



Legislative Bulletin.....September 9, 2002

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H.R. 5157—Transit Operating Flexibility Act (Young of Alaska)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, September 9th, under a motion to suspend the rules and the pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 5157 would amend the section of the U.S. Code governing the distribution of mass transportation funds to permit communities that exceeded 200,000 in population for the first time in the 2000 Census to continue to use federal mass transportation funds for operating expenses during Fiscal Year 2003.

Under current law, urbanized areas with a population between 50,000 and 200,000 may receive grants of formula funds for transit-related operating expenses. Urbanized areas with a population in excess of 200,000 can only use formula funds for capital equipment, facilities, and associated maintenance items. As a result of population growth, boundary changes, the merger of cities, and changes in the criteria used by the Census Bureau to identify urbanized areas, 52 communities that had been classified as under 200,000 in population in the 1990 Census are now classified as over 200,000. Under H.R. 5157, these communities would have a one-year grace period to continue using mass transit funds for operating expenses.

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO estimates that the bill will not effect net spending over the 2003-2007 period.

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

Constitutional Authority: The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's report #107-644 cites authority to enact this legislation under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, but fails to identify a specific clause.

Staff Contact: Neil Bradley, x6-9717

H.Con.Res. 442 — Recognizing the American Road and Transportation Builders Association for reaching its 100th Anniversary (Young of Alaska)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Monday, September 9th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The resolution includes the following clauses regarding the American Road Transportation Builders Association:

- The Association is the nation’s oldest national association exclusively representing the transportation construction industry, having been founded in 1902;
- The Association has “successfully advocated for strong Federal investment in transportation infrastructure;”
- The transportation construction industry “works to constantly improve America’s transportation network,” including roads, bridges, airports, mass transit systems, ports, and waterways;
- The Association has used educational, research, and charitable efforts to promote the transportation construction industry, improve transportation education, and ensure public health, safety, and welfare; and
- The transportation infrastructure the Association’s members have designed, built, and managed (in partnership with the federal government), has made the U.S. economy “the envy of the world.”

The resolution goes on to acknowledge the 100th Anniversary of the American Road Transportation Builders Association, commend the many achievements of the transportation construction industry, and encourage the Association to continue its “tradition of excellence” in service to the transportation construction industry and the public.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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H.Con.Res. 401—Recognizing the heroism and courage displayed by airline flight attendants each day (Young of Alaska)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, September 9th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 401 would resolve that Congress:

- “expresses profound gratitude to airline flight attendants for their daily service to make air travel safe;
- “honors the courage and dedication of flight attendants;
- “expresses support for the flight attendants who displayed heroism on September 11, 2001, and to all flight attendants who continue to display heroism each day; and
- “directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to send a copy of this resolution to a family member of each of the flight attendants killed on September 11, 2001.”

The resolution also points out that 25 flight attendants lost their lives aboard the four hijacked flights on September 11, 2001 (including five flight attendants who helped prevent United Airlines Flight 93 from reaching its intended target).

Further, the resolution states, flight attendants “defend passengers against hijackers, terrorists, and abusive passengers,” as exemplified by the subduing of attempted shoe-bomber Richard Reid in December 2001 and of attempted cockpit intruder Pablov Moreira on a flight from Buenos Aires to Miami in February of this year.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would only authorize the minimal expenditure associated with sending a copy of this resolution to a family member of each of the 25 flight attendants killed on September 11th.

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

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H.Res. 516—Congratulating the Valley Sports American Little League baseball team from Louisville, Kentucky, for their outstanding performance in the Little League World Series (Northup)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, September 9th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 516 would resolve that the House:

- “congratulates the Valley Sports American Little League baseball team from Louisville, Kentucky, for their outstanding performance in winning the 2002 Little League World Series;
- “recognizes Troy Osborne, the manager of the Louisville team, assistant coaches Keith Elkins and Dan Roach, and players Aaron Alvey, Justin Elkins, Ethan Henry, Alex Hornback, Wesley Jenkins, Casey Jordan, Shane Logsdon, Blaine Madden, Zachary Osborne, Jacob Remines, Josh Robinson, and Wes Walden for demonstrating excellence and character throughout a summer of little league baseball; and

- “commends Little League Baseball for its 63-year tradition of encouraging the development of sportsmanship and confidence in youth through its sponsorship of world-class baseball.”

The resolution also notes that the Valley Sports American Little League baseball team, in beating the Japanese team, is the first team from the United States to win the Little League World Series since 1998.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

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

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