



Legislative Bulletin.....September 18, 2008

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H.R. 3036— No Child Left Inside Act of 2008

H.R. 3036, the No Child Left Inside Act of 2008 (sponsored by Rep. John Sarbanes, D-MD), is scheduled to be considered on the House floor Thursday, February 18, 2008, subject to a structured rule ([H. Res. 1441](#)), making in order the following 5 amendments, each debatable for 10 minutes.

The rule provides for one hour of general debate, waives all points of order against consideration of the bill, except those regarding PAYGO and earmarks, waives all points of order against the bill itself—except the PAYGO rule—and allows the Chair to postpone consideration of the legislation at any time during its consideration. The rule allows one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Note: The summaries below are based on RSC staff review of *actual amendment text* and thus often differ significantly from what's on the Rules Committee website. For a summary of the underlying bill, see a separate RSC document.

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AMENDMENTS MADE IN ORDER UNDER THE RULE

1. **Miller (D-CA).** This amendment would remove the curriculum requirement for environmental justice education and instead require that programs under the National Capacity Environmental Education Grant Program “address issues of environmental justice, including policies and methods for eliminating disparate enforcement of environmental laws and regulations, including with respect to low-income communities.” In addition, the amendment would require the educational programs to develop new policy approaches to environmental education, including a discussion of the “benefits and costs to the environment and to consumers regarding increasing the supply of energy produced in the United States from oil and gas drilling, nuclear power, new coal technologies, and clean renewable and alternative sources of energy.” The amendment would also require that the discussion include how to reduce energy consumption through efficiency and conservation.

Possible Conservative Concerns: While this amendment has the intent of encouraging discussion regarding energy efficiency and conservation, there is no mechanism in the underlying bill that would ensure that this education and policy discussion would be fair or balanced. The underlying text of the bill states that, “... the Administrator and Secretary shall ensure that such activities ... are objective, neutral, and nonideological and are free of partisan

political influence and do not advocate a particular political viewpoint.” While this is a good step toward reducing bias in these education programs, it may not be enough to ensure that discussions regarding the “benefits and costs to the environment and to consumers” also contain discussions on how various energy resources affect the economy and national security.

2. **Duncan (R-TN).** This amendment would reduce the funding level for the National Environmental Education Act to current funding levels (\$9 million) from \$14 million.
3. **Duncan (R-TN).** This amendment would strike everything in the bill regarding a new grant program (the National Capacity Environmental Education) and make the bill a straight reauthorization of the National Environmental Education Act.
4. **Welch (D-VT).** This amendment would make municipalities eligible to receive funds under the National Capacity Environmental Education grant program. The underlying text of the bill makes nonprofit organizations, state educational agencies, local educational agencies, and institutes of higher education eligible for grant funds.
5. **Courtney (D-CT).** This amendment would provide an opportunity for grant applicants to describe how they have partnered, or intend to partner, with a state and local park and recreation department on their application for federal funds.