

HOW VOTED

Here's how area House members voted on major issues in the week ending Oct. 28. The Senate was in recess. NV means "did not vote."

HOUSE

Repeal of contractors' law

Voting 405-16, the House on Oct. 27 sent the Senate a bill (HR 674) repealing a law affecting some companies that receive government contracts on the federal, state and local levels. Scheduled to take effect in 2013, the law is seen by critics as a paperwork burden that will slow job-creation, while defenders say it will crack down on tax cheats and boost IRS collections. This bill would reduce federal revenue by \$11 billion over 10 years and use a tightening of the 2010 health law (HR 2576, below) to offset the loss.

The law targeted by this bill is aimed at vendors who owe back taxes to the federal government at the same time they receive government contracts. It requires 3 percent of the contract to be withheld deposited with the IRS as a credit to the company's federal income-tax obligation. The law applies to contracts awarded by federal or nonfederal units of government that award at least \$100 million annually to vendors.

Dave Camp, R-Mich., said "repeal of the 3 percent withholding law is a demonstration that Washington can work together. With a strong bipartisan vote, we can reduce the uncertainty facing America's job creators, and we can free up valuable resources businesses can use for hiring."

Pete Stark, D-Calif., said the bill should be paid for by ending oil companies' tax breaks rather than trimming the new health law. "Clearly, Republicans believe the needs of the highly profitable oil and gas industry outweigh the need for early retirees and people with disabilities to afford health insurance," he said.

A yes vote was to pass the bill.

rules to make it harder for as many as 500,000 low- and middle-income individuals and families to qualify for either Medicaid, taxpayer-subsidized private insurance or Children's Health Insurance under the 2010 health law. The bill (HR 2576) would start defining nontaxable Social Security benefits as income in determining eligibility for coverage under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Now before the Senate, the bill would reduce spending by \$13 billion over 10 years and use the savings to pay for an unrelated bill (HR 674, above).

Under the health law, nontaxable Social Security benefits are excluded from the means test for receiving subsidies such as tax credits for buying coverage in state-run insurance exchanges. Nor does the health law count nontaxable Social Security payments

in determining eligibility for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Social Security benefits of up to \$25,000 annually for individuals and \$32,000 for couples filing jointly are not taxed if they comprise all or nearly all of the recipient's income. Some benefits above those thresholds also are exempted from taxation, depending on income definitions and personal circumstances.

A yes vote was to pass the bill.

	Yes	No	NV
Brian Bilbray R	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susan Davis D	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bob Filner D	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Duncan Hunter R	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Darrell Issa R	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Health law eligibility

Voting 262-157, the House on Oct. 27 tightened income

	Yes	No	NV
Brian Bilbray R	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Susan Davis D</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bob Filner D	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>
Duncan Hunter R	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Darrell Issa R	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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