



**Legislative Bulletin.....December 9, 2014**

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**H.R. 5705 – Propane Education and Research Enhancement Act of 2014  
(Rep. Latta, R-OH)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on December 10, 2014, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority for passage.

**Summary:** [H.R. 5705](#), the Propane Education and Research Enhancement Act of 2014, would amend section 5(f) of the [Propane Education and Research Act of 1996](#) by directing the [Propane Education and Research Council](#) to train propane distributors and consumers in strategies to mitigate negative effects of future propane price spikes. The bill would also direct the Secretary of Commerce to use the refiner price to end users of consumer grade propane, as published by the [Energy Information Administration](#), when preparing the annual analysis of changes in the price of propane.

**Additional Information:** A list of cosponsors to H.R. 5705 can be found [here](#). A press release from the bill’s sponsor can be found [here](#).

**Committee Action:** The bill was introduced on November 13, 2014, and was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available.

**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 CBO estimate is available.

**Constitutional Authority:** Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, cl. 3. The Congress shall have the power . . . to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the states, and with Indian Tribes.

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**H.R. 5185 – EARLY Act Reauthorization of 2014, as amended —**  
***(Rep. Wasserman-Schultz, D - FL)***

**Order of Business:** [H.R. 5185](#) is scheduled for consideration on December 9, 2014, under a suspension of the rules, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

**Summary:** This bill reauthorizes the [Young Women’s Breast Health Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009](#). The program is reauthorized through fiscal year 2019 and authorized to be appropriated at \$4,900,000 for each fiscal year.

In addition, the bill directs the GAO to submit a report to Congress detailing the activities the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provides that support breast cancer education and identifying duplicative activities.

**Major Changes Since the Last Time This Legislation was Before the House:** This program was originally authorized as part of the [Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act](#), (Sec. 10413) which passed the House on March 21, 2010, by a vote of [219-212](#).

**Additional Background:** This program established a national education campaign to increase young women’s awareness regarding breast health, the occurrence of breast cancer in specific racial and ethnic backgrounds, and the availability of health information to those diagnosed with breast cancer. A health care professional education campaign was also established with the goal of increasing awareness among health care providers on the early diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer in young women, how to provide counseling, and when to refer patients to a genetics expert. Finally, the [Centers for Disease Control](#) was directed to conduct prevention research on breast cancer in younger women.

**Committee Action:** This bill was introduced by Representative Wasserman-Schultz on July 24, 2014, and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce where it awaits further action.

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

**Cost to Taxpayers:** No CBO score is available at this time.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** This bill reauthorizes a program that expired at the end of fiscal year 2014.

**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 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment?:** No.

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

**Does the Bill Contain Any Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:**

**Constitutional Authority:** According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: “The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States, as enumerated in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, and to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution such power as enumerated in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.”

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## **H.R. 5764 — Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2014 (Joyce, R-OH)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 5764 is expected to be considered on December 9, 2018, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority for passage.

**Summary:** H.R. 5764 codifies and authorizes the [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative](#) in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Initiative would prioritize projects to address:

- “the remediation of toxic substances and areas of concern;
- the prevention and control of invasive species and the impacts of invasive species;
- the protection and restoration of nearshore health and the prevention and mitigation of nonpoint source pollution;
- habitat and wildlife protection and restoration, including wetlands restoration and preservation; and
- accountability, monitoring, evaluation, communication, and partnership activities”

H.R. 5764 would authorize the appropriation of \$300 million per year in Fiscal Year 2015 through FY 2019, a level that is consistent with current funding. The EPA is given authority to transfer funds to other federal agencies to carry out activities to support the Initiative.

**Additional Background:** According to [CRS](#), the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative was established by the Obama Administration in 2010. Since it was created, the Initiative has received \$1.37 billion in appropriations. In FY 2014, the Initiative was provided \$300 million.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 5764 was introduced on November 20, 2014, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The Committee took no further action on the bill.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO report is not available at this time. H.R. 5764 would authorize \$1.5 billion over the 2015 – 2019 period, subject to appropriations.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** Yes, H.R. 5764 would codify a program that had not previously been authorized by Congress.

**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 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment?:** No.

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

**Does the Bill Contain Any Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8, Clause [sic] 3 of the United States Constitution.”

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**S. 2759 — A bill to release the City of St. Clair, Missouri, from all restrictions, conditions, and limitations on the use, encumbrance, conveyance, and closure of the St. Clair Regional Airport (*McCaskill, D-MO*)**

**Order of Business:** S. 2759 is expected to be considered on December 9, 2018, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority for passage.

**Summary:** S. 2759 would require the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to release the City of St. Clair, Missouri, from restrictions that apply to the St. Clair Regional Airport, allowing the airport to close. Before the restrictions are lifted, the City must pay the Missouri Department

of Transportation fair market value for the airport property, the value of remaining federal grants, and the remaining airport revenue.

**Committee Action:** S. 2759 was introduced on July 31, 2014, and referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. The Committee marked up and reported the bill on [September 17, 2014](#). S. 2759 was passed by the Senate by unanimous consent on December 3, 2014. On December 4, 2014, the bill was referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee which took no further action.

**Outside Groups:**

**Opposition:**

[Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association](#)  
[National Air Transportation Association](#)  
[General Aviation Manufacturers Association](#)  
[National Business Aviation Association](#)

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to [CBO](#), S. 2759 would “have no significant effect on the federal budget.”

**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 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment?:** No.

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

**Does the Bill Contain Any Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** A Constitutional authority statement is not available at this time.

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**H.R. 1378 — To designate the United States courthouse located at 333 West Broadway in San Diego, California, as the "James M. Carter and Judith N. Keep United States Courthouse" (*Peters, D-CA*)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 1378 is expected to be considered on December 8, 2018, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority for passage.

**Summary:** H.R.1378 would designate the U.S. Federal Judicial Center and the U.S. courthouse located at 333 West Broadway in San Diego, California, as the "John Rhoades Federal Judicial Center" and the "James M. Carter and Judith N. Keep United States Courthouse".

**Additional Background:** According to the [Committee Report](#), "John S. Rhoades, Sr. was a United States federal judge on the United States District Court for the Southern District of California for 22 years... Judith N. Keep was a United States federal judge on the United States District Court for the Southern District of California for 24 years... James M. Carter was a United States federal judge on the United States District Court for the Southern District of California for 17 years."

**Committee Action:** H.R. 1378 was introduced on March 21, 2013 and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The Committee marked up and reported the bill by voice vote on [February 11, 2014](#).

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to [CBO](#), H.R. 1378 "would have no significant impact on the federal budget."

**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 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment?:** No.

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

**Does the Bill Contain Any Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8."

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## **H.R. 5059 – Clay Hunt SAV Act, as amended — (*Rep. Walz, D-MN*)**

**Order of Business:** [H.R. 5059](#) is scheduled for consideration on 2014, under a suspension of the rules, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

**Summary:** This bill directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct annual evaluations, administered by a third-party, of the mental health care and suicide prevention programs at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The evaluations will use metrics that are common among practitioners in the field, identify the most effective programs administered at the VA, identify

the cost-effectiveness of each program, measure the satisfaction of care of patients, and propose best practices for those who suffer from mental health disorders or are at risk of suicide. The Secretary will submit, no later than December 1 of each year, a report which contains the most recent evaluations and any recommendations the Secretary considers appropriate.

The Secretary is directed to publish a website that serves as a centralized source to provide veterans with information regarding all the mental health care services provided by the Secretary within the [Veteran Integrated Service Network](#). This information is to be updated at least every 90 days.

This bill establishes a pilot program carried out by the Secretary that would repay the medical education loans of those licensed to practice psychiatric medicine in the VA, or those enrolled in their final year of a residency program in psychiatric medicine. Those who are selected will be required to serve a period of at least two years of obligated service for the Veterans Health Administration in the field of psychiatric medicine. No more than \$30,000 will be paid in loan repayments for each year of obligated service. In the event an individual does not satisfy the requirements of their service, the individual will be liable for the amount that has been paid. No later than two years after the date of the commencement of the pilot program, the Secretary will submit a report to Congress on the number of individuals who participated, their location of service, the quality of the work performed, and the number of psychiatrists the Secretary determines is needed. This pilot program will terminate three years after the date it begins.

This bill authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program to assist veterans transitioning from active duty and to improve the access of veterans to mental health services. This program will take place in at least five Veterans Integrated Service Networks. This program will include a community oriented veteran peer support network and a community outreach team for each medical center. A report will be submitted to Congress 18 months after the program commences giving a detailed account of the peer support model and how to make it Department wide, the effectiveness of the mental health resources under the pilot program, and a full description of the effectiveness of the community outreach team. This pilot project will terminate three years after it commences.

This bill encourages the collaboration between the Secretary and non-profit mental health care organizations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of suicide prevention efforts.

Finally, the bill allows for an additional year of eligibility for VA health care services for certain veterans whose five year combat eligibility period recently expired.

No additional funds are appropriated to carry out this Act.

**Additional Background:** According to the [VA](#), in 2011 the VA provided mental health care to about 1.3 million veterans. Although the VA has many entry points of care, the [GAO](#) noted certain barriers of entry that may hinder veterans from seeking mental health care. These barriers include a lack of awareness or understanding of the services offered, logistical issues, and the stigma associated with receiving care. The [2012 Suicide Report](#) produced by the VA

noted the percentage of all suicides reported has decreased; however, the actual number of suicides has increased.

**Committee Action:** This bill was introduced by Representative Walz on July 10, 2014, and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and the Committee on Armed Services, where it awaits further action.

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

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to Section 8 of the bill, no additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act, and this Act will be carried out using amounts otherwise made available to the VA within its existing budget authority. [CBO](#) estimates total changes in spending to be \$22 million for fiscal years 2015-2019.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** This bill establishes two new pilot projects at the VA.

**Does the Bill Contain Any Federal Encroachment into State or Local Authority in Potential Violation of the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment?:** No.

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

**Constitutional Authority:** According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: "This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution."

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**NOTE:** *RSC Legislative Bulletins are for informational purposes only and should not be taken as statements of support or opposition from the Republican Study Committee.*

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