

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2006

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Five "One Minutes" Per Side	3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

(124th Calendar Day of the Year – 27th Voting Day of the Year – 66 Voting Days until Target Adjournment)

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

H.R. 4954 – SAFE Port Act (Rep. Lungren – Homeland Security) (Complete Consideration). This bill authorizes a total of \$7.4 billion in federal funding to enhance port security. H.R. 4954 : authorizes \$400 million annually from FY07-12 for a port security grant program to allocate federal assistance to US ports on the basis of risk and need; authorizes funds to add 200 full-time port-of-entry inspectors each year from FY07-12; directs the Homeland Security Secretary to develop protocols for the resumption of trade in the event of a transportation security incident that necessitates the suspension of trade; requires the Homeland Security Secretary to complete deployment of the Transportation Worker Identification Card (TWIC) on a specific time schedule; directs the Secretary to develop and implement a plan for improving the Automated Targeting System for identifying high-risk containers moving through the international supply chain; establishes minimum standards and verification procedures for securing containers in transit to an importer in the US, including international standards for the security of containers moving through the international supply chain; and directs the Secretary to submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy for the deployment of radiation detection equipment at all ports of entry. This bill also authorizes funds to accelerate the Coast Guard’s Deepwater program for replacing deteriorating ships and equipment.

Yesterday, the House adopted on a party-line vote a restrictive rule that blocked consideration of several Democratic amendments including an amendment by Reps. Nadler, DeFazio, Markey, Oberstar, Harman, Jackson-Lee, and Lowey. That amendment would require that, within a 3 to 5 year timeframe, all shipping containers be scanned and sealed using the best available technology before being loaded onto ships destined for the US. The rule makes in order fifteen amendments which are debatable for 10 minutes each:

- **King (NY) Manager’s Amendment.** To make technical changes, add several new findings on the importance of maintaining vibrant international trade, clarify that port security grant funds can be used to address vulnerabilities in vessel and facility plans in addition to maritime security plans, and clarify that the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office is responsible for implementing Department of Homeland Security requirements under the Global Nuclear Architecture and that any private testing performed by DNDO will be confidential. Additionally, the amendment removes two provisions accepted during full committee consideration: 1) establishing a pilot program for training Coast Guard reserve officers; and 2) funding for the acceleration of the Coast Guard’s Deepwater program. Finally, the manager’s amendment establishes a Director of Trade policy in the DHS Office of Policy.
- **Ruppersberger Amendment #9.** To require the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to submit to the appropriate congressional committees an assessment study of the National Targeting Center and recommendations to strengthen the center, six months after implementation of the Act.
- **Ruppersberger Amendment #10.** To require the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to consult with the appropriate Federal, State and local entities when determining the establishment of maritime security centers. Currently the decision on where to locate the command centers resides solely with the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.
- **Ruppersberger Amendment #11.** To advise that the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security should, in consultation with appropriate federal, state and local officials including the Captain of the Port from the US Coast Guard and representatives from the maritime industry to determine protocols. Currently stated the protocols are determined solely by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.
- **Cuellar Amendment.** To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to study the specific challenges faced by land ports when calling for greater security.
- **Ryun Amendment.** To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security, when conducting a study of emerging technologies to screen cargo in foreign ports, to evaluate battery-powered portable neutron and gamma-ray detection devices that can be inexpensively mass produced.
- **Hooley Amendment.** To amend the definition of a cargo container security device in section 1816 from: “a mechanical or electronic device designed to, at a minimum, detect unauthorized intrusion of containers”, to “a mechanical or electronic device designed to, at a minimum,

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positively identify containers and detect and record unauthorized intrusion of containers. Such devices shall have false alarm rates that have been demonstrated to be below one percent."

- **Stupak Amendment.** To ensure that communications equipment purchased, and mechanisms for sharing terrorism threat information established, under the new Port Security Grant program are interoperable with Federal, State, and local agencies.
- **Shays Amendment.** To require the Department of Homeland Security to conduct a pilot project at an overseas port similar to the Integrated Container Inspection System in Hong Kong.
- **Bass Amendment.** To allow states and local agencies to petition to the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security for approval to apply for grants under this section for any activity relating to prevention of, preparation for, response to, or recovery from acts of terrorism, that would otherwise be a Federal duty performed by Federal agencies and under agreement with a the State or local government and a Federal agency.
- **Millender-McDonald Amendment.** To make eligible the construction or enhancement of truck inspection stations in seaport communities and trade corridors by authorizing up to \$20 million annually in the Port Security Grant Program. To establish or enhance truck inspection stations for seaports, communities and trade corridors where there is a high volume of truck container traffic.
- **Jackson-Lee Amendment.** To provide for the community to be included in disaster awareness and preparation in the form of a "Neighborhood Watch."
- **Weiner Amendment.** To require each port security grant recipient to report each expenditure to the Secretary of Homeland Security, who will then publish each expenditure on a publicly available website. The revision creates an exception for national security.
- **Flake Amendment.** To strike the \$400 million authorization for a new Port Security Program and block the creation of an additional federal Homeland Security grant program.
- **Loretta Sanchez Amendment.** To prohibit the current Customs and Border Protection practice of granting automated targeting risk score reductions to Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) members that have not received CBP validation of the implementation and effectiveness of their security measures.

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule: on Friday, no votes are expected in the House.

Daily Quote...

"Federal investigators posing as senior citizens found that Medicare's operators routinely failed to give callers accurate and complete information about the government's new drug benefit, prompting Democratic critics of the Bush administration program to ask again for an extension of an approaching enrollment deadline. The Government Accountability Office investigators said that about one-third of their calls resulted in faulty responses or no response at all because of disconnected calls. The accuracy rates varied a great deal based on the question, but when it came to one of the most important questions, operators provided the right answer only 41% of the time. That question concerned which drug plan cost the least for a beneficiary based on certain drug needs."

- From a story in *The Wall Street Journal* this morning