



Legislative Bulletin.....February 1, 2012

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**H.R. 3567—Welfare Integrity Now for Children and Families Act of 2011
(Boustany, R-LA)**

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on February 1, 2012, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The legislation prohibits TANF funds from being accessed at ATMs in strip clubs, liquor stores, and casinos. According to the committee, in California alone, almost \$5 million of TANF benefits were withdrawn from casinos during the three and a half years from January 2007 to the middle of 2010. This provision is enforced by requiring states to report back to the Secretary that they are implementing the provisions of the legislation, or lose 5 percent of TANF funds.

Additional Background: This legislation was part of the House-passed version of [H.R. 3630](#), the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act. The [Senate amendment](#), which became law, eliminated this provision. Instead, TANF funding was extended for two more months, through the end of February 2012, without including this provision.

Committee Action: The legislation was introduced on December 6, 2011. It was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee. The provisions of the bill previously passed as part of [H.R. 3630](#) and [H.R. 3659](#).

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

Cost to Taxpayers: No score is available at press time.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No, the legislation reduces the size of the federal government.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No CBO report with this information is available.

Does the Bill Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: The legislation does not appear to contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: According to the sponsor:

“Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, to ‘provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.’”

Note: Article VI, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution states that, “The Senators and Representatives...and all executive and judicial Officers...shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution.”

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H.R. 3835 - To extend the pay limitation for Members of Congress and Federal employees (Duffy, R-WI)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, February 1, 2012, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: [H.R. 3835](#) extends the pay limitation for Members of Congress and federal employees by an extra year, through the end of 2013.

Additional Information: This legislation includes language from last year’s pay freeze, included as part of the Continuing Appropriations and Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2011 ([P.L. 111-322](#); Section 1(a)), with a change in the year. This legislation does not include members of the military, but it does affect DOD civilian personnel. *Federal employees will still receive periodic step increases under this legislation.*

Committee Action: [H.R. 3835](#) was introduced on January 27, 2012, and referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform, and House Administration Committees, which took no public actions.

Administration Position: According to press reports (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/cheats/2012/01/06/obama-to-propose-federal-pay-increase.html>), the Obama Administration will propose a 0.5% pay increase for federal workers in his FY 2013 Budget Proposal.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO report was unavailable at press time; however, committee estimates potential savings of \$26.2 billion.

Constitutional Authority: According to its sponsor:

“To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.” (Article I, Section 8, Clause 18)

Constitutional Authority may also be derived from:

“The Senators and Representatives shall receive a compensation for their services, to be ascertained by law, and paid out of the treasury of the United States.” (Article I, Section 6, Clause 1)

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H.Res. 496 – Adjusting the amount provided for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress (Lungren, R-CA)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, February 1, 2012, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 496 adjusts the authorization levels for committee expenses (including committee staff salaries) of all select and standing committees of the House of Representatives (except the Committee on Appropriations) for the 2nd session of the 112th Congress. House Rule X, clause 6 requires the Committee on House Administration to report an expense resolution granting authorization for the expenses of all select and standing committees except for the Committee on Appropriations.

On March 17, 2011, the House passed by voice vote an expense resolution ([H. Res. 147](#)) that represented a 5% *decrease* of funding levels compared to the previous year. This expense resolution represents another decrease of **6.4%** in the aggregate compared to last year’s funding levels. According to the Committee [report](#), the funding levels for the Armed Services Committee and Committee on Ethics will not be reduced, while the remaining committees will receive reductions.¹

Committee Action: Representative Dan Lungren (R-CA) introduced H.Res. 496 on December 14, 2011. Prior to introduction, the Committee held an oversight hearing on November 30, 2011 to receive testimony from the Chairmen and Ranking Members of House committees to review their 2012 budgets.² The full Committee marked up and reported H.Res. 496 favorably on December 16, 2011, by voice vote.

¹ Beginning at the bottom of page two, the committee [report](#) shows the funding amounts for each committee included in H.Res. 496.

² Section 3(c) of H. Res. 147 requires that none of the funds authorized for the 2nd congressional session be spent after March 15, 2012 until the Chairs and Ranking Members present testimony before the Committee on House Administration justifying their use of authorized funds in the 1st congressional session.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) has been released.

Cost to Taxpayers: The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not released a cost estimate for H.Res. 496.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No. The expense resolution reduces the committee budgets by 6.4% compared to last year's expenses.

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?: The Committee report number [112-362](#) explains that H.Res. 496 does "...not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits..."

Constitutional Authority: Article I, Section 5 of the Constitution authorizes the House to determine the rules of its own proceedings. H.Res. 496 is in accord with Rule X of the 112th House Rules.

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