



Legislative Bulletin.....September 10, 2002

Contents:

Motion to Instruct on H.R. 3210 - Terrorism Risk Protection Act

S. 2810—A bill to amend the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 to extend the deadline for the Intelsat initial public offering

H.R. 3880—To provide a temporary waiver from certain transportation conformity requirements and metropolitan transportation planning requirements under the Clean Air Act and under other laws for certain areas in New York where the planning offices and resources have been destroyed by acts of terrorism

H.Res. 513—Recognizing the historical significance and timeliness of the United States-Ireland Business Summit

H.Con.Res. 320 — Expressing the sense of Congress regarding Scleroderma

Motion to Instruct on H.R. 3210 - Terrorism Risk Protection Act (Fossella)

Order of Business: Mr. Fossella announced his intention to offer a motion to instruct the Conferees on H.R. 3210 – the Terrorism Risk Protection Act. Under Rule XXII, Mr. Fossella will be recognized today on his motion to instruct.

Summary: The motion instructs the Conferees to agree to Section 11 of the Senate bill which:

- Provides that notwithstanding any other provision of law that in any case where a person has obtained a judgment against a terrorist party on claim resulting from an act of terrorism, the blocked assets of that terrorist party shall be available to fulfill the judgment. The Senate bill provides a limited Presidential waiver in the interest of national security that may be applied on an asset-by-asset basis.
- Modifies the provisions enacted in October of 2000 as part of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act related to payments involving cases against Iran.

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S. 2810—A bill to amend the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 to extend the deadline for the Intelsat initial public offering (Senator Hollings)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 10th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S. 2810 would amend the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 to require the initial public offering for Intelsat to begin on or about December 31, 2003 (currently, October 1, 2001), with an authorized extension until June 30, 2004 (currently, December 31, 2002).

Additional Background: Intelsat is a congressionally-created corporation that helps businesses worldwide connect via satellite for Internet access, broadcast services, private networks, and voice communications. In 2001, Intelsat became a private company, thereby shedding its status as an intergovernmental organization. Hundreds of countries now directly participate in the Intelsat network, which currently has 20 satellites orbiting Earth.

In 2000, two-thirds of humanity and the largest TV audience to date witnessed the Sydney Olympic Games via nine Intelsat satellites.

For more information on Intelsat, please visit this website: <http://www.intelsat.com/index.asp>

Cost to Taxpayers: None.

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

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

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H.R. 3880—To provide a temporary waiver from certain transportation conformity requirements and metropolitan transportation planning requirements under the Clean Air Act and under other laws for certain areas in New York where the planning offices and resources have been destroyed by acts of terrorism (Fossella)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 10th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3880 would temporarily waive (until September 30, 2005) the provisions of the Clean Air Act (and the relevant regulations promulgated thereunder) as they would apply to transportation projects, programs, and plans in the counties of New York, Queens, Kings, Bronx, Richmond, Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, and Putnam, and the towns of Blooming Grove, Chester, Highlands, Monroe, Tuxedo, Warwick, and Woodbury in Orange County, New York. Not later than January 1, 2004, the Governor of New York would have to submit to Congress and certain executive agencies a report regarding the status of the state's progress towards achieving compliance with the provisions of law and regulation subject to the temporary waiver.

Metropolitan planning requirements of the Transportation Equity Act (“TEA 21”) would also be waived until September 30, 2005, for the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council and the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

During the period of the temporary waiver, no “regionally significant capacity expanding highway project” could be added to the Regional Transportation Plan for the counties referred to above and no such project may be advanced from the out years of the Plan to the nearer years (with one exception, as detailed in the bill).

Additional Background: These waivers have been requested by New York because of the losses, setbacks, and other related circumstances resulting from the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Administration Position: According to the House Energy & Commerce Committee, the Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency have agreed with the waiver.

Cost to Taxpayers: Based on information from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Transportation, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3880 would not have a significant effect on the federal budget. Without the waiver from current law that is contained in this legislation, it is possible that New York City would become ineligible to receive certain federal transportation funds. In that event, such funds would be spent on transportation projects in other areas of the state.

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

Constitutional Authority: The Energy & Commerce Committee, in House Report 107-649, cites constitutional authority in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, which grants Congress the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, among the several States, and with the Indian tribes.

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H. Res. 513—Recognizing the historical significance and timeliness of the United States-Ireland Business Summit (Walsh)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 10, 2002, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The resolution has eight findings regarding the United States-Ireland Business Summit to be held from September 4-6, 2002, and resolves—

“That the Congress recognizes the historical significance and timeliness of the United States-Ireland Business Summit to be held in Washington, D.C.”

Additional Information: According to the bill sponsor, the Summit will bring together senior level corporate, government, and academic leaders from across the U.S., Ireland, and Northern Ireland for discussions on economic competitiveness, as well as information and communications technology, biotechnology, and financial services. The resolution notes that President Bush “has offered a compelling new vision for peace in Northern Ireland that emphasizes private sector leadership and innovation to restore economic vitality and cooperation” and that there are approximately 44 million U.S. citizens who claim Irish ancestry.

Cost to Taxpayers: There is no cost to the resolution.

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

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H.Con.Res. 320 — Expressing the sense of Congress regarding Scleroderma (Gutierrez)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, September 10th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 320 expresses the sense of Congress that:

- “private organizations and health care providers should be recognized for their efforts to promote awareness and research of Scleroderma;”
- the Federal Government has “a responsibility to promote awareness regarding Scleroderma, to adequately fund research projects regarding Scleroderma, and to continue to consider ways to improve the quality of health care services provided for Scleroderma patients, including making prescription medication more affordable;”
- NIH should work more closely with private organizations and researchers to find a cure for Scleroderma, including funding research projects. NIH should also hold a symposium to set priorities in Scleroderma research, support the formation of workgroups to study Scleroderma, conduct more research regarding the disease and better disseminate the information gained from such research, and train more scientists to carry out Scleroderma research; and
- CDC should “give priority consideration to the establishment of a national epidemiological study to better track the incidence of Scleroderma and to gather information about the disease that could lead to a cure.”

The resolution also states that Scleroderma is a debilitating and potentially fatal autoimmune disease, which often attacks vital internal organs and affects more than 300,000 people in the

U.S. In addition, it is the 5th leading cause of death among all autoimmune diseases for women who are 65 years old or younger, but is difficult to diagnose because of the wide range of symptoms and variations of the disease. According to the resolution, Scleroderma has direct and indirect costs of an estimated \$1.5 billion annually, receives less federal research funding than other diseases of similar prevalence, and has no known cause or cure.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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