



Legislative Bulletin.....October 1, 2013

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 - H.J. Res. 71 – Provide Local Funding for the District of Columbia Act
 - H.J. Res. 72 – Honoring Our Promise to America’s Veterans Act
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Order of Business: These bills are scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, October 1, 2013, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bills.

Summary: This collection of bills provides short-term funding through December 15, 2013, to a number of areas of government:

- Department of Interior and Others ([H.J. Res. 70](#)): This bill provides continuing appropriations through at FY2013 post-sequestration levels for a number of popular educational and recreational destinations including:
 - National Parks (Department of Interior)
 - United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
 - Smithsonian Institution
 - National Gallery of Art
- District of Columbia ([H.J. Res. 71](#)): This bill allows the District of Columbia to expend local funds (federal authorization through the annual appropriations process is required for this expenditure) for programs and activities under title IV, heading “District of Columbia Funds,” of H.R. 2786 (text [here](#)) and under the authority and conditions provided in the recently expired FY2013 continuing resolution (H.R. 933, [P.L. 113-6](#)). To read CRS analysis regarding funding (both federal and local) of the District of Columbia’s budget, click [here](#).
- Veterans Affairs ([H.J. Res. 72](#)): This bill provides short term funding to be made available for the account General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration consistent with the authority and conditions provided in the recently expired FY2013 continuing resolution ([P.L. 113-6](#)). The Veterans Benefits Administration is responsible for a variety of activities including compensation, pensions, and education assistance. Funding in this short-term bill is provided at an annual rate of \$2,455,490,000 billion compared to the annual funding rate of \$2,164,074,000 provided in P.L. 113-6. The funding rate provided

in this bill is consistent with the funding rate provided in the House-passed short-term continuing resolution for FY 2014, [H.J. Res. 59](#).

Additional Background: During the 1995/1996 shutdown the Republican House similarly acted with short-term, targeted funding for non-controversial items including Veterans Affairs and the District of Columbia. Click [here](#) to read the CRS report. Note: The District of Columbia has significant contingency reserve funds available (enough for nine days of operations) without action on this bill (memo from the District of Columbia [here](#), Washington Post article on the \$144 million fund [here](#))

Administration Position: The White House has issued a veto threat.

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 Contain Any Federal Encroachment into State or Local Authority in Potential Violation of the 10th Amendment?: No.

Does the Bill Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?: No.

Outside Organizations: The Club for Growth has issued a statement of support for this package of bills.

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