

Legislative Bulletin.....September 30, 2004

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H.R. 5183—Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004, Part V

H.R. 5183—Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004, Part V (Young of Alaska)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Thursday, September 30th, subject to a closed rule. The last (two-month) transportation extension, H.R. 4916, passed the House by unanimous consent on July 22, 2004.

Summary: H.R. 5183 would extend for **eight** additional months (through May 31, 2005) highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (112 Stat. 116). Funding levels would be proportionally tied to the appropriations in the Transportation, Treasury, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for FY2004.

RSC Note: Although complete information is unavailable, the House Budget Committee reports at press time that this bill may violate the fiscal year 2005 budget resolution by \$1.6 billion. Although H.R. 5183 does not contain authorizations for any specific projects, it may allow approximately \$1.8 billion in unspent formula grant funds from fiscal year 2004 to be transferred to fiscal year 2005 formula grants.

Background: On September 24, 2003, the House passed (by voice vote) a temporary extension of surface transportation programs until February 29, 2004. The President signed the extension into law (Public Law 108-88) on September 30, 2003. Since then, three two-month extensions and one one-month extension have been signed into law. The most recent extension expires on September 30, 2004.

Committee Action: H.R. 5183 was referred to the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, the Budget Committee, the Resources Committee, the Science Committee, and the Ways & Means Committee on September 29, 2004. No committee officially considered the legislation.

Administration Position: The Administration supports a permanent reauthorization of TEA-21 at a funding level of \$256 billion over six years and has threatened to veto a more expensive bill:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/legislative/sap/108-2/s1072sap-s.pdf>

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO cost estimate for H.R. 5183 is not yet 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.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Paul S. Teller, paul.teller@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9718
