



The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of September 19, 2005

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News from Congressman Ehlers ...

EHLERS MANUFACTURING BILL CONSIDERATION RESCHEDULED – Two weeks after being bumped by legislation dealing with Hurricane Katrina, the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act (H.R. 250), sponsored by Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers, is scheduled to be considered by the full House of Representatives Wednesday. Approved by the House Science Committee on May 4, the legislation seeks to help reinvigorate the nation's manufacturing sector by reauthorizing and strengthening the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program and establishing research fellowship and grant programs.

See below for more details. To view a previous press release on H.R. 250, click here:
http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/050405ManufacturingCmte.html

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2005

On Monday, the House will meet at 12 noon in a Pro Forma session.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2005

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Suspensions (10 bills):

(Bills on suspension are generally considered non-controversial and have reduced debate time, but require a two-thirds majority vote to be passed.)

- 1) **H.R. 3761 - Flexibility for Displaced Workers Act:** Adds significant new flexibility to the National Emergency Grant (NEG) program. The NEG program provides temporary disaster relief employment and training of up to six months to individuals who participate in projects that provide assistance for victims of that particular disaster. The Labor Department recently awarded more than \$191 million in NEGs to help provide more than 40,000 temporary jobs in the Gulf Coast region.
- 2) **H.R. 2132 - To extend the waiver authority of the Secretary of Education with respect to student financial assistance during a war or other military operation or national emergency:** Requires local Head Start operators identified as having one deficiency or more during the five-year grant cycle to compete

against other potential grantees when their grants come up for renewal. The U.S. Secretary of Health & Human Services, who oversees the Head Start program, will retain the right to terminate a Head Start grant at any time during the five-year grant cycle. Grantees that meet all requirements will be designated as “priority” grantees.

- 3) **H.R. 3784 - To temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:** Extends the Higher Education Act for six months. As Congress completes action on a comprehensive package to reform and strengthen the Higher Education Act, H.R. 3784 will extend existing programs to ensure students and institutions of higher education continue to have access to federal higher education programs.
- 4) **H.R. 3765 - To extend through December 31, 2007, the authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the processing of permits**
- 5) **H.R. 3649 - Sportfishing and Recreational Boating Safety Amendments Act of 2005:** Makes several technical corrections to the Sportfishing and Recreational Boating Safety Act of 2005 and extends the funding for State recreational boating programs funded through the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund through the end of fiscal year 2005. Under current law, funding for these programs has been made available only through July 30, 2005. H.R. 3649, dedicates approximately \$14 million in funding available for State recreational boating programs for the last two months of the current fiscal year in a manner consistent with the current program. The bill will not result in any additional funding as this funding has already been appropriated for sportfishing and recreational boating programs for fiscal year 2005.
- 6) **S. 1340 - A bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to extend the date after which surplus funds in the wildlife restoration fund become available for apportionment:** Amends the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to extend the date after which surplus funds in the Wildlife Restoration Fund become available for apportionment. Section 7 of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989 (NAWCA) amended the Pittman-Robertson Act to provide the authority to invest in interest-bearing obligations of the United States, and to use the realized interest to fund projects carried out under NAWCA. The authority to use these funds to support NAWCA is set to expire on September 30, 2005 unless the date is extended.
- 7) **H.R. 599 - Federal Lands Restoration, Enhancement, Public Education, and Information Resources Act of 2005:** Make any money received from fines, forfeitures, judgments, compromises, or settlements for violations of rules and regulations applicable to federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, available for restoration and public informational activities on such lands. Currently, most fines or penalties received from violations of federal rules or regulations on public lands are transferred to the Crime Victims Fund. The Crime Victims Fund is used to reimburse persons who have criminal actions taken against them. However, on federal land, many times the fine or penalty issued is due to natural resource or federal structure damage. H.R. 599 seeks to ensure monies collected from such violations return to the damaged area to rehabilitate and restore the land, as well as fund education

- about such damage (posting signs, etc.). Excess funds would be transferred to the Crime Victims Fund established under the Victims of Crime Act of 1984.
- 8) **H.R. 409 - Sierra National Forest Land Exchange Act of 2005:** Exchanges 80 acres of privately owned property for 160 acres of Forest Service land that is surrounded by Shaver Lake. The Sequoia Council Boy Scouts currently have a Special Use Permit that allows the operation of a summer camp on 160 acres of the Sierra National Forest, California, only 15 of which are above water. The remaining 145 acres are submerged under Shaver Lake, a reservoir operated by Southern California Edison under a U.S. Forest Service Special Use Permit where the company produces hydroelectricity. A private citizen currently owns the 80-acre piece of property surrounded by the Sierra National Forest that is subject to the exchange.
 - 9) **H.Res. 441 - To congratulate the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Discovery crew:** Commends the entire National Aeronautics and Space Administration team and community, who provided invaluable technical support and leadership for the historic mission of Space Shuttle Discovery STS flight 114. The resolution specifically recognizes and commends Commander Eileen Collins, for being the first female space shuttle commander and a role model for all; Col. Jim Kelly, pilot of STS 114, for his second flight aboard the Space Shuttle and his participation in robotic arm operations; Charlie Camarda, mission specialist, a "rookie" who performed like a veteran by transferring the multipurpose logistics module from the International Space Station to the Space Shuttle; Wendy Lawrence, mission specialist, for outstanding skill in operating Canadarm2; Soichi Noguchi of Japan, mission specialist, a "rookie" who was a "spacewalker" for the inspections and repairs of the Space Shuttle; Steve Robinson, mission specialist, for his outstanding skill as a "spacewalker," who enhanced and repaired Discovery and the International Space Station and Andy Thomas, mission specialist, who performed the laser checks on the leading edge of the Space Shuttle by the operation of Canadarm2.
 - 10) **H.Res. 446 - Recognizing Space Shuttle Commander Eileen Collins, Mission Specialist Wendy Lawrence, and the contributions of all other women who have worked with NASA in preparing for the launch of Space Shuttle Discovery on STS-114**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2005 AND THE BALANCE OF THE WEEK

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business. On Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business.

Suspensions (6 bills):

- 1) **H.Con.Res. 242 - Providing for acceptance of a statue of Po'Pay, presented by the State of New Mexico, for placement in National Statuary Hall, and for other purposes:** Resolves that the statue of Po'Pay, furnished by the people of New Mexico for placement in National Statuary Hall in accordance with section 1814 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (2 U.S.C. 2131), is accepted in the name of the United States, and the thanks of the Congress are tendered to the people of New Mexico for providing this commemoration of one of New Mexico's most eminent personages.
- 2) **S. 1368 - United States Parole Commission Extension and Sentencing**

- Commission Authority Act of 2005:** Extends the U.S. Parole Commission for three years. It directs the U.S. Sentencing Commission to amend the federal sentencing guidelines, commentary, and policy statements to implement provisions of: (1) the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 requiring increases in statutory penalties and the offense level for making false statements to federal authorities and for obstructing administrative or congressional proceedings if the matter relates to international or domestic terrorism; and (2) the Anabolic Steroid Control Act of 2004 providing for increased penalties with respect to offenses involving anabolic steroids in a manner that reflects the seriousness of such offenses and the need to deter anabolic steroid trafficking and use.
- 3) **H.R. 3667 - Karl Malden Station Post Office Designation Act** (*Los Angeles, California*)
 - 4) **H.R. 3767 - Jacob L. Frazier Post Office Designation Act** (*St. Charles, Illinois*)
 - 5) **H.Res. 429 - Congratulating the West Oahu Little League Baseball team for winning the 2005 Little League Baseball World Series**
 - 6) **H.J.Res. 61 - Supporting the goals and ideals of Gold Star Mothers Day:** Supports the goals and ideals of Gold Star Mothers Day. Additionally, the bill requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

H.R. 250 - Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act of 2005 (*Sponsored by Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers*): Establishes an Interagency Committee on Manufacturing Research and Development to coordinate federal manufacturing research and development (R&D) efforts, and an advisory committee to guide those efforts. The Interagency Committee would prepare a strategic plan for manufacturing R&D, produce a coordinated interagency budget, and write an annual report on the federal programs involved in manufacturing R&D. The President may designate existing bodies to carry out the responsibilities of these committees.

The bill reauthorizes the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program with a mechanism for review and re-competition of MEP Centers. H.R. 250 creates an additional competitive grant program from which MEP Centers can obtain supplemental funding for manufacturing-related projects. H.R. 250 would also allow MEP to accept and distribute funds from other federal agencies without requiring matching funds. MEP funding will be authorized at \$110 million in FY 2006, including funds for a competitive grant program within MEP. The MEP authorization would increase by \$5 million per year to \$120 million in FY 2008.

H.R. 250 authorizes funding for NIST's main laboratory account, the Baldrige Quality Award program, and the Construction and Maintenance account. The STRS and Construction accounts would be authorized in FY 2006 at the President's request of \$426 million and \$59.8 million respectively, increasing by 5 percent in FY 2007 and 2.1 percent in FY 2008. H.R. 250 would also establish a standards education grant program at NIST and authorize its funding beginning at \$773,000 in FY 2006.

The bill establishes a three-year, cost-shared, collaborative manufacturing R&D pilot

grant program at NIST, funded at \$10 million per year for FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008. H.R. 250 also establishes a post-doctoral and senior research fellowship program in manufacturing sciences at NIST, funded beginning at \$1.5 million in FY 2006 and increasing to \$2 million in FY 2008.

H.R. 250 authorizes funding for the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program. This program provides funds to community and technical colleges for workforce education and training. Additionally, H.R. 250 provides \$55 million in FY 2006, 57.7 million in FY 2007, and \$60.6 million in FY 2008, with a \$5 million set-aside per year that may be used for education and preparation of manufacturing technicians for certification.

H.R. 2123 - School Readiness Act of 2005: Requires local Head Start operators identified as having one deficiency or more during the five-year grant cycle to compete against other potential grantees when their grants come up for renewal. The U.S. Secretary of Health & Human Services, who oversees the Head Start program, will retain the right to terminate a Head Start grant at any time during the five-year grant cycle. Grantees that meet all requirements will be designated as "priority" grantees.

* **Possible Motions to go to Conference**

* **Possible Motions to Instruct Conferees**

Historical Tidbits

On Sept. 19 ...

1796 - U.S. President Washington's farewell address was published.

1881 - James A. Garfield died of wounds from an assassin. The 20th U.S. president lived for 11 weeks after the wounds were inflicted.

1995 - The U.S. Senate passed a welfare overhaul bill.

On Sept. 20 ...

1881 - Chester A. Arthur became the 21st president of the U.S. President James A. Garfield had died the day before.

1963 - U.S. President John F. Kennedy proposed a joint U.S.-Soviet expedition to the moon in a speech to the U.N. General Assembly.

1995 - The U.S. House of Representatives voted to drop the national speed limit. This allowed the states to decide their own speed limits.

On Sept. 21 ...

1973 - Henry Kissinger was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to become 56th Secretary of State. He was the first naturalized citizen to hold the office.

1981 - The U.S. Senate confirmed Sandra Day O'Connor to be the first female justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

On Sept. 22 ...

1789 - The U.S. Congress authorized the office of Postmaster General.

1862 - U.S. President Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. It stated that all slaves held within rebel states would be free as of January 1, 1863.

1961 - U.S. President John F. Kennedy signed a congressional act that established the Peace Corps.

1975 - Sara Jane Moor attempted to assassinate U.S. President Gerald Ford. 17 days earlier Lynnette "Squeaky" Fromme made an assassination attempt against Ford.

1998 - U.S. President Clinton, addressed the United Nations, and told world leaders to "end all nuclear tests for all time". He then sent the long-delayed global test-ban treaty to the U.S. Senate.

(Information from <http://www.on-this-day.com>)