



Legislative Bulletin January 18, 2011

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S.Con.Res. 2 - A concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for an event marking the 50th anniversary of the inaugural address of President John F. Kennedy
(Sen. Kerry, D-MA)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, January 18, 2011, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: S.Con.Res. 2 would authorize the rotunda of the United States Capitol to be used for a ceremony in honor of the 50th anniversary of the inaugural address of President John F. Kennedy. This resolution states that physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony will be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

This resolution contains a number of findings, including:

- “John Fitzgerald Kennedy was elected to the United States House of Representatives and served from January 3, 1947, to January 3, 1953, until he was elected by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to the Senate where he served from January 3, 1953, to December 22, 1960;
- “On November 8, 1960, John Fitzgerald Kennedy was elected as the 35th President of the United States; and
- “On January 20, 1961, President Kennedy was sworn in as President of the United States and delivered his inaugural address at 12:51pm, a speech that served as a clarion call to service for the Nation.”

Committee Action: S.Con.Res. 2 was introduced on January 5, 2011, and passed the Senate on January 5, 2011, without amendment, by unanimous consent. The legislation was then held at the desk.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is provided.

Cost to Taxpayers: A report from CBO was unavailable 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?: 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.

Constitutional Authority: House rules do not require constitutional authority statements from sponsors of resolutions. Article I, Section 5, states: "*Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two thirds, expel a member.*" [*emphasis added*]

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H.R. 292—Stop the Over Printing (STOP) Act (Lee, R-NY)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, January 18, 2011, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 292 would eliminate the mandatory printing of bills and resolutions by the Government Printing Office (GPO) for the use of the House of Representatives and Senate within three months of enactment. Specifically, the bill would amend Chapter 7, Title 44 of U.S. code to require bills and concurrent resolutions be made available for the use only in an electronic format, which is accessible through the Internet.

Additional Background: According to the GPO budget estimation, the printing of bills, resolutions, and amendments will cost more than \$5.7 million for FY 2011. Created by Congress in 1861, the GPO prints and contracts with private companies for the production of documents produced by and for the federal government. The GPO receives its appropriations and authorizations for its revolving fund through the annual Legislative Branch Appropriations Act. The GPO revolving fund consists of appropriations for the cost of congressional printing and another for cataloging, indexing, distribution and online access to government documents.

GOP is Going Green: For every day the House is in session, each office receives copies of the Congressional Record, Federal Register, and various other publications printed by the GPO. While some of these items are good resources for staff, most of them are immediately filed in the blue recycling bin because all of these publications ***are available online before the hard copy is even received.*** H.R. 292 would make progress forward in stopping the perpetual never ending cycle of printing, recycling the paper, printing, and so on. While the bill may cost a few individuals their "green job" at the paper recycling

plant, the legislation will save taxpayers money and reduce waste – making the Capitol more efficient and environmentally conscious.

Committee Action: On January 12, 2011, the bill was introduced and referred to the Committee on House Administration, which took no further subsequent public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is provided.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO cost estimate for H.R. 292 is not provided. However, the bill reduces spending by an estimated \$35 million over ten years.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No, the bill reduces federal spending by an estimated \$35 million over ten years.

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: Article 1, Section 5, Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings.

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