



Legislative Bulletin.....March 29, 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: 15

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$0

Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: \$22.9 billion over five years*

Total Amount of Revenue Reductions: \$0

Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: \$336.5 million over five years

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0

Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: -\$52 million over five years

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

*Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: 10**

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: 11

*This figure does not include H.R. 3873, the Child Nutrition Improvement and Integrity Act. A CBO analysis of this bill is not yet completed.

H.R. 2584—To provide for the conveyance to the Utrok Atoll local government of a decommissioned National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship (*Faleomavaega*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, March 29th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. This bill first passed the House (by voice vote)

on November 21, 2003. On March 24, 2004, the Senate passed the bill with amendments and sent it back to the House.

Summary (Senate amendments in blue-bold below): H.R. 2584 would authorize the Secretary of Commerce to convey to the Utrok Atoll local government (in the Republic of the Marshall Islands), without consideration, a decommissioned National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship in operable condition (presumably the *McArthur*, which was decommissioned on May 20, 2003). The ship would be used to help transport the residents of the Utrok Atoll the 250-mile distance to the nearest radioactivity testing facility. [Nuclear testing used to be done in the area.] **Within four months of this bill's enactment, the Utrok Atoll local government, in consultation with the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, would have to submit to Congress a plan for the use of the conveyed vessel.**

H.R. 2584, as amended, would also repeal the following section of the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (H.R. 2673, Public Law 108-199):

Division H, SEC. 105. (a) None of the funds made available under this Act may be obligated or expended to implement any measures to reduce overfishing and promote rebuilding of fish stocks managed under the Management Plan other than such measures set out in the final rule.

(b) In this section:

(1) The term 'final rule' means the final rule of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration relating to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery that was published on June 27, 2003 (68 Fed. Reg. 38234).

(2) The term 'Management Plan' means the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan prepared pursuant to section 303 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1853).

Additionally, the Senate-amended bill would implement the Pacific Albacore Tuna Treaty between the U.S. Government and the Canadian Government regarding Pacific Coast albacore tuna vessels and port privileges, notwithstanding any contrary provisions in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1821, 1824, and 1857(2)).

Lastly, the bill would widen the applicability of the South Pacific Tuna Treaty Act of 1988 (16 U.S.C. 973d(a)).

Committee Action: On October 29, 2003, the House Resources Committee marked up and reported the bill by unanimous consent. The Senate-amended bill was not re-considered in the House Resources Committee.

Cost to Taxpayers: For the original House-passed bill, CBO confirmed that the bill would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Nothing in the Senate amendments would yield any federal cost.

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: The Resources Committee, in House Report 108-378, fails to cite a specific clause of constitutional authority. Clause 3 of House Rule XIII, Section d(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.”

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H.R. 3723 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8135 Forest Lane in Dallas, Texas, as the “Vaughn Gross Post Office Building” (*Sessions*)

Order of Business: The bill will be considered on Monday, March 29, 2004, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3723 would designate the postal facility located at 8135 Forest Lane in Dallas, Texas, as the “Vaughn Gross Post Office Building

Additional Information: According to the sponsor, Mrs. Vaughn Gross is the Assistant Superintendent in the Richardson Independent School District. She has taught special education children, as well as gifted and talented classes. She won Teacher of the Year from the Richardson Association of Children with Learning Disabilities and PTA life membership status.

Committee Action: The bill was introduced on January 21, 2004 and referred to the House Committee on Government Reform, which considered the legislation and reported it to the full House on March 4, 2004.

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

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: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to “establish Post Offices and post Roads.”

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H.R. 3917 - Maxine S. Postal United States Post Office Designation Act (Israel)

Order of Business: The bill will be considered on Monday, March 29, 2004, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3917 would designate the postal facility located at 695 Marconi Boulevard in Copiague, New York as the “Maxine S. Postal United States Post Office.”

Additional Information: Maxine Postal served on the Suffolk County (New York) Legislature from 1987 until her resignation in December 2003. She died on January 1, 2004, just weeks after she was diagnosed with Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, a rare and degenerative brain disorder. She was 61. She taught at public junior high and high schools in Brooklyn for six years and was vice president of the Amityville Board of Education. She served as minority leader in the legislature and headed the Health Services Committee, the Human Services Committee and the Senior Citizens Committee. She co-sponsored legislation for countywide affordable housing, initiated resolutions for clean drinking water and recycling programs, and fought to ease the tax burden. Through her efforts, there are free annual prostate cancer screenings at county health centers and programs for breast cancer victims.

She has been honored by the American Jewish Congress, the NAACP, and the National Organization for Women. The Long Island Gay and Lesbian Youth has an Institute named after her, The Maxine Postal Institute for Social Justice at LIGALY.

Sources: <http://www.timesreview.com/sun01-02-04/stories/news2.htm>;
<http://www.ligaly.com/support/maxinepostal.html>

Committee Action: The bill was introduced on March 9, 2004 and referred to the House Committee on Government Reform, which considered the legislation and reported it to the full House on March 18, 2004, by unanimous consent.

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

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: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to “establish Post Offices and post Roads.”

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