



H.R. 360 —Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2015, as amended (Rep. Pearce, R-NM)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE: MARCH 23, 2015 UNDER A MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND PASS THE BILL

TOPLINE SUMMARY: [H.R. 360](#) would reauthorize the [Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996](#) (NAHASDA) for five years through Fiscal Year (FY) 2019.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: Some have expressed concern that this legislation would exempt Hawaii from certain federal civil rights requirements—including the Civil Rights Act and Fair Housing Act—thereby allowing Hawaii to prioritize housing benefits for individuals who qualify as “native Hawaiians” over other groups.

- **Expand the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

COST: No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available. The CBO estimate for H.R. 4329 can be found [here](#). According to CBO’s estimate for H.R. 4329, the bill would increase outlays by more than \$2 billion over the 2015-2019 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: The authorization for these programs had expired at the end of Fiscal FY 2013. These programs provide housing subsidies to tribal governments for the benefit of Native Americans. The bill would allow tribal governments additional flexibility to implement affordable housing programs by requiring the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Specifically, this bill would require HUD to act within 60 days on waiver requests and would allow the use of Indian reserve accounts for affordable housing.

The bill would authorize appropriations of \$650 million per year from 2015 to 2019 for the Native American Housing Block Grant Program. The prior authorization allowed appropriations of “such sums as may be necessary,” and in FY 2014 \$650 million was appropriated. This program provides funding to tribal governments to build and manage affordable housing projects for low-income Native Americans.

The bill would create a new program to benefit homeless Native American veterans and those at risk of homelessness, using not less than five percent of the funds appropriated for the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program. The bill would authorize appropriations of \$12.2 million per year from FY 2015 to 2019 for Loan Guarantees for Indian Housing. This program provides funding to tribal governments to build and rehabilitate housing on tribal lands.

An identical bill ([H.R. 4329](#)) was introduced in the House and passed by voice vote on December 2, 2014 in the 113th Congress. The RSC's legislative bulletin for H.R. 4329 can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION: This bill was introduced on January 14, 2015 and was referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: No statement of administration position is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

H.R. 233—Tenant Income Verification Relief Act of 2015 (Rep. Perlmutter, D-CO)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE: MARCH 23, 2015 UNDER A MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND PASS THE BILL

TOPLINE SUMMARY: [H.R. 233](#) would amend the [United States Housing Act of 1937](#) by authorizing public housing authorities to undertake a triennial review of a low-income family's income for eligibility for housing assistance under Public Housing or Section 8 (rental assistance voucher program) where the source of income is fixed.

COST: No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: Some conservatives may be concerned that this legislation would lengthen the income eligibility review period from one year to three. Proponents of this legislation argue that moving to a triennial review reduces duplication and administrative costs.

- **Expand the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: H.R. 233 would prohibit the public housing agency or owner from being required to conduct a review of the family's income for any year for which a family certifies that 90 percent or more of the income of the family consists of fixed income. The bill would require the public housing agency or owner to review each such family's income at least once every three years, and to review a family's income receiving Section 8 at least once every three years.

COMMITTEE ACTION: This bill was introduced on January 8, 2015 and referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: No statement of administration position is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 1.

H.R. 216—Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Planning Reform Act of 2015 (Brown, D-FL)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE: MARCH 23, 2015 UNDER A SUSPENSION OF THE RULES, WHICH REQUIRES TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR PASSAGE.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: This bill would make changes at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with the goal of preparing long-term estimates for expenditures and needed resources. It would also establish a quadrennial review to assess the strategy for meeting the commitments made to veterans.

COST: There is not an updated Congressional Budget Office cost analysis at this time.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: There are no substantive conservative concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: This bill would establish a Future Years Veterans Program (FYVP) that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs would submit to Congress. The FYVP would (1) reflect the estimated expenditures and proposed appropriations included in the president's budget; (2) cover the fiscal year for the budget and the four succeeding fiscal years; and (3) set a five-year plan to ensure that the US meets its commitment to veterans.

Beginning no later than 2019 and every fourth year after that, the secretary would conduct a review of the strategy for meeting its resource goals. Each quadrennial review would include a comprehensive examination of policies and strategies with respect to veterans. The secretary would submit a report to the Veterans' Affairs Committees in the House and Senate with: (1) the results of the quadrennial review; (2) challenges and opportunities for veterans-related interests; (3) strategy for meeting the nation's commitment to veterans; (4) a description of interagency cooperation; and (5) assumptions made in conducting the review.

In quadrennial review years, the secretary would establish an Independent Veterans Review Panel composed of ten members. The panel will review the work being done by the secretary and provide recommendations to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs in the House and the Senate.

The Secretary would designate the assistant secretary, whose duties include planning and evaluations, as the chief strategy officer. The chief strategy officer would advise the secretary on long-range strategy and implications.

No additional funds would be authorized to be appropriated to carry out this act.

COMMITTEE ACTION: This bill was introduced by Representative Brown on January 8, 2015, and referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. There was a [legislative hearing](#) held on January 27, 2015, and a [mark-up](#) was held on February 12, 2015. The bill was ordered to be reported out, as amended, by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: No statement of administration policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: “Article I, Section 8, Clause 18--The Congress shall have Power To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

H. Res. 53—Condemning the cowardly attack on innocent men, women, and children in the northeastern Nigerian town of Baga, as amended (Rep. Kelly, D-IL)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE: MARCH 23, 2015 UNDER A MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND PASS THE BILL

TOPLINE SUMMARY: [H. Res. 53](#) would condemn the bloody attack against civilians in the northeastern Nigerian town of Baga by [Boko Haram](#), a radical Salafist Islamist terrorist organization.

COST: No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: There are no major substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: The resolution would express strong support for the people of Nigeria, especially those individuals in northeastern Nigeria, including the town of Baga, who have been terrorized, abducted, trafficked by Boko Haram. The resolution would:

- condemn Boko Haram for its violent attacks on civilian targets, including schools, mosques, churches, villages, and markets in Nigeria;
- expresses concern about the possibility of an expanded relationship between Boko Haram and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in light of Boko Haram’s pledge of allegiance to ISIL;
- encourage the Government of Nigeria to strengthen efforts to protect civilians from the terrorists of Boko Haram, including through cooperation with neighboring countries and other international actors;
- urge all political candidates to uphold the commitments outlined in the “[Abuja Accord](#)” and the Government of Nigeria to hold their elections without further delay on March 28, 2015;
- remain committed to protecting democratic principles and universal human rights worldwide;
- support United States assistance to the Government of Nigeria to combat Boko Haram and search for those who have been abducted by Boko Haram; and
- applaud the countries of the region and the African Union for their efforts to establish a regional security force, which will include Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, and Benin, to combat Boko Haram and supports offers of robust security assistance to strengthen the force’s capacity.

The bill would address the recent January 3, 2015 Boko Haram attack against innocent civilians in the northeastern Nigerian town of [Baga](#). According to the findings of the resolution, the Islamist terrorist group, designated as a [United States Foreign Terrorist Organization](#) in November 2013, has killed over 5,000 people in Nigeria in 2014 alone and displaced over 1,000,000 innocent people.

COMMITTEE ACTION: This bill was introduced on January 27, 2015 and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: No statement of administration position is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: No constitutional authority statement is available.

H. Res. ____ —Calling on the President to provide Ukraine with military assistance to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity (Rep. Engel, D-NY)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE: MARCH 23, 2015 UNDER A MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND PASS THE BILL

TOPLINE SUMMARY: [H. Res. ____](#) would urge the president to provide the government of Ukraine with military assistance to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity against Russian aggression.

COST: No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: There are no major substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: The resolution **would** strongly urge the president to fully and immediately exercise his authority to provide Ukraine with lethal defensive weapon systems to defend against the Russian Federation's aggression.

According to the findings of the bill, the Russian Federation under President Vladimir Putin has engaged in relentless political, economic, and military aggression to subvert the independence and violate the territorial integrity of Ukraine. Russian military and security forces have been infiltrated into these areas of Ukraine and continue to provide direct combat support to the Russian-backed separatist groups currently engaged in combat against the legitimate government of Ukraine, in clear violation of the [1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances](#).

The Russian government has also provided these separatists with [advanced weaponry](#) for the purpose of destabilizing Ukraine. Russian aggression in this conflict continues to pose a serious threat to U.S. national interests in the region and many NATO treaty allies. The resolution is consistent with [H.R. 5859](#) the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014, which passed the House by unanimous consent and signed into law on December 18, 2014. The law specifically authorizes the provision of anti-armor weapons, crew-served weapons and

ammunition, counter-artillery radars, fire control, range finder, and optical and guidance and control equipment, tactical troop-operated surveillance drones, and secure command and communications equipment to allow the Ukrainian military to defend itself against the persistent onslaught of Russian-equipped rebel attacks.

COMMITTEE ACTION: This bill was introduced on March 20, 2015 and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: No statement of administration position is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: No constitutional authority statement is available.

H.R. 1092—To designate the Federal building located at 2030 Southwest 145th Avenue in Miramar, Florida, as the "Benjamin P. Grogan and Jerry L. Dove Federal Bureau of Investigation Miami Field Office" (Wilson, R-FL)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE: H.R. 1092 IS EXPECTED TO BE CONSIDERED ON MARCH 24, 2015, UNDER S SUSPENSION OF THE RULES.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: This bill would designate the FBI Miami Field office as the Benjamin P. Grogan and Jerry L. Dove Federal Bureau of Investigation Miami Field Office.

COST: A CBO estimate is not available at this time.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand** the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No
- **Encroach** into State or Local Authority?: No
- **Delegate** Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?: **No**
- **Contain** Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: No

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: FBI Special Agents [Jerry Dove](#) and [Benjamin Grogan](#) were killed in the line of duty in Miami, Florida, in 1986.

COMMITTEE ACTION: H.R. 1092 was introduced on February 25, 2015, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The committee took no further action on the bill.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18."

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