



**Legislative Bulletin.....March 12, 2008**

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**Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:**

**Total Number of New Government Programs:** 0

**Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations:** Unknown

**Effect on Revenue:** \$0

**Total Change in Mandatory Spending:** \$0

**Total New State & Local Government Mandates:** \$0

**Total New Private Sector Mandates:** 0

**Number of Bills Without Committee Reports:** 2

**Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority:** 0

**H.R. 5578—To extend agricultural programs beyond March 15, 2008  
(Peterson, D-MN)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, March 12, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 5578 would extend agricultural programs under the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (the “farm bill”) through April 18, 2008. The current provisions are set to expire on March 15, 2008.

**Additional Background:** On July 27, 2007, the House passed H.R. 2419, the Farm, Nutrition, and Bioenergy Act of 2007, which would have extended farm bill programs for five years, by a vote of [231-191](#). On December 14, 2007, the Senate passed their version of the legislation but House and Senate conferees have yet to file a conference report. To read the RSC's original Legislative Bulletin on H.R. 2419, [click here](#).

**Committee Action:** H.R. 5578 was introduced on March 11, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Neither committee took any official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for H.R. 5578 was not available at press time.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** A Committee Report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits was not available.

**Constitutional Authority:** A Committee Report citing constitutional authority was not available.

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## **H.R. 3361—Pension Protection Technical Corrections Act of 2007** *(Rangel, D-NY)*

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, March 12, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 3361 would make a number of technical corrections and conforming changes to titles I through XII of the [Pension Protection Act of 2006](#), which amends the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). For a comprehensive summary of all the technical changes made by H.R. 3361, please see a Joint Committee on Taxation description here: <http://www.house.gov/jct/x-60-07.pdf>.

It is possible that the text of this bill will change prior to floor consideration. If the revised text contains any non-technical provisions, the RSC will alert its offices accordingly.

**Additional Background:** The Pension Protection Act of 2006 amended ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the funding rules for pensions. The bill was passed in the House on July 28, 2006, by a vote of [279-131](#). On August 17, 2006, the bill was signed by the President and became Public Law No. 109-280. According to the Minority staff on the House

Ways and Means Committee, H.R. 3361 would make only clerical changes to the Pension Protection Act of 2006 and would not alter any of the bill's significant provisions. The changes made by H.R. 3361 will be applied as if they were enacted in the original version of the legislation.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 3361 was introduced on August 3, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Education and Labor and the Committee on Ways and Means. On September 19, 2007, the bill was referred to the Education and Labor Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for H.R. 3361 was not available at press time. A Joint Committee on Taxation description of the bill does not indicate whether it will effect spending or revenues.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** A Committee Report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits was not available. Such a report is not required because the bill is being considered under a suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A Committee Report citing constitutional authority was not available.

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### **H.Res. 991—Recognizing the exceptional sacrifice of the 69th Infantry Regiment, known as the Fighting 69th, in support of the Global War on Terror (*Israel, D-NY*)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 991 is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, March 12, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 991 would express the sense that the House:

- “Recognizes the 69th Infantry Regiment, or the Fighting 69th, as one of the great regiments in American military history;
- “Recognizes that America owes a tremendous debt for the exceptional service, patriotism, and fidelity of the soldiers of the Fighting 69th;
- “Recognizes that the Fighting 69th has continually participated in the Global War on Terror since the attack on September 11, 2001; and

- “Acknowledges that as the 69th Infantry Regiment deploys to Afghanistan to fight in the central front in the Global War on Terror, that the proud traditions of the regiment will be respected and that the sacrifices of one of America's most storied combat units will not go unnoticed.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The 69th Infantry Regiment, or the Fighting 69th, with citizen-soldiers from Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, the Bronx, Staten Island, and Long Island, has faithfully answered America’s call to arms since its formation in 1851;
- “The Fighting 69th was one of the first units to assist in the recovery effort at the World Trade Center in New York following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack, where they lost a comrade, a firefighter;
- “The 69th Infantry Regiment, while deployed to Iraq as ‘Task Force Wolfhound’, its first overseas combat since World War II, fought to defend the city of Al Taji against al-Qaeda terrorists, protected Iraq’s first free elections, and secured the infamous ‘Route Irish’, the most dangerous road in Baghdad;
- “19 members of the Fighting 69th were killed in action and over 78 were wounded in Operation Wolfhound; and
- “The Fighting 69th has now served the Nation in 5 wars and over 20 campaigns, and Congress has awarded 6 members with the Congressional Medal of Honor.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 991 was introduced on February 14, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Armed Services’ Subcommittee on Military Personnel, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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**H.Res. 953—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that all Americans should participate in a moment of silence to reflect upon the service and sacrifice of members of the United States Armed Forces both at home and abroad (Knollenberg, R-MI)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 953 is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, March 12, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 953 would express the sense of the House that “all Americans should participate in a moment of silence to reflect upon the service and sacrifice of members of the United States Armed Forces both at home and abroad.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “It was through the brave and noble efforts of the Nation’s forefathers that the United States first gained freedom and became a sovereign nation;
- “There are more than 1,500,000 active and reserve component members of the Armed Forces serving the Nation in support and defense of the values and freedom that all Americans cherish;
- “The members of the Armed Forces deserve the utmost respect and admiration of their fellow Americans for putting their lives in danger for the sake of the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans;
- “Members of the Armed Forces are defending freedom and democracy around the globe and are playing a vital role in protecting the safety and security of all Americans;
- “The Nation officially celebrates and honors the accomplishments and sacrifices of veterans, patriots, and leaders who fought for freedom, but does not yet officially pay tribute to those who currently serve in the Armed Forces;
- “All Americans should participate in a moment of silence to support our troops; and
- “March 26th, 2008, is designated as ‘National Support Our Troops Day.’”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 953 was introduced on January 29, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. On February 11, 2008, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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