



Legislative Bulletin.....July 22, 2002

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**H.R. 3487—Nurse Reinvestment Act (Concur in Senate Amendment)
(Bilirakis)**

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 22nd, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary (as amended by the Senate): H.R. 3487 would amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop and issue public service announcements (PSAs) that advertise and promote the nursing profession through appropriate media outlets. The HHS Secretary could also award grants to eligible entities to support state and local ad campaigns to promote nursing. The Secretary would be authorized such sums as may be necessary for the PSAs and grants for fiscal years 2003-2007.

The bill would specify that eligibility for the National Nurse Service Corps (nursing loan repayment program) would require that a nurse be assigned to a nonprofit private entity after fiscal year 2007.

H.R. 3487 would establish a new nursing scholarship program (funded at “such sums” through FY2007) in which recipients would have to work as nurses for at least two years at designated health facilities with “critical shortages.” Treats such scholarships as equivalent to those made under the National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program for repayment purposes, except as specified. Within 18 months of enactment, the HHS Secretary would have to report to Congress on the progress of this program.

The bill would give preference for nurse education, practice, and retention grants to applicants who are willing to practice in underserved geographic areas or work with underserved populations. Grants could also go to promoting career advancement through training, enhancing patient care delivery systems, and otherwise educating and retaining qualified nurses. [“Such sums” would be authorized through FY2007.]

The HHS Secretary could enter into an agreement with any nursing school for the establishment and operation of a student loan fund to increase the number of qualified nursing

faculty. Up to 85% of such loans (plus interest) could be cancelled if a student goes on to be a faculty member at a nursing school.

H.R. 3487 would also create a grant program (funded at “such sums” through FY2007) for training and educating individuals in providing geriatric care for the elderly.

Within four years of enactment, the Comptroller General would be required to study and report to Congress on: 1) any differences in nurse-hiring practices between profit and nonprofit private entities; 2) whether a nursing school faculty shortage exists; and 3) whether the scholarships in this bill have increased the number of applicants to nursing schools.

Cost to Taxpayers: Though a cost estimate is unavailable for the amended version, a CBO cost estimate for the House version of H.R. 3487 (which did not include many of the grant provisions or the faculty-encouraging loan program) was \$35 million over 5 years.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: Yes—several new grant programs, a scholarship program, and a loan program, as identified above.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.R. 3969 — Freedom Promotion Act of 2002 (Hyde)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 22nd, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3969 requires the Secretary of State to make public diplomacy “an integral component in the planning and execution of United States foreign policy.” The Secretary is further required to “develop a comprehensive strategy for the use of public diplomacy resources and assume a prominent role in coordinating the efforts of all Federal agencies involved in public diplomacy.”

Other provisions of the bill include:

- Public diplomacy efforts shall be addressed to “developed and developing countries, to select and general audiences, and shall utilize all available media to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States is properly explained and understood not only by the governments of countries but also by their peoples, with the objective of enhancing support for United States foreign policy.”
- The Secretary shall ensure that the public diplomacy strategy of the United States is cohesive and coherent and shall aggressively and through the most effective mechanisms counter misinformation and propaganda concerning the United States.

- The Secretary shall endeavor to articulate the importance in American foreign policy of the guiding principles and doctrines of the United States, particularly freedom and democracy.
- The Secretary, in coordination with the Board of Governors of the United States International Broadcasting Agency, shall develop and articulate long-term measurable objectives for United States public diplomacy.
- The Secretary is authorized to produce and distribute public diplomacy programming for distribution abroad in order to achieve public diplomacy objectives, including through satellite communication, the Internet, and other established and emerging communications technologies.
- The Secretary of State shall establish a public diplomacy reserve corps to augment the public diplomacy capacity and capabilities of the Department in emergency and critical circumstances worldwide.
- The Secretary shall establish a fully capable multimedia programming and distribution capacity including satellite, Internet, and other services, and also including the capability to acquire and produce audio and video feeds and Internet streaming to foreign news organizations.
- The Secretary shall prepare an annual review and analysis of the impact of public diplomacy efforts on target audiences.
- The Secretary of State shall develop and implement a demonstration program to assist foreign governments to establish or upgrade their public library systems to improve literacy and support public education.

Under H.R. 3969, of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for each of the fiscal years 2002 and 2003 for the Diplomatic and Consular Programs of the Department of State, \$297,759,000 for the fiscal year 2002 and \$305,693,000 for the fiscal year 2003 shall be available only for public diplomacy programs and activities as carried out prior to the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998. The bill authorizes an additional \$20,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2002 and 2003 for Diplomatic and Consular Programs of the Department of State “which shall be available only for improvements and modernization of public diplomacy programs and activities of the Department of State as carried out prior to the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998, other than programs of educational and cultural exchange.”

The bill also requires the Secretary of State to develop journalism, English language teaching, sister-city partnership, youth ambassador, Fulbright exchange, Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship, and library training exchange programs with predominantly Muslim countries. The bill authorizes \$35 million annually for fiscal years 2002 and 2003 for these programs.

In addition, H.R. 3969 reorganizes the current Broadcasting Board of Governors and renames it the United States International Broadcasting Agency. The legislation retains the part time Board as head of agency, and provides for the appointment by the Board of a full time director. The Board will retain operational control of grants to entities including Radio Liberty, Radio Free Asia, and Radio Free Europe. The bill authorizes \$135 million to expand television and radio broadcasting to countries with predominately Muslim populations.

Cost to Taxpayers: The bill would earmark \$306 million in 2003 for public diplomacy and authorize additional appropriations of \$60 million in 2002 and \$200 million in 2003 for international broadcasting, educational and cultural exchange programs, improvements and modernization of public diplomacy programs, and the National Endowment for Democracy. Since there is no existing authorization for 2003, CBO treats the earmark as an authorization of appropriations. The bill also would increase the earmark for public diplomacy in 2002 from \$270 million to \$298 million.

CBO estimated that implementing H.R. 3969 as reported by Committee would cost almost \$750 million over the 2002–2007 period, assuming the appropriation of the necessary amounts. However, the earmark for 2003 has been reduced from the Committee reported bill, from \$512 million to \$306 million.

CBO states that “By increasing the earmark for public diplomacy programs in 2002, CBO also estimates the bill would require the Department of State to shift resources away from other programs and towards public diplomacy programs. CBO estimates that as a result of this reallocation, outlays for 2002 would be slightly lower as the department reassesses its spending needs, but that outlays in following years would be slightly higher. Absent a detailed plan from the State Department regarding the higher earmark for 2002, CBO does not have sufficient information to provide a specific estimate of this provision. These effects would be considered direct spending, and thus, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply.”

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: The bill creates new programs and makes changes to existing programs to increase public diplomacy.

Constitutional Authority: The Judiciary Committee, in House Report 107-493, cites Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (all laws necessary and proper).

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