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Legislative Bulletin.....March 24, 2010

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H.R. 4899—Disaster Relief and Summer Jobs Act

**H.R. 4899—Disaster Relief and Summer Jobs Act
 (Obey, D-WI)**

Order of Business: The House will consider H.R. 4899 on Wednesday, March 24, 2010, under a closed rule that waives all points of order against the resolution except for clauses 9 (the earmark rule) and 10 of Rule XXI (PAYGO), and provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Appropriations Committee.

Summary: The legislation appropriates \$5.72 billion of new money, and rescinds \$620 million of previously appropriated money.

The legislation appropriates \$5.72 billion to the following programs:

- **\$5.1 billion**, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA);
- **\$600 million**, Training and Employment Services, Workforce Investment Act;
- **\$174,000**, to the standard payments to widows and heirs of deceased lawmakers (because of the death of Representative Murtha); and
- **\$20 million**, Small Business Administration, Business Loans Program Account.

The legislation rescinds \$620 million as follows:

- **\$111.5 million**, Digital-to-Analog Converter Box Program;
- **\$44.0 million**, Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save Program;
- **\$361.8 million**, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program;
- **\$102.7 million**, Rural Development Programs.

Emergency Designation: The legislation designates all new spending provided by the legislation as “emergency spending.”

Potential Conservative Concern: Many conservatives may be concerned that the legislation—by appropriating \$5.7 billion of new FY 2010 money (with rescissions that amount to just over \$600 million)—will increase the deficit by more than \$5 billion.

Committee Action: The legislation was introduced on March 21, 2010 and referred to the House Budget Committee, as well as the House Appropriations Committee. Neither committee considered the legislation.

Administration Position: The Statement of Administration Policy states that the Administration “strongly supports” passage of the bill (see [here](#)).

Cost to Taxpayers: The legislation appropriates more than \$5 billion in FY 2010.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: Yes, the bill appropriates more than \$5 billion in FY 2010.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No CBO report containing any potential mandates is available.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: No committee report citing potential earmarks is available.

Constitutional Authority: No committee report citing constitutional authority is available.

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