



The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of September 12, 2005

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News from Congressman Ehlers ...

HOUSE CONSIDERATION OF EHLERS' MANUFACTURING LEGISLATION POSTPONED – Due to events surrounding the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and the death of Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist, consideration of the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act (H.R. 250), sponsored by Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers, was postponed. No schedule for taking up the legislation has been announced.

For more information about H.R. 250, click here:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/050405ManufacturingCmte.html

CONGRESS APPROVES ADDITIONAL \$51.8 BILLION FOR HURRICANE RELIEF – House and Senate members Thursday voted nearly unanimously to approve an additional \$51.8 billion to feed and house evacuees, clean up the damage and begin to rebuild the area's devastated infrastructure. Congressman Ehlers joined the majority of House by voting 410-11 in favor of the measure, while the Senate approved the package 97-0.

ROBERTS NOMINATION HEARINGS BEGIN IN SENATE – The Senate Judiciary Committee's hearing on the nomination of U.S. District Court Judge John Roberts as Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court began at 12 noon Monday. Senate leaders say they expect the hearings to continue throughout the week and are hopeful that Judge Roberts can be confirmed before the Supreme Court convenes its 1005-06 session in October.

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2005

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 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 (6 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. 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.
- 2) **S.Con.Res. 26 - A concurrent resolution honoring and memorializing the passengers and crew of United Airlines Flight 93:** Resolves that the United States owes the passengers and crew of United Airlines Flight 93 deep respect and gratitude for their decisive actions and efforts of bravery. The resolution extends its condolences to the families and friends of the passengers and crew of Flight 93.
- 3) **S. 252 - Dandini Research Park Conveyance Act:** Directs the Secretary of the Interior to give, without consideration, approximately 467 acres of land in Washoe County, Nevada, to the Board of Regents of the University and Community College System of Nevada. The land is located in Reno, Nevada. It was patented to the University and Community College System of Nevada in the 1970s, and the land is now known as the Dandini Research Park. The site is used by the Desert Research Institute and Truckee Meadows Community College.
- 4) **S. 264 - Hawaii Water Resources Act of 2005:** Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to undertake three water projects in the State of Hawaii.
- 5) **S. 276 - Wind Cave National Park Boundary Revision Act of 2005:** Authorizes the expansion of Wind Cave National Park in South Dakota to include approximately 5,675 acres of land. The proposed addition includes two private parcels of 5,555 and 40 acres, both owned by willing sellers. An additional 80 acres will be transferred from the Bureau of Land Management. The additional land will improve fire management of the mixed-grass prairie ecosystem.
- 6) **H.R. 539 - Caribbean National Forest Act of 2005:** Designates approximately 10,000 acres of land in the Caribbean National Forest/Luquillo Experimental Forest in Puerto Rico as wilderness and, therefore, as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System. In 1997 this land was proposed for wilderness classification in the U.S. Forest Service's land and resource management plan.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 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 (3 bills):

- 1) **H.R. 3408 - To reauthorize the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 and to amend the swine reporting provisions of that Act:** Reauthorizes the Livestock Mandatory Reporting (MPR) Act of 1999 and amends the swine reporting provision of that Act. The reauthorization contains several minor changes involving hog price reporting that were agreed to by a coalition of producer/agriculture groups including the National Pork Producers Council, the American Meat Institute, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, the American Sheep Industry Association, and the American Farm Bureau Federation.
- 2) **H.R. 3421 - To reauthorize the United States Grain Standards Act:** Provides a

five-year reauthorization of the U.S. Grain Standards Act, facilitating the official inspection at export port locations of grain required or authorized to be inspected under this Act. The reauthorization includes language granting the Secretary of Agriculture new authority to use private entities to perform official export inspections.

- 3) **H.Con.Res. 208 - Recognizing the 50th anniversary of Rosa Louise Parks' refusal to give up her seat on the bus and the subsequent desegregation of American society:** Resolves that Congress recognizes and celebrates the 50th anniversary of Rosa Louise Parks' refusal to give up her seat on the bus and the subsequent desegregation of American society. Congress also encourages the people of the United States to recognize and celebrate this anniversary and the subsequent legal victories that sought to eradicate segregation in all of American society and endeavors to work with the same courage, dignity, and determination exemplified by civil rights pioneer, Rosa Louise Parks, to address modern-day inequalities and injustice.

H.R. 3132 - Children's Safety Act of 2005: *A summary of this legislation was not available at publication time.*

H.R. 889 - Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2005: Authorizes approximately \$8.7 billion in funding for FY 2006 for the Coast Guard, more than \$860 million above the amount requested in the Administration's FY 2006 budget. This amount includes \$5.586 billion for Coast Guard Operating Expenses, \$1.9 billion for Coast Guard capital needs including a \$650 million increase for the Integrated Deepwater Systems (Deepwater) program, and the Coast Guard's long-term replacement program for its operational capital assets.

- * **Possible Motions to go to Conference**
- * **Possible Motions to Instruct Conferees**

Historical Tidbits

On Sept. 13 ...

1788 - The Constitutional Convention decided that the first federal election was to be held on Wednesday the following February. On that day George Washington was elected as the first president of the United States. In addition, New York City was named the temporary national capital.

1789 - The United States Government took out its first loan.

1948 - Margaret Chase Smith was elected to the U.S. Senate and became the first woman to serve in both houses of the U.S. Congress.

1960 - The U.S. Federal Communications Commission banned payola.

1994 - U.S. President Bill Clinton signed a \$30 billion crime bill into law.

2001 - U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell named Osama bin Laden as the prime suspect in the terror attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001. Limited commercial flights resumed in the U.S. for the first time in two days.

On Sept. 14 ...

1807 - Former U.S. Vice President Aaron Burr was acquitted of a misdemeanor charge.

Two weeks earlier Burr had been found innocent of treason.

1814 - Francis Scott Key wrote the "Star-Spangled Banner," a poem originally known as "Defense of Fort McHenry," after witnessing the British bombardment of Fort McHenry, MD, during the War of 1812. The song became the official U.S. national anthem on March 3, 1931.

1901 - U.S. President William McKinley died of gunshot wounds inflicted by an assassin. Vice President Theodore Roosevelt, at age 42, succeeded him.

1940 - The Selective Service Act was passed by the U.S. Congress providing the first peacetime draft in the United States.

1983 - The U.S. House of Representatives voted 416-0 in a resolution condemning the Soviet Union for the shooting down of a Korean jet on September 1.

On Sept. 15 ...

1789 - The U.S. Department of Foreign Affairs was renamed the Department of State.

1983 - The U.S. Senate joined the U.S. House of Representatives in their condemning of the Soviet Union for shooting down a Korean jet with 269 people onboard.

1994 - U.S. President Clinton told Haiti's military leaders "Your time is up. Leave now or we will force you from power."

On Sept. 16 ...

1782 - The Great Seal of the United States was impressed on document to negotiate a prisoner of war agreement with the British. It was the first official use of the impression.

1919 - The American Legion was incorporated by an act of the U.S. Congress.

1940 - U.S. President Roosevelt signed into law the Selective Training and Service Act, which set up the first peacetime military draft in U.S. history.

1940 - Samuel T. Rayburn of Texas was elected Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. He served for 17 years.

1974 - U.S. President Ford announced a conditional amnesty program for draft-evaders and deserters during the Vietnam War.

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