



## The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of March 14, 2005

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*News from Congressman Ehlers ...*

**HOUSE APPROVES TRANSPORTATION BILL; \$6.4B FOR MICHIGAN** – Michigan would get nearly \$200 million more per year in federal highway funding under legislation approved Thursday by the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers announced.

*For more information, please read the press release on our website:*

[http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03\\_ehlers/031005TEALU.html](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/031005TEALU.html)

### **THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

#### **MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2005**

*On Monday, 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** (14 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. 126 - To amend Public Law 89-366 to allow for an adjustment in the number of free roaming horses permitted in Cape Lookout National Seashore (North Carolina)**
- 2) H.R. 186 - Llagas Reclamation Groundwater Remediation Initiative:** Establishes within the Treasury an interest bearing account to be known as the California Basins Groundwater Remediation Fund, which shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, in cooperation with the Santa Clara Valley Water District. It requires that the Fund be used by the Secretary to provide grants to reimburse the District for the Federal share of the costs associated with designing and constructing groundwater remediation projects.
- 3) H.R. 584 - Department of the Interior Volunteer Recruitment Act:** Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to recruit, train, and accept, without regard to the civil service classification laws, rules, or regulations, the services of individuals, contributed without compensation as volunteers, for aiding in or facilitating the activities administered by the Secretary through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Office of the Secretary.
- 4) H.R. 486 - To provide for a land exchange involving private land and Bureau of Land Management land in the vicinity of Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico,**

**for the purpose of removing private land from the required safety zone surrounding munitions storage bunkers at Holloman Air Force Base**

**5) H.R. 680 - To direct the Secretary of Interior to convey certain land held in trust for the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah to the City of Richfield, Utah**

**6) H.R. 816 - Nevada National Forest Land Disposal Act of 2005:** Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to sell at public auction any right, title, or interest of the United States in and to specified parcels of National Forest System lands in Carson City and Douglas County, Nevada.

**7) H.R. 62 - To create the Office of Chief Financial Officer of the Government of the Virgin Islands:** Requires the Governor of the Virgin Islands to appoint a Chief Financial Officer, with the advice and consent of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands, from a list required by this Act. States that if: (1) the Legislature has not confirmed a nominee within 90 days the Governor shall appoint an Acting Chief Financial Officer until the Legislature consents to a Chief Financial Officer; and (2) a Chief Financial Officer has not been appointed within 180 days the Virgin Islands Chief Financial Officer Search Commission shall appoint from such list an Acting Chief Financial Officer until a Chief Financial Officer is appointed. It sets forth the Chief Financial Officer's duties.

**8) H.R. 412 - Western Reserve Heritage Areas Study Act (Ohio)**

**9) H.R. 694 - Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act:** Establishes the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor (Heritage Corridor) to recognize the important contributions made to American culture and history by African-Americans known as the Gullah/Geechee who settled in the coastal counties of South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida, and Georgia;

**10) H.R. 1160 - To reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program through June 30, 2005**

**11) H.R. 1134 - To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the proper tax treatment of certain disaster mitigation payments**

**12) H.Res. 135 - Providing for the establishment of a commission in the House of Representatives to assist parliaments in emerging democracies**

**13) H.Res. 101 - Urging the European Union to add Hezbollah to the European Union's wide-ranging list of terrorist organizations**

**14) S. 384 - To extend the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group for 2 years**

## **TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2005**

*On Tuesday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for morning hour and 10 a.m. for legislative business.*

**H.R. XXX - Emergency Supplemental Wartime Appropriations Act:** In general, the bill funds urgent FY05 needs relating to prosecuting the war on terrorism and furthering specific U.S. security interests abroad. The Appropriations Committee proposes funding the request at \$81.3 billion, \$600 million less than requested by the president.

## **WEDNESDAY MARCH 16, 2005 AND THE BALANCE OF THE WEEK**

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

**H.Con.Res. XXX - Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for FY 2006:** Sets budgetary goals for Fiscal Year 2006.

### **Historical Tidbits**

#### **On March 14 ...**

**1900** - U.S. currency went on the gold standard with the ratification of the Gold Standard Act.

**1903** - The U.S. Senate ratified the Hay-Herran Treaty that guaranteed the U.S. the right to build a canal at Panama. The Columbian Senate rejected the treaty.

**1923** - President Harding became the first U.S. President to file an income tax report.

**1943** - U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt became the first U.S. President to fly in an airplane while in office.

**1958** - The U.S. government suspended arms shipments to the Batista government of Cuba.

**1989** - Imported assault guns were banned in the U.S. under President Bush.

#### **On March 15 ...**

**1913** - U.S. President Woodrow Wilson held the first open presidential news conference.

**1916** - U.S. President Woodrow Wilson sent 12,000 troops, under General Pershing, over the border of Mexico to pursue bandit Pancho Villa. The mission failed.

**1968** - The U.S. mint halted the practice of buying and selling gold.

**1977** - The U.S. House of Representatives began a 90-day test to determine the feasibility of showing its sessions on television.

**1989** - The U.S. Food and Drug administration decided to impound all fruit imported from Chili after two cyanide-tainted grapes were found in Philadelphia, PA.

**1994** - U.S. President Clinton extended the moratorium on nuclear testing until September of 1995.

**2002** - U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell told the Associated Press that the U.S. would stand by a 24-year pledge not to use nuclear arms against states that don't have them.

#### **On March 16 ...**

**1802** - The U.S. Congress established the West Point Military Academy in New York.

**1882** - The U.S. Senate approved a treaty allowing the United States to join the Red Cross.

**1950** - Congress voted to remove federal taxes on oleomargarine.

**1964** - U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson submitted a \$1 billion war on poverty program to Congress.

#### **On March 17 -...**

##### ***Happy St. Patrick's Day!***

**1941** - The National Gallery of Art was officially opened by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt in Washington, DC.

**1972** - U.S. President Nixon asked Congress to halt busing in order to achieve desegregation.

**1985** - U.S. President Reagan agreed to a joint study with Canada on acid rain.

**On March 18 ...**

**1818** - The U.S. Congress approved the first pensions for government service.

**1865** - The Congress of the Confederate States of America adjourned for the last time.

**1939** - Georgia ratified the Bill of Rights amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

**1949** - The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was ratified.

**1959** - U.S. President Eisenhower signed the Hawaii statehood bill.

**1963** - The U.S. Supreme Court handed down the Miranda decision concerning legal council for defendants.

**1968** - The U.S. Congress repealed the requirement for a gold reserve.

**1986** - The U.S. Treasury Department announced that a clear, polyester thread was to be woven into bills in an effort to thwart counterfeiters.

*(Information from [www.on-this-day.com](http://www.on-this-day.com))*

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