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Legislative Bulletin......July 14, 2010

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S. 1508—Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act of 2010 (Sen. Carper, D-DE)

<u>Order of Business</u>: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, July 14, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S. 1508 is a senate companion of H.R. 3393, which passed the House on April 28, 2010 by a voice vote. The Senate version makes several small changes to the bill and requires recovery contracts to provide credible evidence of fraud or vulnerabilities to fraud, and to conduct training of personnel on fraud identification. For more information on H.R. 3393, <u>click here</u> to review the RSC legislative bulletin circulated in April 28th.

Addition Information: The Improper Payments Reduction Act of 2002 requires federal agencies to annually identify programs and activities that may be susceptible to "significant improper payments." An improper payment as defined by the bill includes overpayments, underpayments, duplicate payments, payment to ineligible recipients, payments for ineligible services and payments for services not received. For each program and activity, the head of the agency must estimate the annual amount of improper payments and the amount in its annual budget and performance report under GPRA (The Government Performance and Results Act).

<u>Committee Action</u>: On July 23, 2009, S. 1508 was referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs. On June 23, 2010, the legislation passed the Senate, as amended, by unanimous consent and the bill was received in the House and held at the desk.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

<u>Cost to Taxpayers</u>: A CBO report citing the cost of enacting S. 1508 is unavailable.

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

<u>Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?</u> No.

<u>Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax</u>

<u>Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?</u> A committee report providing a statement that S.

1508 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(t) of rule XXI" is unavailable. However, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

<u>Constitutional Authority</u>: A committee report citing constitutional authority to enact S. 1508 is not available.

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H.R. 5390 - To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13301 Smith Road in Cleveland, Ohio, as the "David John Donafee Post Office Building" (*Kucinich*, *D-OH*)

<u>Order of Business</u>: The legislation is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, July 14, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill

Summary: H.R. 5390 would designate the United States Postal Service at 13301 Smith Road in Cleveland, Ohio, as the "David John Donafee Post Office Building."

<u>Additional Information</u>: David John Donafee was a letter carrier for the Postal Service for 14 years. He was struck by a car and killed on February 14, 2008 while delivering mail.

<u>Committee Action</u>: H.R. 5390 was introduced on May 25, 2010 and referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which held a markup and the legislation was agreed to by unanimous consent.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

<u>Cost to Taxpayers</u>: No CBO score is available, but the only costs associated with a U.S. post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

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

<u>Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?</u>: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax

Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

<u>Constitutional Authority</u>: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

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H.R. 4840 - An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1981 Cleveland Avenue in Columbus, Ohio, as the "Clarence D. Lumpkin Post Office" (Tiberi, R-OH)

<u>Order of Business</u>: The legislation is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, July 14, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill

<u>Summary</u>: H.R. 4840 would designate the United States Postal Service at located at 1981 Cleveland Avenue in Columbus, Ohio, as the "Clarence D. Lumpkin Post Office."

Additional Information: Clarence D. Lumpkin is a long time community activist in Linden, OH. Linden is a neighborhood located about three miles north of downtown Columbus that suffered a severe economic decline in the 1960's and 70's. He has affectionately referred to know as the "mayor of Linden."

Committee Action: H.R. 4840 was introduced on March 12, 2010 and referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which held a markup and the legislation was agreed to by unanimous consent. The House passed H.R. 4840 on March 21, 2010, by a roll call vote of 420 – 0. The legislation was then referred to the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Referral Security. A markup was held and the legislation was agreed to, as amended. H.R. 4840 was amended in the Senate to reflect an address change. The Senate passed the legislation on May 25, 2010, by unanimous consent.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

<u>Cost to Taxpayers</u>: No CBO score is available, but the only costs associated with a U.S. post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

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

<u>Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?</u>: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax

Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

<u>Constitutional Authority</u>: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

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H.R. 5450 - To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3894 Crenshaw Boulevard in Los Angeles, California, as the "Tom Bradley Post Office Building" (Watson, D-CA)

<u>Order of Business</u>: The legislation is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, July 14, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill

Summary: H.R. 5450 would designate the United States Postal Service at 3894 Crenshaw Boulevard in Los Angeles, California, as the "Tom Bradley Post Office Building."

<u>Additional Information</u>: Tom Bradley was mayor of Los Angeles for 20 years. He was the city's first African American mayor and was in office from 1973 – 1993. Mr. Bradley passed away September 29, 1998.

<u>Committee Action</u>: H.R. 5450 was introduced on May 27, 2010 and referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which held a markup and ordered the bill to be reported by unanimous consent on June 17, 2010.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

<u>Cost to Taxpayers:</u> No CBO score is available, but the only costs associated with a U.S. post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

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

<u>Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?</u>: No.

<u>Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax</u>

<u>Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?</u>: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

<u>Constitutional Authority</u>: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

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H.R. 5395 - To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 151 North Maitland Avenue in Maitland, Florida, as the "Paula Hawkins Post Office Building" (Mica, R-FL)

<u>Order of Business</u>: The legislation is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, July 14, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill

<u>Summary</u>: H.R. 5395 would designate the United States Postal Service at 151 North Maitland Avenue in Maitland, Florida, as the "Paula Hawkins Post Office Building."

<u>Additional Information</u>: Paula Hawkins served as a Republican Senator from Florida from 1981 to 1987. She was born in Salt Lake City, Utah and was a resident of Winter Park, FL, until her death on December 4, 2009. More information can be found <u>here</u>.

<u>Committee Action</u>: H.R. 5395 was introduced on May 25, 2010 and referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which held a markup on June 17, 2010 and agreed to the legislation by unanimous consent.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

<u>Cost to Taxpayers</u>: No CBO score is available, but the only costs associated with a U.S. post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

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

<u>Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?</u>: No.

<u>Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax</u>

<u>Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?</u>: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

<u>Constitutional Authority</u>: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

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H.J.Res. 83 - Approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 (Crowley, D-CO)

<u>Order of Business</u>: The legislation is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, July 14, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill

Summary: H.J.Res. 83 would approve the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

Background: According to Congressional Quarterly, the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 (PL 108-61) was enacted in response to human rights abuses and anti-democratic activities of the military regime ruling in Burma (i.e. Myanmar, the country's new name given by the military regime). The 2003 law prohibited the importation into the United States of any article produced, mined, manufactured, grown, or assembled in Burma. Under the law, the trade sanctions may be lifted if the President certifies to Congress that a series of conditions inside Burma have been met.

These conditions include "substantial and measurable progress to end human rights violations; the ruling military regime must no longer systematically violate workers' rights; measurable and substantial progress toward implementing a democratic government is made, including releasing all political prisoners, allowing freedom of speech and the press, freedom of association, and the peaceful exercise of religion; conclusion of an agreement between the military regime and opposition parties on the transfer of power to a civilian government through democratic elections under the rule of law; and Burma's cooperation with the United States on counternarcotics matters."

In 2003, before the sanctions took effect, trade between the United States and Myanmar was estimated to be approximately \$283 million, consisting of mostly garment and textile imports from Myanmar.

According to the White House, in early August 2006, President Bush signed a bill renewing the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, extending import

restrictions against the regime. According to the Administration, President Bush had "serious concerns about the Burmese regime's continuing refusal to act on its professed commitment to democratization." Additionally, Burma's neighbors in the Association of Southeast Nations have also recently condemned the regime's lack of substantial progress in returning to democracy. Current restrictions are set to expire July 28, 2007.

Additional Background: H.R. 2330, the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-61), passed the House of Representatives on July 15, 2003, by a vote of 418-2-1 (Roll Call 361). To view the RSC legislative bulletin on the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, click here: http://johnshadegg.house.gov/rsc/LB71403.pdf.

On June 21, 2005, the House passed H.J.Res. 52, which is identical to H.J.Res. 83. The resolution was agreed to, 423 - 2 (Roll Call 291).

<u>Committee Action</u>: H.J.Res. 83 was introduced on May 11, 2010 and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means, which took no public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score is unavailable.

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

<u>Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?</u>: No.

<u>Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax</u>

<u>Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?</u>: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

<u>Constitutional Authority</u>: A committee report citing Constitutional Authority is unavailable.

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