



## Legislative Bulletin.....October 6, 2005

**Contents:**

H.R. \_\_—Social Services Emergency Relief and Recovery Act

### Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

**Total Number of New Government Programs:** 0

**Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations:** Unknown at press time

**Effect on Revenue:** \$0

**Total Change in Mandatory Spending:** Unknown at press time

**Total New State & Local Government Mandates:** 0

**Total New Private Sector Mandates:** 0

**Number of Bills Without Committee Reports:** 1

**Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority:** 0

### H.R. \_\_— Social Services Emergency Relief and Recovery Act (Deal)

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. Under House rules, suspensions may not be considered on Thursday or Friday, but the rule providing for consideration of the continuing resolution (H.Res. 469) waived the House rule with a provision that “Provides that suspensions will be in order at any time on the legislative day of Thursday, October 6, 2005.”

**Summary:** This legislation:

- Transfers FY2006 funds from the federal unemployment account in the U.S. Treasury to the Unemployment Trust Fund accounts for Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi,

as follows: \$15 million for Alabama, \$400 million for Louisiana, and \$85 million for Mississippi, to help pay unemployment benefits.

- Authorizes any state to use its federal unemployment administrative funds to administer unemployment benefit claims for evacuees from disaster states.
- Eliminates Medicare and Medicaid coverage of drugs for the treatment of erectile dysfunction. Medicare would be required to stop paying for such drugs on January 1, 2007, while Medicaid would be required to stop paying on January 1, 2006. [This provision is aimed at offsetting the increased costs elsewhere in the bill.]
- Extends at level-funds through December 31, 2005, the Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) program, which continues Medicaid for families leaving welfare for work.
- Extends the Abstinence Education program at level-funds through December 31, 2005.
- Extends through September 30, 2006, the QI-1 program, through which state Medicaid programs help pay the Medicare Part B premiums of low-income seniors. Sets the total allocation amount at about \$33.3 million per month up to the sunset date.
- Clarifies that the Katrina-disaster states may be reimbursed from the current federal TANF contingency fund for providing short-term emergency assistance to individuals who evacuated to other parts of the same state in the wake of Hurricane Katrina (current law allows reimbursement for interstate assistance).

**Additional Background:** The health care extensions in this bill are normally included on the TANF extension bills, but were excluded from the last such extension bill for technical and jurisdictional reasons.

**Committee Action:** On October 6, 2005, the bill was referred to the Ways & Means Committee and the Energy & Commerce Committee, neither of which took public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A cost estimate for this bill is unavailable at this time, though reports indicate that the costs of this bill over five years are *more* than offset with savings over five years.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** 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.

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