

**Conservative
Action
Team**

Legislative Bulletin

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**H. R. 3671- WILDLIFE AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAMS
IMPROVEMENT ACT**

Status: The bill has been modified by the Senate to include a new Title authorizing appropriations for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and a National Wildlife Refuge Centennial Commission.

Cost to Taxpayers: The modified bill authorizes total expenditures of \$76 million through FY 2004.

Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations: Yes. The bill reauthorizes the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act and amends the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act and the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act to reduce the amounts that may be spent for administering grants for fish and wildlife restoration. H.R. 3671 also creates a new program for hunting education and safety, to be funded with up to \$7.5 million of each year's revenues. In addition, it sets aside up to \$3.5 million from each of the two funds for multistate conservation grants. It further bars groups that oppose hunting, trapping, or fishing, from receiving these federal grants, a provision which is opposed by Barbara Boxer. It also authorizes funding for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and creates a new National Wildlife Refuge Centennial Commission.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee cites Article I, section 8 of the Constitution, but does not cite a specific subsection.

Concerns: The bill excludes language supported by several Western Members barring the use of funds by the Foundation to introduce wolves or grizzly bears in Idaho, Montana, Utah, or Wyoming.

H. R. 3218- SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER CONFIDENTIALITY ACT

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO estimates is available

Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations: The bill directs the Treasury Secretary to ensure that social security numbers are not visible on or through unopened mailings of checks.

Constitutional Authority: A Committee Report and therefore citation of Constitutional authority is not available.

S. 964-CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE EQUITABLE COMPENSATION ACT

Cost to Taxpayers: The bill would establish the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Recovery Trust Fund and would direct the Secretary of the Treasury to deposit \$291 million in the fund on the first day of fiscal year 2011. An additional deposit equal to the amount of interest that the fund would have earned if the fund had been capitalized and invested in 2001 would be made at the same time. CBO estimates that this additional payment would total \$201 million, for a total deposit of \$492 million in 2011. CBO estimates that S. 964 would also cost \$2 million over the 2000-2004 period, assuming appropriation.

Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations: The bill would compensate the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe--in 2011--for the taking of 104,492 acres of land by the federal government to construct the Oahe Dam and Reservoir project lands in South Dakota. Construction of the dam began in 1948 and compensation of about \$10 million was paid to the tribe in 1955. The bill also would authorize appropriations for the construction of a memorial for the Navajo and Mescalero Apache people who were incarcerated at Bosque Redondo, New Mexico, in the 1800s.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee cites Article I, section 8 of the Constitution, but does not cite a specific subsection.

Other: Senator Daschle's bill blames the Oahe dam for flooding and the forced relocation of tribal families, for the loss of 30,000 head of livestock in 1996-97 (*50 years after the dam's construction*) "that in all likelihood would not have been lost had they had access to the food and shelter previously available in the now-flooded bottom lands," and also blames the dam and the reservoir for the loss of 90% of the tribe's timber sales.

The level of compensation estimates over 50 years of "damage" from the dam but none of its benefits to the community. The Clinton Administration has systematically destroyed timber farming on perfectly good land, though now they blame a dam for hurting certain timber farmers and seek to compensate one group of residents, while not offering similar compensation to those whose livelihoods have been destroyed by the Clinton/Gore environmental activism.

H. R. 4148- TRIBAL CONTRACT SUPPORT COST TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

Cost to Taxpayers: Increased contract costs could result in additional spending of approximately \$90 million per year, subject to appropriations.

Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations: The bill is based, in part, on recommendations from a June 1999 GAO report regarding Indian tribes and Alaskan natives contract support cost problems for health care and BIA programs administered by the Indian Health Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee cites Article I, section 8 of the Constitution, but does not cite

a specific subsection.

The views expressed in this Legislative Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of all Members of the Conservative Action Team.

The Conservative Action Team is a Congressional Member Organization of almost 60 House Members and is chaired by Representative John Shadegg (R-AZ).