



Legislative Bulletin.....March 17, 2004

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Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: 7

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$0*

*Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: \$22.7 billion over five years***

Total Amount of Revenue Reductions: \$ 0

Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: \$299.5 million over five years

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: 0

Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: -\$258 million over five years

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: 4

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: 7

*CBO notes that while authorizations under H.R. 3782 are likely to increase, CBO has no basis for estimating such increases. See below.

**Includes about \$12.3 billion of contract authority (a mandatory form of budget authority to incur obligations in advance of appropriations) under the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004 (H.R. 3783).

H.R. 3782—Counter-Terrorist and Narco-Terrorist Rewards Program Act (Hyde)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, March 17th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3782 would amend the current program at the State Department that provides monetary awards to individuals who furnish information leading to the arrest or conviction of an international terrorist or an international drug trafficker or to the prevention or successful resolution of an attempted act of international terrorism or drug trafficking, as detailed in 22 U.S.C. 2708.

Specifically, the bill would add to the list of acts eligible for reward: the disruption of financial mechanisms of a terrorist organization, including the use by the organization of illicit narcotics production or international narcotics trafficking to finance acts of international terrorism or to sustain or support any terrorist organization.

H.R. 3782 would also raise the maximum reward from \$5 million to \$25 million (subject to a higher amount upon the Secretary of State's direction) and would set a special reward of \$50 million for the capture or information leading to the capture of Usama bin Laden. Rewards could be made in monetary and/or nonmonetary form—including automotive vehicles (current law allows only monetary rewards).

For the purpose of more effectively disseminating information about the rewards program, the Secretary of State would be authorized to use the resources of the rewards program to conduct media surveys, including analyses of media markets, means of communication, and levels of literacy, in countries determined by the Secretary to be associated with acts of international terrorism. Using the results of these surveys, the Secretary would be authorized to use the resources of the rewards program to create and place advertisements to disseminate information about the rewards program among populations in countries identified by the surveys. (The State Department already conducts such surveys and prepares such advertisements, so this bill would merely codify current State Department practice.)

Within 90 days of this bill's enactment, the Secretary of State would have to document to Congress a plan for maximizing awareness (through advertising) of the reward available for the capture or information leading to the capture of Usama bin Laden.

Lastly, the name of this program would be changed from "Department of State Rewards Program" to "Department of State Terrorist and Narco-Terrorist Rewards Program."

Committee Action: On February 25, 2004, the International Relations Committee approved H.R. 3782 by unanimous consent "without a single word of debate," according to *National Journal*. <http://nationaljournal.com/members/markups/2004/02/200405604.htm>

Cost to Taxpayers: According to the State Department, the rewards program paid out \$19 million over the 1989-2002 period and roughly \$47 million since 2002. CBO reports that it

“cannot estimate the budgetary impact of this bill given the uncertainties associated with estimating how many individuals or organizations may be involved in terrorism or terrorist financing, narcotics-related offenses, and war crimes, and when or how they may be stopped.” CBO does expect, however, that H.R. 3782 would likely increase spending from appropriated funds for rewards, media surveys, and advertising (although the Department already conducts such surveys and prepares such advertisements).

Neither current law nor H.R. 3782 contains a specific authorization level for this program.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No, it would alter and expand the authorities under an existing program.

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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H.Con.Res. 364 — To recognize more than 5 decades of strategic partnership between the United States and the people of the Marshall Islands in the pursuit of international peace and security (Pombo)

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

Summary: H.Con.Res. 364 contains 14 findings regarding the Marshall Islands and resolves:

- “That Congress recognizes as an historic achievement of friendship more than 5 decades of strategic partnership between the United States and the people of the Marshall Islands in pursuit of international peace and security, and recognizes with solemn regard for the cost of preserving peace, the importance of the nuclear weapon test code-named Bravo at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands on March 1, 1954.”

Additional Information: In 1944, the U.S. armed forces and its allies, along with the people of the Marshall Islands, liberated the Marshall Islands from Japanese military occupation, and it became a U.S. Trust Territory. The Marshall Islands transitioned from Trust Territory status to full independence in free association with the United States beginning in 1986, and on November 20, 2003, Congress approved the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act, which was signed into law by President Bush on December 17, 2003.

According to the resolution’s findings, from 1946 to 1958, the United States detonated 67 atmospheric nuclear weapons in the Marshall Islands, “in the hope that understanding its destructive power would be the strategy for which we could arm the world with reasons for

peace among nations.” Further, the U.S. nuclear testing program “put the people of these remote islands on the front line in the Cold War struggle to preserve international peace, promote nuclear disarmament, support nuclear nonproliferation, and provide facilities critical to the development by the United States of a deployable missile defense system to reduce the risks of nuclear missile attacks.” The resolution also states, “the people of the Marshall Islands, having learned first hand the dangers of nuclear weapons, freely chose in United Nations observed acts of self-determination in 1982 to enter into the Compact of Free Association in order to become a sovereign nation allied more closely with the United States than any other nation under any other alliance.”

Committee Action: The bill was introduced on February 24, 2004 and referred to the House International Relations Committee, which considered the legislation on February 25, 2004. It does not appear that the committee voted to report the bill to the full House.

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.

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H.Res. 557—Relating to the liberation of the Iraqi people and the valiant service of the United States Armed Forces and Coalition forces (Hyde)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, March 17th, subject to a closed rule (H.Res. 561). That is, no amendments would be allowed under the rule. The rule further provides that a motion to recommit could not contain any instructions.

Summary: H.Res. 557 would resolve that the House:

- “affirms that the United States and the world have been made safer with the removal of Saddam Hussein and his regime from power in Iraq;
- “commends the Iraqi people for their courage in the face of unspeakable oppression and brutality inflicted on them by Saddam Hussein's regime;
- “commends the Iraqi people on the adoption of Iraq's interim constitution; and
- “commends the members of the United States Armed Forces and Coalition forces for liberating Iraq and expresses its gratitude for their valiant service.”

The resolution also points out that:

- “on March 16, 1988, Saddam Hussein's regime had and unleashed weapons of mass destruction against Kurdish citizens, killing nearly 5,000 of them;
- “as many as 270 mass grave sites, containing the remains of as many as 400,000 victims of Saddam Hussein's regime, have been found in Iraq;

- “rape was used to intimidate the Iraqi population, with victims often raped in front of their families;
- “the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-338), passed by the House of Representatives by a vote of 360 to 38, made it United States policy to support efforts to remove from power the regime headed by Saddam Hussein; and
- “with the Iraqi regime failing to comply with 16 previously adopted United Nations Security Council resolutions, the Security Council unanimously approved Resolution 1441 on November 8, 2002, declaring that Iraq ‘has been and remains in material breach of its obligations under relevant resolutions, including resolution 687 (1991), in particular through Iraq's failure to cooperate with United Nations inspectors.’”

Additional Background: On October 10, 2002, the House of Representatives passed the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107-243) by a vote of 296-133:

<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2002/roll455.xml>

On October 11, 2002, the Senate passed the Resolution by a vote of 77-23:

http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=107&session=2&vote=00237

On October 16, 2002, the President signed the joint resolution into law, and on March 19, 2003, the United States initiated military operations in Iraq.

For more information on the war in Iraq, visit this Pentagon website:

<http://www.pentagon.gov/sites/i.html#iraq>

Committee Action: On March 11, 2004, H.Res. 557 was referred to the International Relations Committee and the Armed Services Committee, but neither committee has taken any official action on it.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

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.

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