



Legislative Bulletin Part II.....October 6, 2004

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H.R. 4470—To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to extend the authorization of appropriations for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program from fiscal year 2005 to 2010 (Vitter)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, October 6th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 4470 authorizes \$20 million annually (through fiscal year 2010) for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program. Current authorization for funding expires in fiscal year 2005.

Committee Action: H.R. 4470 was introduced on June 1, 2004, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee approved the bill by voice vote on July 15 and the full Committee reported the bill by voice vote on July 21.

Cost to Taxpayers: H.R. 4470 authorizes \$20 million per year for fiscal years 2006-2010. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the bill would cost \$64 million over the next five years, subject to appropriations.

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: The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, in House Report 108-676, cites Article I, Section 8, but fails to cite a specific clause.

Staff Contact: Lisa Bos, lisa.bos@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-1630

H.R. 4794 — To amend the Tijuana River Valley Estuary and Beach Sewage Cleanup Act of 2000 to extend the authorization of appropriations, and for other purposes (Hunter)—*as introduced*

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, October 6th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The bill amends the Tijuana River Valley Estuary and Beach Sewage Cleanup Act of 2000, which was originally authorized at \$156 million for FY01-05, to indefinitely extend the authority and authorize \$230 million. The bill, according to the committee, reauthorizes and updates the authority to comprehensively address the treatment of sewage emanating from the Tijuana, Mexico area that flows untreated or partially treated into the United States, causing significant adverse public health and environmental impacts.

Additional Information: The International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), composed of a U.S. section and a Mexican section, is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the United States and Mexico and settling any differences that may arise out of such treaties. Enacting H.R. 4794 would indefinitely extend the authority of the U.S. section of the IBWC to enter into a contract to build and operate a wastewater treatment facility in Mexico. Under current law, such authority is available through 2005 and is contingent on the negotiation and conclusion of a new treaty between the governments of the United States and Mexico.

On February 20, 2004, a new treaty between the two governments was negotiated, establishing a framework for the development of the wastewater treatment facility. Under this contract, the plant owner would treat wastewater to certain U.S. standards, and the federal government would make annual payments over a 20-year period to cover the costs of developing, financing, constructing, operating, and maintaining the facility. This new facility would be designed to address the problem of untreated or partially treated sewage flowing over the border from Tijuana, Mexico, to San Diego, California.

Committee Action: H.R. 4794 was introduced on July 9, 2004, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the International Relations (IR) Committee. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved the bill by voice vote on July 21 though the IR Committee did not consider it.

Cost to Taxpayers: H.R. 4794 would authorize the appropriation of \$230 million for the wastewater treatment contract. CBO expects that implementing the contract would constitute a federal lease-purchase of the new treatment facility. CBO estimates, however, that implementing this legislation would require appropriations of \$295 million over the 2005-2009 period. In addition, CBO estimates that appropriations of \$316 million would be needed after 2009 to cover the costs associated with operating and maintaining the facility through the remainder of the contract period.

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: The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, in House Report 108-688, cites Article I, Section 8, but fails to cite a specific clause.

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H.R. 5163—Norman Y. Mineta Research and Special Programs Reorganization Act (Young of Alaska)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, October 6th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 5163 establishes a Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration within the Department of Transportation (currently the National Transportation Safety Board has authority over pipeline and hazardous materials safety). The new office would have an administrator, deputy administrator, and chief safety officer. The goal of the office would be to further “the highest degree of safety in pipeline transportation and hazardous materials transportation.”

The bill also establishes a Research and Innovative Technology Administration within the Department of Transportation. The new office would have an administrator, deputy administrator, and chief safety officer. The duties of the office would be to coordinate, facilitate, and review the Department's research and development programs and activities, and to advance innovative technologies.

The bill does not authorize any new funding for these offices and stipulates that funds, personnel, and property must be transferred from other areas of the Department to complete the establishment of the new offices.

Committee Action: H.R. 5163 was introduced on September 29, 2004, and referred to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Energy and Commerce, and Science. None of the committees took official action on the bill.

Cost to Taxpayers: A cost estimate of the bill is not available, although the transfer of assets provision would suggest that the bill would be budget neutral.

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 not available.

Staff Contact: Lisa Bos, lisa.bos@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-1630

H.R. 2828—Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act (Calvert)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, October 6th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

H.R. 2828 originally passed the House on July 9, 2004, by voice vote. The Senate passed the bill, with an amendment, on September 15. The summary below reflects the text of the Senate amendment with changes indicated in red bold.

Summary: H.R. 2828 reauthorizes federal participation in the Calfed Bay-Delta Program and recognizes the 2000 Calfed Bay-Delta Program Record of Decision (ROD) as the general framework for the activities authorized under the bill.

Authorized activities include:

- **Water Storage and Water Yield:** includes feasibility studies of projects. A project would be automatically authorized unless Congress passes a disapproval resolution within 120 days (not including adjournments of more than 3 days) after the study was submitted.
- **Conveyance:** requires specific activities, including the installation of temporary and permanent flow control barriers in the South Delta, San Joaquin floodway improvement, and improved fish screening in the North Delta. Before increasing exports of water from the Delta, the Secretary of the Interior and the Governor of California must develop and implement a program to meet all existing water quality standards that are the responsibility of the Central Valley Project.
- **Water Use Efficiency:** includes water conservation projects, technical assistance for water conservation projects, water recycling and desalination projects, and water measurement and transfer actions. Renders several water projects as feasible.
- **Water Transfers:** activities include increasing the availability of existing facilities for water transfers and maintaining a water transfer information clearinghouse.

- Integrated Regional Water Management Plans: includes assisting local and regional communities in developing and implementing integrated water management plans that improve water supply reliability, water quality, ecosystem restoration, and flood protection.
- Ecosystem Restoration: includes restoration projects in San Francisco Bay, fish screen and fish passage improvement projects, implementation of an invasive species programs, and tidal wetland and riparian habitat restoration. Requires the Secretary of the Interior to submit restoration management plans to Congress for all projects where the federal cost exceeds \$20,000. Creates a requirement that before acquiring land for a project, the Secretary must determine that existing federal land, state land, or other land already acquired for ecosystem restoration is not available for use.
- Watersheds: includes building local capacity to assess and manage watersheds and technical assistance for watershed assessments and management plans.
- Water Quality: includes addressing drainage problems in the San Joaquin Valley, investing in treatment technology demonstration projects, controlling runoff into the California aqueduct, and addressing water quality problems at the North Bay aqueduct.
- Science: includes establishing and maintaining an independent science board and technical panels for oversight and peer review.
- Diversification of Water Supplies: includes activities to diversify modes of delivery of water to refuges.

“New and expanded” authorizations for fiscal years 2005 through **2010** (House-passed bill was through 2008) include various conveyance activities (maximum of \$184 million in funding) such as feasibility studies, a maximum of \$90 million for implementation of the Environmental Water Account, a maximum of \$90 million for levee stability, and a maximum of \$25 million for program management, oversight, and coordination (total of \$389 million).

The bill directs federal agencies to coordinate with state agencies and to work with local governments and the public through an advisory committee. Federal agencies are also required to ensure that programs are “subjected to credible and objective scientific review” and that major decisions are based upon “the best available scientific information.” H.R. 2828 also includes a requirement for annual reports to Congress on the activities and progress of the Calfed program.

Other major provisions of the bill include:

- Requiring the Administration to include Calfed funding for each federal agency in its annual budget;
- Limiting the federal share of programs costs to 33.3 percent;
- Requiring the Secretary of the Interior to establish an office in Sacramento, California, for the use of all federal and state agencies involved in issuing permits and preparing environmental documentation for projects (the bill allows the Secretary to accept contributions from other public entities for the preparation of permits and environmental documentation, which is intended to offset the cost of establishing and maintaining the office);

- Requiring a study of the feasibility of constructing rural water systems in coordination with other federal agencies with rural water programs and in cooperation with non-federal project entities; and
- Requiring a study of the feasibility of reclaiming the Salton Sea.
- **Requires a feasibility study of the Alder Creek Water Storage and Conservation Project, authorized at \$3 million.**
- **Increases the authorization for the Folsom Reservoir Temperature Control Device (P.L. 105-295) from \$3.5 million to \$6.25 million.**

Additional Background: The following is a summary of the Calfed Bay-Delta Program from the Environmental Protection Agency:

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program, a cooperative effort among state and federal agencies and California's environmental, urban and agricultural communities, was initiated in 1995 to address environmental and water management problems associated with the Bay-Delta system. The Bay-Delta system is an intricate web of waterways created at the junction of the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Delta. Critical to California's economy and ecology, the Bay-Delta has been the focus of competing interests virtually since the Gold Rush. The Bay-Delta is a critical habitat for 120 fish and wildlife species. It also serves as the hub of California's water distribution system, supplying drinking water to 20 million people and irrigation water to 4 million acres of farmland. As a result of these demands, the ecosystem has suffered greatly. Habitats are declining, and fish populations have plummeted with several species listed as threatened or endangered. The system no longer serves as a reliable source of high quality water and levees face an unacceptably high risk of breaching.

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program was established to reduce conflicts in the system by developing a sustainable, long-term solution to water management and environmental problems associated with the Bay-Delta system. CALFED is developing a comprehensive plan that will restore ecological health, improve water supply reliability for beneficial uses, improve water quality, and improve levee stability in the Bay-Delta estuary.

Cost to Taxpayers: The Congressional Budget Office previously estimated that H.R. 2828 authorized \$448 million for fiscal years 2005-08, subject to appropriations. There are some additional authorizations in the Senate-approved version of H.R. 2828 and the authorization has been extended to fiscal year 2010, however an official cost estimate is not available.

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: The Committee on Resources, in House Report 108-573, cites Article I, Section 8, but fails to cite a specific clause.

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S. 1791—To amend the Lease Lot Conveyance Act of 2002 to provide that the amount received by the United States under that Act shall be deposited in the reclamation fund (Senator Domenici)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, October 6th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S. 1791 would require that all funds received by the United States under the Lease Lot Conveyance Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-335) be deposited into the Reclamation Fund and made immediately available to the Elephant Butte Irrigation District and the El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1. Under P.L. 107-335, the Secretary of the Interior was required to sell 403 cabin sites located in the Elephant Butte and Caballo State Parks in New Mexico.

Under existing law, proceeds from withdrawn public lands are deposited as a general credit to the Reclamation Fund and not credited toward a particular project, as S. 1791 would do (note: this is why the Administration opposes the bill, as indicated below).

Committee Action: S. 1791 passed the Senate by unanimous consent on September 15, 2004. The bill was received in the House on September 17 and referred to the Committee on Resources, where it was not considered.

Administration Position: A representative of the Administration testified on March 25, 2004, that the Department of the Interior “**cannot support S. 1791**” (*emphasis added*).
http://energy.senate.gov/hearings/testimony.cfm?id=1087&wit_id=2720

Cost to Taxpayers: The Congressional Budget Office estimates that S. 1791 would increase direct spending by \$1 million annually.

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 not available.

Staff Contact: Lisa Bos, lisa.bos@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-1630

S. 2511—Chimayo Water Supply System and Espanola Filtration Facility Act of 2004 (Senator Domenici)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, October 6th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S. 2511 would require a water supply system feasibility study for the town of Chimayo, New Mexico. The federal share of the cost of the study would be 75 percent. The Secretary of the Interior would also be authorized to enter into contracts with water authorities in Chimayo to provide emergency water supply development assistance, with a federal share of 75 percent. The bill authorizes \$2 million for fiscal years 2005-2008 for the study and \$3 million for fiscal years 2005-2010 for assistance grants.

The bill also requires the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance to the city of Espanola, New Mexico, for the construction of a water filtration facility. The federal share of the cost of the project is limited to 25 percent. S. 2511 authorizes \$3 million for fiscal years 2005-2009 for this purpose.

Additional Background: According to the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Reclamation has already provided financial assistance of about \$400,000 to the City of Espanola to perform a feasibility study, including environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act. As of June 17, 2004, the Department had not received the study, which it believes should precede any authorization for construction.

http://energy.senate.gov/hearings/testimony.cfm?id=1227&wit_id=3566

Committee Action: S. 2511 passed the Senate by unanimous consent on September 15, 2004. The bill was received in the House on September 17 and referred to the Committee on Resources, where it was not considered.

Administration Position: On June 17, 2004, a representative of the Department of Interior testified that “the Administration **cannot support** S. 2511 in its current form” (*emphasis added*). It does not appear that the language has been amended to address the Administration’s concerns. http://energy.senate.gov/hearings/testimony.cfm?id=1227&wit_id=3566

Cost to Taxpayers: S. 2511 authorizes \$8 million over the fiscal year 2005-2010 period. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the bill would cost \$8 million over the 2005-2009 period.

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 not available.

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S. 211—Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Act (*Senator Bingaman*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, October 6th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S. 211 would establish the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area in northern New Mexico along the Rio Grande River, including the cities of Taos and Santa Fe and the community of San Juan Pueblo. A management entity would be established under the bill to oversee the heritage area. The bill authorizes \$10 million to carry out the bill over a period of 15 years, with no more than \$1 million allowed to be appropriated in any one year. The federal share of any activity may not exceed 50 percent.

Additional Background: Congress has established 24 National Heritage Areas around the country, in which conservation, interpretation, and other activities are managed by partnerships among federal, state, and local governments and the private sector. The National Park Service provides technical assistance, as well as financial assistance, for a limited number of years following designation.

The National Park Service defines a National Heritage Area as follows:

A “National Heritage Area” is a place designated by the United States Congress, where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. These patterns make National Heritage Areas representative of the national experience through the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved in the areas. Continued use of the National Heritage Areas by people whose traditions helped to shape the landscapes enhances their significance.

National Heritage Areas are a new kind of national designation which seeks to preserve and celebrate many of America's defining landscapes. <http://www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/FAQ/INDEX.HTM>

NOTE: no legislative criteria exist for designating a National Heritage Area.

Most of the 24 existing National Heritage Areas are located in the eastern third of the United States. To see what and where they are, visit this webpage:

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/VST/INDEX.HTM>

Congress authorized the National Heritage Areas as follows:

- 1 in 1984
- 1 in 1986
- 2 in 1988
- 2 in 1994
- 11 in 1996
- 6 in 2000
- 1 in 2003

For more information on National Heritage Areas, visit this website:

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/>

Committee Action: S. 211 passed the Senate by unanimous consent on September 15, 2004. The bill was received in the House on September 17 and referred to the Committee on Resources, where it was not considered.

Cost to Taxpayers: The Congressional Budget Office estimates that S. 211 would cost \$10 million over the next 10-15 years.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: Yes, the bill creates a new heritage area.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available.

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S. 2178—National Park System Laws Technical Amendments Act of 2004 (Senator Domenici)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, October 6th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S. 2178 would make a variety of technical corrections to laws related to the National Park Service. None of these changes are significant and they would not have any affect on the federal budget.

Committee Action: S. 2178 passed the Senate by unanimous consent on September 15, 2004. The bill was received in the House on September 17 and referred to the Committee on Resources, where it was not considered.

Cost to Taxpayers: The Congressional Budget Office estimates that S. 2178 would have no significant impact on the federal budget.

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 not available.

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H.R. 4658—Servicemembers Legal Protection Act of 2004 (Smith of New Jersey)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, October 6th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 4658 would make several changes to the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA), including:

- Allowing both plaintiffs and defendants to require stays of civil proceedings
- Applying lease termination provisions when the servicemember has permanent change of station orders from a state outside the continental U.S. to any location outside that state
- Prohibiting double taxation of servicemembers when the laws of a tax jurisdiction do not provide a credit for taxes previously paid to another tax jurisdiction

Amendments to the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployments Rights Act (USERRA):

- Increases from 18 to 24 months the maximum period of employer-sponsored health coverage that an employee covered by USERRA may elect to continue
- Requires employers to provide noticed to employees of the rights, benefits, and obligations of employers and employees under USERRA
- Requires the Secretary of Labor and the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) to carry out a three-year demonstration project on enforcement of USERRA rights for federal executive branch employees

Matters Relating to Fiduciaries:

- Defines a fiduciary as a guardian, curator, conservator, committee or person legally vested with the responsibility or care of a claimant (or the claimant's estate) or of a beneficiary (or the beneficiary's estate), or any other person appointed in a representative capacity to receive money paid by the Veterans Administration (VA)
- Requires the VA to conduct an inquiry or investigation as to the fitness of a fiduciary before certification
- Gives the Secretary of the VA authority to appoint a temporary fiduciary for up to 120 days if needed to protect the assets of a beneficiary
- Prohibits a fiduciary from collecting a fee from the beneficiary for any month when it has been determined that the fiduciary has misused the veteran's benefits
- Requires the Secretary to conduct periodic on-site reviews of any person or agency located in the United States that serves as a fiduciary to more than 20 beneficiaries and the total annual amount of benefits exceeds \$50,000

Additional Provisions:

- Requires the Secretary to establish and maintain an inventory of medical waste management facilities in VA facilities
- Authorizes the VA to provide post-natal care to newborns of female veterans receiving maternity care from the VA who are without other health insurance coverage

- Allows veterans to use their education benefits (under the Montgomery GI bill) to receive on-the-job training without pay for periods of less than six months, when that training is needed to obtain a license to engage in a self-employment occupation or is required for ownership and operation of a franchise

Committee Action: The Committee on Veterans' Affairs reported the bill by voice vote on July 21, 2004.

Cost to Taxpayers: The Congressional Budget Office estimates that H.R. 4658 would increase direct spending for veterans programs by \$11 million over the 2005–2009. In addition, CBO estimates that discretionary spending resulting from H.R. 4658 would total almost \$28 million over the 2005–2009 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

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?: Yes, the bill contains a new private-sector mandate and a new intergovernmental mandate.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee on Veterans' Affairs, in House Report 108-683, cites Article I, Section 8, but fails to cite a specific clause.

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H.R. 5061—Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act (Tancredo)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, October 6th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 5061 would provide assistance for the Darfur region of the Sudan. The bill expresses the sense of Congress that “the Sudan Peace Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 note) remains relevant and should be extended to include the Darfur region of Sudan” and that “that atrocities unfolding in the Darfur region of Sudan are genocide.” It also expresses the sense of Congress in favor of targeted sanctions against Sudanese Government officials involved in the policy of genocide, humanitarian assistance, and a new Special Presidential Envoy for Peace.

Specifically, the bill authorizes assistance for Sudan to support the implementation of a comprehensive peace agreement for Sudan and to address the humanitarian and human rights crisis in the Darfur region and eastern Chad. Assistance may only be provided if the President certifies that the Government of Sudan has taken steps to:

- “(A) ensure that the armed forces of Sudan and any associated militias are not committing atrocities or obstructing human rights monitors or the provision of humanitarian assistance;
- “(B) demobilize and disarm militias supported or created by the Government of Sudan;
- “(C) allow full and unfettered humanitarian assistance to all regions of Sudan, including Darfur;
- “(D) allow an international commission of inquiry to conduct its investigation of atrocities in the Darfur region and Khartoum, preserve evidence of atrocities and prosecute those responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide;
- “(E) cooperate fully with the African Union and all other observer and monitoring missions mandated to operate in Sudan;
- “(F) ensure the safe return of displaced persons and refugees to their homes and rebuild the communities destroyed in the violence;
- “(G) implement the Nairobi Declaration on the Final Phase of Peace in the Sudan; and
- “(H) install a new coalition government based on the agreements reached in the Nairobi Declaration on the Final Phase of Peace in the Sudan.”

The President must immediately suspend assistance if the Government of Sudan stops taking any of the actions above. The bill authorizes \$100 million for each of fiscal years 2005-2007 for assistance to implement a comprehensive peace agreement and \$150 million for fiscal year 2005 for humanitarian assistance.

H.R. 5061 also requires the President, on the date of enactment, to implement measures authorized under the Sudan Peace Act. These are as follows:

- “The President--
 - “(A) shall, through the Secretary of the Treasury, instruct the United States executive directors to each international financial institution to continue to vote against and actively oppose any extension by the respective institution of any loan, credit, or guarantee to the Government of Sudan;
 - “(B) should consider downgrading or suspending diplomatic relations between the United States and the Government of Sudan;
 - “(C) shall take all necessary and appropriate steps, including through multilateral efforts, to deny the Government of Sudan access to oil revenues to ensure that the Government of Sudan neither directly nor indirectly utilizes any oil revenues to purchase or acquire military equipment or to finance any military activities; and
 - “(D) shall seek a United Nations Security Council Resolution to impose an arms embargo on the Government of Sudan.”

The bill also:

- Requires the Secretary of the Treasury to complete an annual report on commercial activities in Sudan
- Encourages actions by the President in relation to the United Nations
- Requires the President to complete a report on the planned U.S. response to a comprehensive peace agreement for Sudan

Additional Background: Click here to read the RSC Legislative Bulletin on the Sudan Peace Act: <http://johnshadegg.house.gov/rsc/Lb100702.pdf>

Committee Action: H.R. 5061 was introduced on September 9, 2004, and referred to the Committee on International Relations. The Subcommittee on Africa approved the bill by voice vote on September 30. The full Committee did not take action on the bill.

Cost to Taxpayers: H.R. 5061 specifically authorizes \$250 million for fiscal year 2005 and \$100 million for fiscal years 2006 and 2007.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: The bill authorizes new assistance to Sudan, contingent on certain actions by the Sudanese government.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available.

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