



Legislative Bulletin.....March 11, 2003

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H.Res. 122— Recognizing the bicentennial of the admission of Ohio into the Union and the contributions of Ohio residents to the economic, social, and cultural development of the United States (Regula)

Order of Business: The resolution will be considered on Tuesday, March 11, 2003, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The resolution has 16 findings regarding the bicentennial of Ohio joining the Union, including:

- “Whereas Ohio was the 17th State to be admitted to the Union and was the first State to be created from the Northwest Territory;
- “Whereas Ohio, which is known as “The Mother of Presidents”, has given eight United States presidents to the Nation, including William Henry Harrison, Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley, William H. Taft, and Warren G. Harding;” and
- “Whereas Ohio inventors, including Thomas Edison (incandescent light bulb), Orville and Wilbur Wright (first in flight), Henry Timken (roller bearings), Charles Kettering (automobile starter), Charles Goodyear (process of vulcanizing rubber), Garrett Morgan (traffic light), and Roy Plunkett (Teflon), created the basis for modern living as we know it”

and states that it is resolved that the House of Representatives recognizes:

- “the bicentennial of the admission of Ohio into the Union;
- “the residents of Ohio for their important contributions to the economic, social, and cultural development of United States.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 122 was referred to the House Committee on Government Reform on March 4, 2003. The Committee did not consider the resolution.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution has no cost.

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

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H.Con.Res. 85 — Expressing the sense of the Congress with regard to the need for improved fire safety in nonresidential buildings in the aftermath of the tragic fire on February 20, 2003, at a nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island (*Langevin*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, March 11th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The resolution has several findings recognizing the efforts and assistance of firefighters, law enforcement officers, hospitals, doctors, mental health professionals, the Red Cross, state and local officials, funeral directors, medical examiners, local businesses, the people of Rhode Island and across the U.S., and federal agencies in responding to the February 20th fire at The Station nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island. The resolution goes on to state “the West Warwick fire is only the most recent example of how deadly fire can be in nonresidential buildings.” According to the resolution, in 2001, 80 individuals were killed and 1,650 were injured in fires in nonresidential buildings.

The resolution further resolves that Congress:

- “expresses its deepest condolences to the family members and friends who lost loved ones as a result of the tragic fire on February 20, 2003;”
- “expresses immense gratitude for the efforts of countless emergency response personnel, local, State, and Federal officials, health care providers, volunteers, businesses, and citizens who have been part of the response to this tragedy;” and
- “urges State and local officials and the owners of entertainment facilities to examine their safety practices, fire codes, and enforcement capabilities in light of this horrific tragedy and to take all necessary action to ensure that such a tragedy never befalls any community again.”

Additional Background: On February 20, 2003, pyrotechnics at The Station nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island, led to a fire that resulted in 99 deaths and injuries to an additional 186 individuals.

Committee Action: No committee action was taken on the resolution.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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H.R. 441—To amend Public Law 107-10 to authorize a United States plan to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual summit of the World Health Assembly in May 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland, and for other purposes (*Brown, Sherrod*)

Order of Business: The bill will be considered on Tuesday, March 11, 2003, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Note: The bill amends Public Law 107-10, which passed the House as H.R. 428 on April 24, 2001, 407-0 ([Roll no. 86](#)), and again on May 15, 2001, 415-0 ([Roll no. 113](#)).

The law was subsequently amended by H.R. 2739, which passed the House by voice vote on December 19, 2001, and was signed into law as P.L. 107-158.

Summary: H.R. 441 amends current law regarding the U.S. endorsement of Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization. The bill authorizes the Secretary of State and the US delegation to the WHO to once again "initiate a plan to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual week-long summit of the World Health Assembly" in Geneva, Switzerland. The bill also adds the following finding to the current 13 findings:

"The government of Taiwan, in response to an appeal from the United Nations and the United States for resources to control the spread of HIV/AIDS, donated \$1,000,000 to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria."

Additional Information: According to the WHO website, "All countries which are Members of the United Nations may become members of WHO by accepting its Constitution. Other countries may be admitted as members when their application has been approved by a simple majority vote of the World Health Assembly. Territories which are not responsible for the conduct of their international relations may be admitted as Associate Members upon application made on their behalf by the Member or other authority responsible for their international relations. Members of WHO are grouped according to regional distribution (192 Member States) (See: <http://www.who.int/country/en>).

A finding in current law notes that On May 11, 2001, President Bush stated in his letter to Senator Murkowski that the United States "should find opportunities for Taiwan's voice to be heard in international organizations in order to make a contribution, even if membership is not possible", further stating that his Administration "has focused on finding concrete ways for Taiwan to benefit and contribute to the WHO."

Committee Action: H.R. 441 was referred to the House Committee on International Relations, and passed by voice vote on March 5, 2003.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO cost estimate is unavailable, but CBO estimated that the exact same requirements for the 2001 Assembly meeting resulted in no significant additional costs to the federal government because neither the plan nor the report added significantly to the State Department's workload.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules: The bill extends a requirement for the State Department to once again initiate a plan to advocate for Taiwan's recognition at the WHO annual meeting. By amending current law, the bill appears to again require the Secretary to submit a written report on the issue within 14 days of the bill's enactment.

Constitutional Authority: An International Relations Committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.Con.Res. 77 — Commemorating the 60th anniversary of the historic rescue of 50,000 Bulgarian Jews from the Holocaust and commending the Bulgarian people for preserving and continuing their tradition of ethnic and religious tolerance (Wilson of South Carolina)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, March 11th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 77 has findings, including:

- “the people of the United States and the Republic of Bulgaria respect all faiths, including Judaism and Jewish culture;
- “during World War II, despite being allied with Germany, Bulgarians did not cede to Nazi pressure to fully enforce anti-Jewish legislation and resisted orders to deport their Jewish compatriots to Nazi concentration camps;
- “in the spring of 1943 the Bulgarian people succeeded in preventing the deportation of 50,000 Jews to such camps;
- “Bulgaria was the only European country during World War II to increase its Jewish population;
- “members of the Bulgarian Parliament, the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, King Boris III, politicians, intellectuals, and citizens all played a part in the resistance to Nazi pressure to carry out the deportation;
- “March 2003 marks the 60th anniversary of Bulgaria's refusal to deport its Jews to Nazi concentration camps;
- “the Bulgarian people today preserve and continue their tradition of ethnic and religious tolerance; and
- “President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Simeon Saxe-Coburg Gotha are leading the United States and Bulgaria into a long-term strategic partnership.”

H.Con.Res. 77 also resolves that the House (the Senate concurring) “commemorates the 60th anniversary of the historic rescue of 50,000 Bulgarian Jews from the Holocaust and commends the Bulgarian people for preserving and continuing their tradition of ethnic and religious tolerance” and “reiterates its support for strong ties between the United States and Bulgaria.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 77 was considered by the International Relations Committee and approved by voice vote on March 5, 2003.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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H.Res. 19 — Designating the room numbered H-236 in the House of Representatives wing of the Capitol as the “Richard K. Armey Room” (Nussle)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, March 11th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The text of H.Res. 19 is as follows:

“Whereas, at the end of the 107th Congress, Representative Richard K. Armey retired after 18 years of distinguished service in the House of Representatives, including service as the Majority Leader for 8 years, the longest tenure of any Republican Majority Leader in 92 years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the room numbered H-236 in the House of Representatives wing of the Capitol shall be known and designated as the ‘Richard K. Armey Room’.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 19 was considered by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and approved by voice vote on February 26, 2003.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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