags of France, Spain, England, the Confederacy, and the United States.

The Timucuan Preserve has within its boundaries federal, state, and city park lands, and over 300 private landowners. The National Park Service works through cooperative partnerships with these agencies and private citizens towards a common set of management goals.

Founded in the 1930s by A.L. Lewis, American Beach provided beach location for those Americans who, because of segregation, were not able to enjoy most of America's beaches. This area of Florida's northeastern shore attracted African Americans from across the country. The significance of this site was recognized when the beach and 120 residential homes in the area were added to the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, in 1992, the Florida Legislature named American Beach the first site on the Florida Black Heritage Trail.

Last year, American Beach's neighbor, Amelia Island Plantation made arrangements to donate the 12.5 acres of the beach to the National Park Service. The Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve is not able to accept the gift because the acreage rests outside the current boundaries of the Preserve.

<u>**Committee Action**</u>: The Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands approved the bill by unanimous consent on April 22, 2004. The full Resources Committee reported the bill by unanimous consent on May 5, 2004.

Cost to Taxpayers: A cost estimate is not available.

#### Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-**Sector Mandates?: No.

<u>**Constitutional Authority</u>**: A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available.</u>

Staff Contact: Lisa Bos, lisa.bos@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-1630

# H.R. 2201—National War Permanent Tribute Historical Database Act (Udall of Colorado)

**Order of Business**: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary**: H.R. 2201 authorizes the establishment of a database known as the National War Permanent Tribute Historical Database. The database would "locate, identify, and catalog the many thousands of permanent tributes that commemorate the military conflicts of the United States, and the service and sacrifice of individuals in the Armed Forces of the United States, and to make such information readily available for the educational benefit of the public."

The database would be required to maintain information on:

(1) the location, history, and background of the permanent tributes;

(2) photographs and other information to enhance the understanding of the permanent tributes;

(3) information about the veterans in whose honor the permanent tributes are dedicated; and

(4) any other information the Secretary considers appropriate and necessary.

H.R. 2201 would also require the Secretary of the Interior to issue a report after three years detailing the efficacy and desirability of establishing a permanent fund within the Treasury for the repair, restoration, and maintenance of the memorials in the database.

The bill authorizes "such sums" for the database and report.

<u>Additional Background</u>: On September 19, 2000, the House passed H.Con.Res. 345, which expressed the sense of Congress that the Secretary of the Interior should "collect and maintain information on public memorials that commemorate military conflicts of the United States and the service of individuals in the Armed Forces." The resolution passed by voice vote.

<u>**Committee Action**</u>: The Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands approved the bill by unanimous consent on April 22, 2004. The full Resources Committee reported the bill by unanimous consent on May 5, 2004.

Cost to Taxpayers: A cost estimate is not available.

#### Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-**Sector Mandates?: No.

<u>Constitutional Authority</u>: A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available.

Staff Contact: Lisa Bos, lisa.bos@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-1630

# H.Con.Res. 420—Applauding the men and women who keep America moving and recognizing National Transportation Week (Young of Alaska)

<u>**Order of Business**</u>: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**<u>Summary</u>**: H.Con.Res. 420 resolves that the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress:

"(1) applauds the men and women who keep America moving;

"(2) recognizes National Transportation Week by supporting the goals of that Week; and

"(3) urges all Americans to become more aware of the benefits and contributions of transportation to the United States economy."

Additional Background: According to the resolution, the transportation sector accounts for 11 percent of the United States Gross Domestic Product and employs over 11 million Americans. The President has proclaimed May 16 through May 22, 2004, as National Transportation Week.

<u>**Committee Action**</u>: The resolution was introduced on May 11, 2004, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The committee favorably reported the resolution to the full House by voice vote on May 12.

Cost to Taxpayers: None.

#### Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-**Sector Mandates?: No.

Staff Contact: Lisa Bos, lisa.bos@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-1630

# H.Con.Res. 423—Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for activities associated with the dedication of the National World War II Memorial (*Kaptur*)

<u>Order of Business</u>: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

<u>Summary</u>: H.Con.Res. 423 authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for events in conjunction with the dedication of the National World War II Memorial on May 29, 2004.

<u>**Committee Action**</u>: The resolution was introduced on May 13, 2004, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, but was not considered.

Cost to Taxpayers: None.

#### Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-**Sector Mandates?: No.

Staff Contact: Lisa Bos, lisa.bos@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-1630

# H.R. 3722—Undocumented Alien Emergency Medical Assistance Amendments of 2004 (Rohrabacher)

<u>Order of Business</u>: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary**: H.R. 3722 would amend the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-173) to prohibit federal reimbursement of hospital-provided emergency and certain transportation services to undocumented aliens, unless the hospital provides the Secretary of Homeland Security with information regarding the alien's citizenship, immigration status, address, financial data (including health insurance information), and employer. [NOTE: If a hospital chooses not to participate in the alien reimbursement program under the new law, it would not be subject to these immigration (which it would have to keep on file for five years), so long as it exercises "reasonable care and good faith" in obtaining the information. A hospital would also have to obtain one or more identifiers (e.g. fingerprints) for the alien and record such identifiers in a digital, electronic format (for transmission to the Secretary of Homeland Security).

The Secretary of Homeland Security would have to provide hospitals with software, training, and technical support services, at no cost to the hospital, to assist and enable hospitals to comply with the requirements of this legislation.

A hospital would not be required to provide care or services to an undocumented alien if:

- the alien could be transported to the alien's country of origin "without a significant likelihood of material deterioration of medical condition of the alien (or, in the case of an alien in active labor, of the child), within reasonable medical probability, resulting from the transfer of the alien from the hospital;" or
- the care involves organ transplantation or other extraordinary medical treatment (or other treatment the estimated cost of which exceeds \$50,000) and is for treatment of a condition that existed before the alien entered the United States or is not required as a direct and immediate result of an accident in the United States.

In certain cases (mostly cases in which the employer has not complied with existing federal law and has not used the employment verification program run by the Social Security Administration and the Department of Homeland Security), the alien's employer would be responsible for payments the federal government makes to hospitals for the applicable emergency and transportation services under this legislation.

Upon the electronic receipt of the applicable information, the Secretary of Homeland Security would have to promptly initiate removal procedures against an alien determined to be removable under federal immigration law. An undocumented alien would automatically be considered removable if he or she receives applicable hospital services, does not pay for them, and provides false information under this legislation.

Final regulations for provisions in this legislation would go into effect no later than 14 months after enactment. The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, would have to submit an annual report to Congress on the implementation of this legislation.

The Secretary of State would be directed to conduct an analysis of the "feasibility and appropriateness" of:

- negotiating treaties with foreign states under which such states provide payment for the cost of international medical evacuation for their nationals who require emergency health care in the United States and who do not otherwise have insurance or other coverage for the costs of such care; and
- imposing a visa, port of entry, or similar surcharge on foreign nationals who require emergency heath care in the United States (in the case of countries whose nationals often require such care).

<u>Committee Action</u>: On January 21, 2004, H.R. 3722 was referred to the Committee on Energy & Commerce, and on February 2, 2004, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Health. Neither entity took official action on the bill.

<u>Administration Position</u>: The bill sponsor's office reports that the Administration has taken no position on this bill and that both the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Health and Human Services are examining whether a regulatory, nonlegislative solution could satisfy all interests in this debate.

Cost to Taxpayers: A cost estimate is unavailable at this time.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?**: The bill would create various new rules (mostly those prohibiting the expenditure of federal funds) and create a few new responsibilities for the Department of Homeland Security.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?**: The bill would make private employers in certain circumstances liable for payments the federal government makes to hospitals for the applicable emergency and transportation services under this legislation.

**<u>Constitutional Authority</u>**: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

**<u>Outside Organizations</u>**: The Federation of Americans for Immigration Reform and U.S. Border Control (the nonprofit organization, not the federal agency) are supporting this legislation.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is opposing this legislation on the grounds that it is not always possible to verify a potential employee's immigration status and therefore could make unknowing employers liable for employees' emergency medical care. Furthermore, the Chamber is concerned that employers might feel forced to provide excessive medical coverage for all of their employees (not just the ones they suspect could be illegal), to prevent against any possible liability.

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# H.R. 4193 — To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow for the expansion of areas designated as renewal communities based on 2000 census data and to treat certain census tracts with low populations as low-income communities for purposes of the new markets tax credit (Istook)

<u>Order of Business</u>: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, May 17, 2004, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

<u>Summary</u>: H.R. 4193 amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 1400E) to allow the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to expand an area designated as a "renewal community" if the area meets certain criteria. The expansion must include a request from each of the nominating governments, the poverty rate, based on the 2000 census, must have increased since the 1990 census, and the area must have a population under 200,000. These modifications are retroactive to enactment of the Community Renewal Tax Relief Act of 2000. The bill also makes a special HUD rule to allow low population areas to meet the qualification requirements to become renewal communities

H.R. 4193 also amends the IRS code, upon enactment, to include an area with a population of less than 2,000 people to be treated as a low-income community if it is (1) is within an empowerment zone, and (2) is contiguous to one or more low-income communities.

Additional Information: According to the Congressional Research Service, 40 areas located in 20 states were designated as renewal communities in January 2002, to comply with Public Law 106-554. The Renewal Communities Initiative combines tax credits and other provisions designed to revive some of the nation's more impoverished areas.

Congressional offices may access a CRS report on this Initiative, including a 2002 list of designated communities at: <u>http://www.congress.gov/erp/rs/pdf/RS21220.pdf</u>

**<u>Committee Action</u>**: While the bill was introduced on April 22, 2004, and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee did not consider the bill.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO cost estimate is unavailable.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?**: No, the bill amends the IRS code to expand the qualifying criteria for renewal communities, which are designated under a current federal program.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-**Sector Mandates?: No.

<u>**Constitutional Authority**</u>: A Ways and Means Committee Report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

Staff Contact: Sheila Moloney, sheila.moloney@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9719.

# H.Con.Res. 403 — Condemning the Government of the Republic of the Sudan for its attacks against innocent civilians in the impoverished Darfur region of western Sudan (Wolf)

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Monday, May 17, 2004, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The resolution, as amended, has 11 findings regarding the Sudan and resolves:

"That Congress-

"(1) strongly condemns the Government of the Republic of the Sudan and militia groups supported by the Government of Sudan for attacks against innocent civilians in the impoverished Darfur region of western Sudan, in violation of Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, done at Geneva August 12, 1949, and entered into force October 21, 1950, which specifically prohibit attacks on civilians, and demands that the Government of Sudan immediately take actions to cease these attacks;

"(2) urges the Government of Sudan to immediately disarm and disband government supported militia groups;

"(3) urges the Government of Sudan and all parties to honor commitments made in the cease-fire agreement of April 8, 2004;

"(4) calls on the Government of Sudan to grant full, unconditional, and immediate access to Darfur to humanitarian aid organizations, the human rights investigation and humanitarian teams of the United Nations, including protection officers, and an international monitoring team in compliance with the temporary cease-fire agreement that is based in Darfur and has the support of the United States and the European Union; "(5) encourages the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to work with donors to immediately deliver humanitarian assistance to Darfur, including the delivery of food by air if necessary;

"(6) calls on the Secretary of State to develop a plan for further bilateral and multilateral action in the event the Government of Sudan fails to immediately undertake the actions called for in paragraph (3), including a plan to seek a Security Council resolution addressing the Darfur situation;

"(7) deplores the inaction of some member states of the United Nations and the failure of the United Nations Human Rights Commission to take strong action with respect to the crisis in Darfur;

"(8) urges the President to direct the United States Representative to the United Nations to—

(A) seek an official investigation by the United Nations to determine if crimes against humanity have been committed by the Government of Sudan and governmentsupported militia groups in the Darfur region; and

(B) work with the international community to ensure that the individuals responsible for crimes against humanity in Darfur are held accountable for their actions; and "(9) strongly urges the President to impose targeted sanctions, including a ban on travel to the United States and freezing of personal assets, against officials and other individuals of the Government of Sudan, as well as Janjaweed militia commanders, who are responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Darfur region."

<u>Additional Information:</u> According to the resolution's findings, the Government of the Republic of the Sudan and rebel forces in the impoverished Darfur region of western Sudan, have attacked innocent civilians and undefended villages in the region since 2003. The Sudanese Government forces "have engaged in the use of rape as a weapon of war, the abduction of children, the destruction of food and water sources, and the deliberate and systematic manipulation and denial of humanitarian assistance for the people of the Darfur region." On December 18, 2003, the United Nations Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs declared that the Darfur region was probably "the world's worst humanitarian catastrophe," and Doctors Without Borders reported that the region is the scene of "catastrophic mortality rates." Amnesty International reported on February 17, 2004, that the organization "continues to receive details of horrifying attacks against civilians in villages by government warplanes, soldiers and pro-government militia."

<u>**Committee Action**</u>: The resolution was introduced on April 1, 2004, and referred to the House Committee on International Relations. On May 6, the Committee considered the resolution, amended it, and referred it to the full House by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: None.

#### Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

#### **Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-**Sector Mandates?: No.

Staff Contact: Sheila Moloney, sheila.moloney@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9719.

# H.R. 3740 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 223 South Main Street in Roxboro, North Carolina, as the "Oscar Scott Woody Post Office Building" (*Miller of North Carolina*)

<u>Summary</u>: H.R. 3740 would designate the U.S. Postal Service facility located at 223 South Main Street in Roxboro, North Carolina, as the "Oscar Scott Woody Post Office Building"

<u>Additional Background</u>: Oscar Scott Woody, a native of Roxboro, North Carolina, was one of five sea post clerks assigned to the *S.S. Titanic*. The clerks were celebrating his 44th

birthday when the ship hit an iceberg. While water rushed the lower decks, the clerks tried to move the 200 registered mailbags to the upper decks. He and his four colleagues ultimately perished in the sinking. Source: <u>http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/titanic/woody.html</u>

<u>Committee Action</u>: The bill was introduced on January 28, 2004, and referred to the House Committee on Government Reform. The Committee did not consider the bill.

<u>Cost to Taxpayers</u>: The only costs associated with a postal facility renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

### Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-**Sector Mandates?: No.

<u>Constitutional Authority</u>: 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."

Staff Contact: Sheila Moloney, sheila.moloney@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9719.

# H. R. 4176 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 122 West Elwood Avenue in Raeford, North Carolina, as the "Bobby Marshall Gentry Post Office Building" (Hayes)

<u>Summary</u>: H.R. 4176 would designate the U.S. Postal Service facility located at 122 West Elwood Avenue in Raeford, North Carolina, as the "Bobby Marshall Gentry Post Office Building"

<u>Additional Information</u>: Bobby Marshall Gentry served as mayor of Raeford, North Carolina for 13 years until his death on October 29, 2003.

<u>**Committee Action**</u>: The bill was introduced on April 20, 2004, and referred to the House Committee on Government Reform. The Committee did not consider the bill.

<u>Cost to Taxpayers</u>: The only costs associated with a postal facility renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

#### Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-**Sector Mandates?: No. <u>Constitutional Authority</u>: 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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