



**Legislative Bulletin.....March 1, 2012**

**Contents:**

**H.Res. 562** — Directing the Office of the Historian to compile oral histories from Members of the House of Representatives involved in the historic and annual Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, marches, as well as the civil rights movement in general, for the purposes of expanding or augmenting the historic record and for public dissemination and education

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**H.Res. 562 — Directing the Office of the Historian to compile oral histories from Members of the House of Representatives involved in the historic and annual Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, marches, as well as the civil rights movement in general, for the purposes of expanding or augmenting the historic record and for public dissemination and education (*Sewell, D-AL*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Thursday, March 1, 2012 under suspension of the rules.

**Summary:** The resolution directs the Office of the Historian to compile oral histories from current and former Members of the House of Representatives involved in the historic and annual Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, marches, as well as the civil rights movement in general. The Office of the Historian, first established in 1983, researches, preserves, and interprets the rich institutional history of the House of Representatives in order to share it with Members, staff, and the public, and serves as the institutional memory to inspire greater understanding of the House of Representatives’ central role in United States history.

**Additional Background:** The bill provides the following historical information:

In 1965, civil rights advocates participated in three marches from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, marking a watershed moment of the civil rights movement. The first march took place on March 7, 1965, during which 600 civil rights activists, led by now-Representative John Lewis and Reverend Hosea Williams, began a march to protest unfair voter registration practices and the shooting death of Jimmie Lee Jackson during a voter registration drive.

Two days later, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., led a march of 2,000 people to the Edmund Pettus Bridge, all kneeling there to pray. On March 21, 1965, with protection from the Alabama National Guard, more than 3,000 people set out from Selma again led by Rev. King, marching an average of 12 miles a day along Route 80. That group grew to 25,000 participants by the time it

reached Montgomery on March 25, 1965, where Rev. King delivered one of his most venerated speeches. Five months after the third march, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In 1996, Congress passed legislation creating the 54-mile long Selma-to-Montgomery National Historic Trail along the route of this third march. Beginning in 1998, Members of Congress have participated in an annual civil rights pilgrimage to the Selma-to-Montgomery National Historic Trail, to visit the historic sites, participate in fellowship, and recognize the achievements of the civil rights movement.

**Committee Action:** Rep. Terri Sewell (D-AL) introduced H.Res. 562 on February 27, 2012. No further committee action has occurred on the resolution.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy is available at press time.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** There is no accompanying CBO report.

**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?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there is 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.

**Constitutional Authority:** House rules do not require a statement of constitutional authority for House Resolutions.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Rick Eberstadt, [Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov](mailto:Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-9720