



**Legislative Bulletin.....January 8, 2003**

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**Year-to-Date Spending Totals**

As of the end of last week, the House has passed legislation this year that if enacted into law would authorize the expenditure of approximately **\$0 billion** of taxpayer funds over the next five years.

In addition, the House has approved mandatory spending increases that if enacted would cost taxpayers approximately **\$0 billion** over the next five years.

**S. 23— Providing a 5-month extension of the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation Act (Sen. Fitzgerald)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, January 8, under a closed rule.

**Summary:** The bill amends the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-147), which was included in the 2002 Economic Stimulus Package to:

- Extend eligibility for additional unemployment benefits (13 weeks in all States and up to 26 weeks in States defined as having high unemployment) through May 31, 2003 (under current law eligibility for extended benefits ended on December 28, 2002)
- Specify that no individual may receive benefits by reason of this extension after August 30, 2003

**NOTE:** On November 14, 2002, the House passed by voice vote an amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 5063. This amendment proposed to extend unemployment benefits only in high-unemployment states through February 1, 2003, and permit individuals who otherwise would have otherwise been prevented from collecting their full extended unemployment assistance to continue collecting unemployment up to limit of the extension limit through February 1, 2003. The Senate never acted on the House-passed proposal.

On the same day, the Senate passed by unanimous consent a Clinton amendment to H.R. 3529 to extend the eligibility for additional unemployment benefits (13 weeks in all States and 26 weeks in high unemployment States) through March 31, 2003, with individuals receiving benefits through June 28, 2003. The House adjourned before acting on the Senate-passed proposal.

The proposal now scheduled to be considered by the House provides more benefits than contemplated in either of the bills described above.

**Additional Information:** It is estimated that 1.9 million individuals will qualify for extended benefits, and an additional 800,000 individuals who already had begun receiving extended benefits will receive their full 13 or 26 weeks as a result of this proposal.

According to a letter sent to the Speaker on January 6, 2003 by the Secretary of Labor, if the current proposal is signed into law by Thursday, January 9, 2003, there will be no disruption of benefits for those individuals already receiving extended benefits but who would have had those benefits terminated by the December 28, 2002 cutoff.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** It is estimated that this unemployment extension will cost \$7.2 billion in 2003.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** No.

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## **H.R. 11— Reauthorizing the National Flood Insurance Program (Oxley)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, January 8, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** The bill extends the National Flood Insurance Program through December 31, 2003. Under current law, authority to operate the program terminated on December 31, 2002. The bill would retroactively extend the authorization for the program. The bill does not make any changes to the operation of the current program.

**Additional Information:** Proponents of the bill assert that absent an extension, mortgage costs of those living in floodplains will increase, as private insurers seek to cover the additional risk currently being born by the National Flood Insurance Program.

The FY 2002 VA/ HUD Appropriations bill included the last one-year extension of the National Flood Insurance Program.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was established in 1968 to offer insurance policies to homeowners living in floodplains. Proponents of the program suggested that if property damage claims were paid from insurance premiums, the taxpayers would be saved the cost of the disaster relief that previously had been approved routinely. The program also attempts to move development away from flood prone areas by requiring that participating communities adopt and enforcing floodplain management ordinances.

Many conservatives have expressed concern that the existing program actually provides a subsidy to individuals to live in flood-prone areas. In particular, some conservatives have raised concerns about the high cost of individuals filing repetitive claims. Furthermore, critics contend that Congress continues to provide ad hoc disaster relief after major floods.

**Cost to Taxpayers**: A cost estimate is not available.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?**: No.

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## **H.R. 16— Providing Cost of Living Adjustments to Members of the Federal Judiciary (Sensenbrenner)**

**Order of Business**: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, January 8, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary**: The bill permits justices and judges of the United States to receive a salary adjustment of 3.1%. Section 140 of P.L. 97-92 provides that the obligation or expenditure of funds to increase the salary of Article III judges is prohibited without a specific congressional authorization. This bill would provide that authorization.

**Additional Information**: As of January 2003, Members of Congress also received a salary increase of 3.1% -- the same as the increase in the base pay for General Schedule (GS) federal employees.

**Cost to Taxpayers**: While a cost estimate for the pay increase is not available, funding for judicial salaries (and the proposed increase) are appropriated in the Commerce / Justice/ State Appropriations bill.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?**: No.

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## **H.Res. 10—Congratulating the Ohio State University Buckeyes Football Team (Rep. Pryce of Ohio)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. This type of resolution (H.Res.) is not subject to Senate approval or Presidential signature.

**Summary:** H.Res. 10 would:

- Congratulate the Ohio State Buckeyes for winning the 2002 NCAA Division I-A Football National Championship;
- Recognize all the players, coaches, and support staff who were instrumental in the championship;
- Request that the President recognize the accomplishments of this football team by inviting them to the White House for a ceremony for national championship teams; and
- Invite the team to the U.S. Capitol to be honored.

**Additional Background:** On January 3, 2003, the Ohio State Buckeyes football team won (what many observers considered to be) an upset victory over the Miami Hurricanes at the Fiesta Bowl in Tempe, Arizona. The 31-24, double-overtime win gave the Buckeyes their first national title in 34 years. The Associated Press referred to the game as “one of the greatest college football games ever.”

<http://ohiostatebuckeyes.ocsn.com/sports/m-footbl/recaps/010303aaa.html>

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** No.

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## **H.Res. 13—Congratulating the Grand Valley State University Lakers for winning the 2002 NCAA Division II Football National Championship (Rep. Hoekstra of Michigan)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. This type of resolution (H.Res.) is not subject to Senate approval or Presidential signature.

**Summary:** H.Res. 13 would:

- Congratulate the Grand Valley State University Lakers for winning the 2002 NCAA Division II Football National Championship;
- Recognize all the players, coaches, and support staff who were instrumental in the championship;

- Request that the President recognize the accomplishments of this football team by inviting them to the White House for a ceremony for national championship teams; and
- Direct the Clerk of the House to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to Grand Valley State University.

**Additional Background:** On December 14, 2002, the Grand Valley State University Lakers defeated Valdosta State University to win the 2002 NCAA Division II Football National Championship. This championship is the first in a varsity sport for Grand Valley.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** This resolution would authorize no expenditure, other than the nominal cost of transmitting an enrolled copy of the resolution to Grand Valley State University.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** No.

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## **H.J.Res. 1 and H.J.Res. 2 – Making Further Continuing Appropriations for FY 2003 (Young – FL)**

**Order of Business:** Each resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, January 8, under a closed rule.

**Summary:** Each continuing resolution extends the funding for the discretionary operations of the government from the January 11, 2003 date specified in the last continuing resolution until January 31, 2003. Since Congress only enacted 2 of the 13 annual appropriations bills (the only two enacted covered defense spending), a continuing resolution is needed to keep the remaining discretionary operations of the government funded.

Each continuing resolution is substantially similar to the last continuing resolution (CR) with the exception that the language is deleted regarding the level of highway funding (the last CR included language setting highway funding at \$31.8 billion, but capping actual expenditures at \$27.7 billion (the level assumed in the Budget Resolution)).

Each continuing resolution also makes additional technical changes to extend the authority to operate entitlement programs, allow the DC government to spend local funds, maintain the pay cap on Federal prevailing wage employees at the same level as Federal civil service employees, permit GSA to move forward on leasing space for the Homeland Security Department, and allow for funding of the Public Accounting Oversight Board.

The second continuing resolution (H.J.Res 2) also includes a provision providing the Department of Defense with an additional \$2.5 billion in transfer (reprogramming) authority for the Secretary of Defense for the war on terrorism.

One of the continuing resolutions taken up by the House today will be signed into law so as to keep the government operating through January 31. The other continuing resolution will be used as an amendable vehicle to which the Senate will attach the remaining 11 FY 2003 Appropriations measures. The House will not take up the 11 remaining bills individually, but instead will vote on one final omnibus.

**Cost to Taxpayers**: Each continuing resolution continues to ensure that we do not exceed the discretionary spending level of \$749 billion set in the Budget Resolution and advocated by the President.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?**: No.

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