



Legislative Bulletin July 31, 2013

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H.R. 2711 – Citizen Empowerment Act (Jenkins, R-KS)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on July 31, 2013, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary: H.R. 2711 allows individuals to record in-person or telephone interactions with employees of an Executive agency. This right is extended to any person who is allowed to represent individuals before an Executive agency.

The employee’s participation in an in-person or telephone interaction shall constitute consent by the employee to have the interaction recorded.

A notice of the individual’s right to record these conversations shall be included in any written material that is provided by an Executive agency to the individual concerning an audit, investigation, inspection, or enforcement action that could result in the imposition of a fine, forfeiture of property, civil monetary penalty, or criminal penalty against, or the collection of an unpaid tax, fine, or penalty from, such individual or a business owned or operated by such individual.

Within 180 days after enactment, each Executive agency shall post prominently on their website information explaining the right to record interactions.

Outside Organizations: The following outside organizations are supporting passage of H.R. 2711:

- National Taxpayers Union

Committee Action: H.R. 2711 was introduced on July 17, 2013, and was referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and the House Judiciary Committee. The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee held a [markup on July 24, 2013](#), and favorably reported the legislation, as amended, by voice vote.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO score is available as of 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 Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: The legislation does not contain earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

Constitutional Authority: According to the sponsor, “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18,--“To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.” To better insure the due process rights guaranteed in Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.” Rep. Jenkins’s statement in the Congressional Record can be [viewed here](#).

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576.

H.R. 2579 – Government Employee Accountability Act (Kelly, R-PA)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on July 31, 2013, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary: H.R. 2579 allows federal agencies the ability to place employees on investigative leave, without loss of pay, for misconduct, neglect of duty, malfeasance, or misappropriation of funds. If the agency determines that the employee’s conduct is flagrant and intentional, the agency may place the employee on investigative leave without pay.

Agencies are directed to review the investigations into employees' misconduct every 45 days. This review shall be described in a report that is sent to Congress within five business days after the end of each 45-day period. Agencies are allowed to extend this period of investigative leave for an additional 90 days.

The agencies are directed to either:

- remove an employee placed on investigative leave
- suspend such employee without pay; or
- reinstate or restore such employee to duty.

Before an employee is placed in investigative leave, the legislation entitles them to 30 days advance written notice stating the specific reasons for the proposed action. Employees are not entitled to the 30 days advanced notice when there is a reasonable cause to believe that the employee has committed a crime that is punishable by imprisonment, or if the agency determines that the employee's conduct is flagrant and intentional. Employees are also allowed to be represented by an attorney and are allowed at least seven days to answer orally and in writing evidence in their support.

The legislation directs agency heads to remove employees for serious neglect of duty, misappropriation of funds, or malfeasance if the head of the agency:

- determines that the employee knowingly acted in a manner that endangers the interest of the agency mission;
- considers the removal to be necessary or advisable in the interests of the United States; and
- determines that the procedures prescribed in other provisions of law that authorize the removal of such employee cannot be invoked in a manner that the head of an agency considers consistent with the efficiency of the Government.

Employees removed from their positions shall receive notification that the employee is entitled to submit to the agency head statements or affidavits to show why the employee should be restored to duty within 30 days after the removal. Agency heads are to notify Congress when such terminations occur.

Outside Organizations: The following outside organizations are supporting passage of H.R. 2579:

- National Taxpayers Union

Additional Information: Similar legislation, H.R. 6016, passed the House of Representatives on December 19, 2012, by a [roll call vote of 402-2](#). The RSC Legislative Bulletin for H.R. 6016 can be [viewed here](#).

Committee Action: H.R. 2579 was introduced on June 28, 2013, and was referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. The full committee held a

[markup on July 24, 2013](#), and favorably reported the legislation, as amended, by voice vote.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO score is available as of 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 Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: The legislation does not contain earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

Constitutional Authority: According to the sponsor, “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I.” Rep. Kelly’s statement in the Congressional Record can be [viewed here](#).

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576.

H.R. 1660 – Government Customer Service Improvement Act (Cuellar, D-TX)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on July 31, 2013, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary: H.R. 1660 directs the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to develop government-wide standards for customer service delivery. These standards are to be included in the Federal Government Performance Plan. The standards shall include:

- government-wide goals for continuous service improvements and efforts to modernize service delivery; and
- where appropriate, Government-wide target response times for telephone calls, electronic mail, mail, benefit processing, and payments.

The Performance Improvements Officer for each agency shall establish customer service standards in accordance with the government-wide standards developed by the OMB. The individual agency standards shall include, if appropriate:

- target call wait times during peak and non-peak hours;
- target response times for correspondence, both by mail and electronic mail;

- procedures for ensuring all applicable metrics are incorporated into service agreements with nongovernmental individuals and entities;
- target response times for processing benefits and making payments; and
- recommendations for effective publication of customer service contact information, including a mailing address, telephone number, and email address.

The legislation also directs OMB to establish a Customer Service Feedback Pilot Program. The Internal Revenue Service shall participate in this program, along with two additional agencies that the OMB Director shall select. These agencies will be required to implement a customer service feedback system. Information that is specific to a named employee shall not be published or made publically available. Within two years of implementation, the Comptroller General shall submit a report to Congress assessing the program. This report will include a recommendation on whether the program should be expanded government-wide.

The legislation establishes the Service Improvement Unit Pilot Program. This program is to provide assistance to agencies that do not meet the government-wide standards developed by this legislation. Under the program, the OMB will work with agencies that are not meeting the customer service standards developed by the bill. A report will be sent to Congress, within two years of enactment, on the accomplishments and outcomes of this program.

H.R. 1660 also requires the OMB to submit to Congress, on a monthly basis, a report for each agency that evaluates the timeliness, completeness, and accuracy of information submitted by the agency related to employees of the agency who are retiring. This report will also indicate the total number of applications for retirement benefits, lump sum death benefits, court ordered benefits, phased retirement, and disability retirement that are pending by the Office of Personnel Management.

Section 7 explicitly states that no additional funds are authorized to carry out this legislation. The section states that the bill should be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized or appropriated.

Outside Organizations: The following outside organizations are supporting passage of H.R. 1660:

- National Taxpayers Union

Committee Action: H.R. 1660 was introduced on April 19, 2013, and was referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. The full committee held a [markup on July 24, 2013](#), and favorably reported the legislation, as amended, by voice vote.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO score is available as of press time. Section 7 explicitly states that no additional funds are authorized to carry out this legislation. The section states that the bill should be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized or appropriated.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: Yes. The legislation establishes the Service Improvement Unit Pilot Program and the Customer Service Feedback Pilot Program.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: The legislation does not contain earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

Constitutional Authority: According to the sponsor, “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS
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 this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.” Rep. Cuellar’s statement in the Congressional Record can be [viewed here](#).

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576.

H.R. 313 – Government Spending Accountability Act (Farenthold, R-TX)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on July 31, 2013, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary: The legislation places restrictions and requirements on conferences held at government facilities or for consultation, education, discussion or training.

The legislation directs each federal agency to post online any presentation made by an employee at a conference. This includes the prepared text of any verbal presentation, and any visual, digital, video, or audio materials. The legislation exempts presentations made regarding matters of national security.

The legislation limits conference expenses to \$500,000. This limit is allowed to be waived if the head of the agency submits a report to Congress stating that the expenditure is the most cost-effective option to achieve a compelling purpose.

The legislation prohibits an agency from paying the travel expenses for more than 50 employees of that agency, who are stationed in the United States, for any international conference. This prohibition may be waived if the Secretary of State determines that attendance for the employees is critical to the agency's mission.

At the beginning of each quarter, each agency is required to post online a report for each conference that costs more than \$10,000 for which the agency paid travel expenses. This report shall include an itemized expenses including travel, lodging, and meal expenses. It will also indicate the primary sponsor of the conference, the location, date, and brief explanation of how the participation of employees advanced the agency's mission. This report will also detail the total number of individuals whose travel expenses were paid by the agency.

The legislation also directs the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to establish guidelines for the determination of what expenses constitute travel expenses for purposes of the legislation.

Outside Organizations: The following outside organizations are supporting passage of H.R. 313:

- National Taxpayers Union

Committee Action: H.R. 313 was introduced by Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO) on January 18, 2013, and was referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Rep. Farenthold took responsibility of H.R. 313 after Rep. Emerson left Congress in January. On March 20, 2013, the full committee [held a markup](#) and favorably reported the bill, as amended, by voice vote.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 313 would have no significant net impact on the budget over the 2014-2018 period. CBO's estimate can be [viewed here](#).

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?: According to CBO, H.R. 313 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

Does the Bill Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: The legislation does not contain earmarks, limited tax benefits, or 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 Congress to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.” Rep. Emerson’s statement in the Congressional Record can be [viewed here](#).

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576.

H.R. 2565 — STOP (Stop Targeting Our Politics) IRS Act (Renacci, R-OH)

Summary: The bill adds a new paragraph to section 1203(b) of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 ([Public Law 105-206](#)) which sets forth criteria for termination of IRS employees for misconduct. The new paragraph (paragraph 10) reads: “Performing, delaying, or failing to perform (or threatening to perform, delay, or fail to perform) any official action (including any audit) with respect to a taxpayer for purpose of extracting personal gain or benefit for a political purpose.”

Committee Action: The bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means, which took no action on the bill.

Cost to Taxpayers: While no CBO score was available at press time, RSC staff analysis indicates that the bill will have no effect on direct spending.

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.

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

What Is the Constitutional Authority for the Legislation?: The Constitutional Authority Statement offered by the sponsor, Mr. Renacci (R-OH): Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to 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.

RSC Staff Contact: Will Dunham, Will.Dunham@mail.house.gov, 202-226-9719.

H.R. 1541 – Common Sense in Compensation Act (Meadows, R-NC)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on July 31, 2013, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary: The legislation prohibits discretionary monetary payments from being made to federal employees during any sequestration period in excess of 105 percent of the total amount of basic pay payable to such individual.

Subject to approval by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), the agency head may waive the prohibition if the prohibition would violate the terms of a collective bargaining agreement. If the prohibition is waived, the agency must notify Congress.

Committee Action: H.R. 1541 was introduced on April 12, 2013, and was referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. The full committee held a [markup on July 24, 2013](#), and favorably reported the legislation, as amended, by voice vote.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO score is available as of 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 Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: The legislation does not contain earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

Constitutional Authority: According to the sponsor, “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 3; and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.” Rep. Meadows’ statement in the Congressional Record can be viewed [here](#).

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576.

H.R. 2769 — Stop Playing on Citizen’s Cash Act (Roskam, R-IL)

Summary: The bill stipulates that the IRS shall not hold any conference until the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration ([TIGTA](#)) submits a report to Congress: (1) certifying that the IRS has implemented all of the recommendations set out in such Inspector General’s report titled “[Review of the August 2010 Small Business/Self-Employed Division’s Conference in Anaheim, California](#),” and (2) describing such implementation.

IRS employee Faris Fink admitted to the House OGR Committee that the parody videos produced for the conference cost \$50,187, while the conference as a whole cost at least \$4.1 million. Mr. Fink – who himself starred in the Star Trek themed parody video as Mr. Spock (USA Today write-up [here](#)) – characterized these facts as “embarrassing.”

Committee Action: The bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means, which took no action on the bill.

Cost to Taxpayers: While no CBO score was available at press time, RSC staff analysis indicates that the bill will have no net effect on direct spending.

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.

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

What Is the Constitutional Authority for the Legislation?: The Constitutional Authority Statement offered by the sponsor, Mr. Roskam (R-IL): Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which states “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.”

RSC Staff Contact: Will Dunham, Will.Dunham@mail.house.gov, 202-226-9719.

H.R. 2768 — Taxpayer Bill of Rights Act of 2013 (Roskam, R-IL)

Summary: The bill amends Section 7803 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include a charge to the Commissioner of the IRS to ensure that employees of the IRS are familiar with and act in accord with “taxpayer rights as afforded by other provisions of this title, including”: (A) the right to be informed, (B) the right to be assisted, (C) the right to be heard, (D) the right to pay no more than the correct amount of tax, (E) the right of appeal, (F) the right to certainty, (G) the right to privacy, (H) the right to confidentiality, (I) the right to representation, and (J) the right to a fair and just tax system.

Committee Action: The bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means, which took no action on the bill.

Cost to Taxpayers: While no CBO score was available at press time, RSC staff analysis indicates that the bill will have no net effect on direct spending.

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.

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

What Is the Constitutional Authority for the Legislation?: The Constitutional Authority Statement offered by the sponsor, Mr. Roskam (R-IL): Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which states “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.”

RSC Staff Contact: Will Dunham, Will.Dunham@mail.house.gov, 202-226-9719.

H.R. 1897 - Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2013, as amended (Smith, R-NJ)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on July 31, 2013, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary: The legislation prohibits the federal government from providing nonhumanitarian assistance to the government of Vietnam during any fiscal year in an amount that exceeds the amounts of such assistance provided during FY 2012.

This prohibition is waived if the President determines that certain requirements were met during the prior 12-month period. The President may waive the prohibition if they determine that is in the national interest of the United States. Those requirements include:

- The Government of Vietnam has made substantial progress toward releasing all political and religious prisoners from imprisonment, house arrest, and other forms of detention.
- The Government of Vietnam has made substantial progress toward--
 - respecting the right to freedom of religion, including the right to participate in religious activities and institutions without interference, harassment, or involvement of the Government, for all of Vietnam's diverse religious communities; and
 - returning estates and properties confiscated from the churches and religious communities.
- The Government of Vietnam has made substantial progress toward respecting the right to freedom of expression, assembly, and association, including the release of independent journalists, bloggers, and democracy and labor activists.
- The Government of Vietnam has made substantial progress toward repealing or revising laws that criminalize peaceful dissent, independent media, unsanctioned religious activity, and nonviolent demonstrations and rallies, in accordance with international standards and treaties to which Vietnam is a party.
- The Government of Vietnam has made substantial progress toward allowing Vietnamese nationals free and open access to United States refugee programs.
- The Government of Vietnam has made substantial progress toward respecting the human rights of members of all ethnic and minority groups.
- Neither any official of the Government of Vietnam nor any agency or entity wholly or partly owned by the Government of Vietnam was complicit in a severe form of trafficking in persons, or the Government of Vietnam took all appropriate steps to end any such complicity and hold such official, agency, or entity fully accountable for its conduct.

The legislation further states that it is U.S. policy to take “such measures as are necessary to overcome the jamming of Radio Free Asia.” Some conservatives may be concerned by this broad language because there are several powerful and expensive means at the disposal of the U.S. that could be taken to overcome the radio jamming by the Government of Vietnam.

The legislation states that it is the sense of Congress that any programs of educational and cultural exchange between the United States and Vietnam should actively promote progress toward freedom and democracy in Vietnam by providing opportunities to Vietnamese nationals from a wide range of occupations and perspectives to see freedom

and democracy in action and by ensuring that Vietnamese nationals who have already demonstrated a commitment to these values are included in such programs. The legislation also states that it is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State should strongly oppose, and encourage other members of the United Nations to oppose, the candidacy of Vietnam for membership on the United Nations Human Rights Council for the term beginning in 2014.

The legislation further contains a sense of Congress that Vietnam should be designated as a country of particular concern for religious freedom purposes.

Additional Information: Similar legislation, H.R. 1410, passed the house on September 11, 2012, by voice vote. The RSC Legislative bulletin for H.R. 1410 can be [viewed here](#).

Committee Action: H.R. 1897 was introduced on May 8, 2013, and was referred to the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations. The subcommittee held a markup on May 15, 2013. The full committee held a [markup on June 27, 2013](#), and approved the legislation, without amendment. The legislation was also referred to the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, which took no action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO estimates that implementing the reporting requirements in H.R. 1897 would have discretionary costs of less than \$500,000 a year, totaling about \$1 million over the 2013-2018 period, subject to appropriations. CBO's full report can be [viewed here](#).

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?: According to CBO, H.R. 1897 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

Does the Bill Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: The legislation does not contain earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

Constitutional Authority: According to the sponsor, "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8." Rep. Smith's statement in the Congressional Record can be [viewed here](#).

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**H.R. 850 - Nuclear Iran Prevention Act, as amended (Sponsored by
Rep. Ed Royce / Foreign Affairs Committee)**

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on July 31, 2013, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary: The legislation expands upon existing sanctions to Iran.

Title I - Human Rights and Terrorism Sanctions:

The legislation expands existing sanctions to those that facilitate transactions, or provide financial services for certain individuals that export sensitive technology to Iran.

The legislation grants the President the ability to impose restrictions on U.S. foreign assistance if they determine the restriction would prevent the transfer of U.S.-origin goods, services and technology to Iran.

The legislation designates Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.

The legislation also contains a sense of Congress that the President should extend sanctions to any person holding certain positions with the government of Iran.

The legislation includes several senses of Congress, including that:

- the Iranian people are deprived by their government of free, fair, and credible elections;
- the United States should support freedom, human rights, civil liberties, and the rule of law in Iran, and elections that are free and fair, meet international standards, and allow independent international and domestic electoral observers unrestricted access to polling and counting stations;
- the United States should support the people of Iran in their peaceful calls for a representative and responsive democratic government that respects human rights, civil liberties, and the rule of law.
- the Secretary of State should designate a Special Coordinator position in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs whose primary function is to facilitate cooperation across departments for the purpose of advancing human rights and political participation for women in Iran, as well as to prepare evidence and information to be used in identifying Iranian officials for designation as human rights violators for their involvement in violating the human rights of women in Iran.

Title II – Economic and Financial Sanctions

The legislation directs the President to impose sanctions on any person that knowingly transferred to Iran, on or after the date of enactment, goods, services, or technology that would materially contribute to Iran's ability to mine or mill uranium.

The legislation includes a sense of Congress, that:

- the United States should respect the decision of any State or local government to divest from or prohibit the investment of assets of the State or local government in a person described or to impose disclosure and transparency requirements on any person subject to the jurisdiction of such government, except with respect to an activity that is exempt, licensed, or otherwise authorized by a Federal department or agency;
- the President should continue to closely coordinate and cooperate with the European Union and its member states to restrict access to and use of the euro currency by the Government of Iran, its agencies and instrumentalities, for transactions with the exception of food, medicine, medical devices, and agricultural commodities.

The legislation clarifies that states and local governments may adopt and enforce measures in order to divest assets from persons being sanctioned, and to prohibit investment of their assets in such individual. The legislation allows the President to impose sanctions on a foreign person that the President determines has, within 60 days after enactment, knowingly conducted or facilitated a significant financial transaction with the Central Bank of Iran or other Iranian financial institutions.

Within 90 days of enactment, the Federal Acquisition Regulation shall be revised to require a certification from each person that is a prospective contractor. This certification will seek to verify that the person does not sell goods, services, or technology, or conduct any other transaction with, Iran.

Title III – Additional Authorities to Prevent Censorship Activities in Iran

The legislation requires a report from the Secretary of State, within 90 days of enactment, describing the current status of availability of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) on international satellites, entities that facilitate its operation by providing services or equipment, and the technical means that it engages in jamming.

The legislation requires a report from the Secretary of State, within 90 days of enactment, listing persons who are high-risk re-exporters of sensitive technologies in order to seek to ensure that the Government of Iran or an entity owned or controlled by that Government is unable to obtain sensitive technologies through the re-export of such sensitive technologies by third-party intermediaries.

Title IV – Reports and Other Matters

The legislation directs the President to develop a National Strategy on Iran. This will be submitted annually to Congress. The legislation requires several reports be sent to Congress.

Outside Organizations: The following outside organizations are supporting passage of H.R. 850:

➤ AIPAC – the American Israel Public Affairs Committee

Committee Action: H.R. 850 was introduced on February 27, 2013, and was referred to the House Committees on Foreign Affairs, Financial Services, Oversight and Government Reform. The bill was also referred to the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade, as well as the Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security.

The Foreign Affairs Committee held a [markup on May 22, 2013](#), and approved the legislation, as amended, by voice vote.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, the bill would have discretionary costs of about \$22 million over the 2014-2018 period, subject to appropriation.

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?: According to CBO, by expanding existing prohibitions on transactions with persons or entities associated with the government of Iran, and increasing the number of entities responsible for complying with those prohibitions, the bill would impose both intergovernmental and private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

Does the Bill Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: The legislation does not contain earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

Constitutional Authority: According to the sponsor, “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Clauses 3 and 18 of Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.” Rep. Royce’s statement in the Congressional Record can be viewed [here](#).

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576.

H.Res. 222 - Recognizing the long-term partnership and friendship between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, working together towards peace and security in the Middle East, as amended (*Meeks, D-NY*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on July 31, 2013, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary: The legislation resolves that the House of Representatives,

- “commends the people and Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for their continued friendship with the United States and commitment to peace, security, and stability in the Middle East;
- “commends the Government of Jordan for its response to the Syrian humanitarian crisis by hosting and caring for refugees fleeing violence from the conflict with the al-Assad regime; and
- “expresses a firm commitment to support the Government of Jordan as it faces regional challenges and works toward a more peaceful and stable Middle East.”

The resolution includes several findings, including:

- “the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan have maintained official diplomatic relations since 1949, and during this partnership spanning over 6 decades, the United States and Jordan have developed a close relationship in security, economic development, and counterterrorism cooperation;
- “in 1996, the United States designated Jordan as a major non-NATO ally, recognizing Jordan as a close ally with a strategic working relationship;
- “Jordan signed the historic Jordan-Israel Peace Treaty on October 26, 1994, normalizing relations between Jordan and Israel by resolving territorial disputes and establishing a partnership towards peaceful relations;
- “the United States is strongly committed to the continued development and progress of the Jordanian people, civil society, and political institutions, specifically in the areas of democracy assistance, water and energy preservation, education services, and economic development;
- “the international community, led by the United Nations, has issued dire warnings regarding the severity of the growing humanitarian crisis, calling for the international community to use all available resources to end the crisis that is destroying families, homes, and cities;
- “the Government of Jordan has maintained open borders with Syria, despite a heavy burden of hosting and providing for the security and basic needs of approximately 500,000 refugees, with that number growing by 2,000 to 4,000 persons per day;
- “three-quarters of the refugees are women and children, and 1 in 5 refugees is under the age of 4; and
- “the Government of Jordan has worked in partnership with the international community, particularly the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to provide for the needs of vulnerable refugee populations, including clean water, food, shelter, health care, and education.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 222 was introduced on May 17, 2013, and was referred to the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Middle East and North Africa.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO score is available as of 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 Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: The legislation does not contain earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

Constitutional Authority: House rules do not require a statement of constitutional authority for House resolutions.

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Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 1911 — Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act of 2013 (Kline, R-MN)

Order of Business: The Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment to [H.R. 1911](#) is scheduled to be considered on July 31, 2013, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds vote for passage.

Major Changes Since the Last Time This Legislation was Before the House: The Senate amendment to H.R. 1911, the Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act of 2013, changes many portions of the bill that passed the House. The Senate amendment maintains the market-based approach for student loans. The major change is the switch from the variable rate to the fixed rate for loans. The Senate amendment changes the amounts to be added to the 10-year Treasury note and most of the overall rate caps for the different rate categories. In addition, the House bill only had two rate categories: Stafford for graduate and undergraduate loans and PLUS. The Senate version contains three separate rate categories: undergraduate Stafford, graduate Stafford, and PLUS. A comparison table of the version of the bill that passed the House on May 23, 2013, and the Senate amendment that will be considered on July 31, 2013, can be viewed below:

House Passed H.R. 1911	Senate Amendment To H.R. 1911
Cost Estimates According to CBO 5 Year (2013-2018): -\$995 Million (savings) 10 Year (2013-2013): -\$3.720 Billion (savings)	Cost Estimates According to CBO 5 Year (2013-2018): \$24.975 Billion (cost) 10 Year (2013-2023): -\$715 Million (savings)
Subsidized and Unsubsidized Undergraduate Loans (Stafford) 10-year Treasury note plus 2.5 percent with an overall cap of 8.5 percent	Subsidized and Unsubsidized Undergraduate Loans (Stafford) 10-year Treasury note plus 2.05 percent, with an overall cap of 8.25 percent
Unsubsidized Graduate and Professional Loans (Stafford) 10-year Treasury note plus 2.5 percent, with an overall cap of 8.5 percent	Unsubsidized Graduate and Professional Loans (Stafford) 10-year Treasury note plus 3.6 percent, with an overall cap of 9.5 percent

PLUS Loans (for graduates and parents) 10-year Treasury note plus 4.5 percent, with an overall cap of 10.5 percent	PLUS Loans (for graduates and parents) 10-year Treasury plus 4.6 percent, with an overall cap of 10.5 percent
Consolidation Loans Weighted average of interest rates	Consolidation Loans Weighted average of interest rates
Variable Interest Rates Interest rates reset once a year for all outstanding loans and for all new loans	Fixed Interest Rates Interest rates are fixed for the life of the loan
<u>Statement of Administration Policy</u> The President opposed the House Version	<u>Statement of Administration Policy</u> The President supports this version

Additional Background: H.R. 1911 passed the House on May 23, 2013, by a [vote](#) of 221-198. The RSC Legislative Bulletin for the version of H.R. 1911 that passed the House on May 23, 2013, can be viewed [here](#).

Possible Conservative Concerns: The five year costs are substantial.

Administration Position: The White House issued a Statement of Administration Policy on July 24, 2013, in [support](#) of the Senate amendment.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [cost estimate](#), passage of the Senate Amendment to H.R. 1911 will cost taxpayers \$24.975 billion over 5 years. However, the CBO estimates that over 10 years the bill will save taxpayers \$715 million.

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.

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

Constitutional Authority: According to the sponsor of the underlying bill, “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.” Rep. Kline’s statement in the Congressional Record can be viewed [here](#).

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H.Con.Res. 41 - Encouraging peace and reunification on the Korean Peninsula (*Rangel, D-NY*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on July 31, 2013, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 41 resolves that the House of Representatives, and the Senate concurring, that Congress:

- “recognizes the historical importance of the Korean War, which began on June 25, 1950;
- “honors the noble service and sacrifice of members of the United States Armed Forces and the armed forces of allied countries that have served in Korea since 1950;
- “reaffirms the commitment of the United States to its alliance with South Korea for the betterment of peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula; and
- “calls on North Korea to respect the fundamental human rights of its citizens, abandon and dismantle its nuclear weapons program, and end its nuclear and missile proliferation as integral steps toward peace and eventual reunification.”

The resolution contains a number of findings, including:

- “the United States, representing the United Nations Forces Command which was a signatory to the Armistice Agreement, and with 28,500 of its troops currently stationed in South Korea, has a stake in the progress towards peace and reunification on the Korean Peninsula;
- “on August 10, 1945, the Korean Peninsula was temporarily divided along the 38th parallel into two military occupation zones commanded by the United States and the Soviet Union;
- “on June 25, 1950, communist North Korea attacked the South, thereby initiating the Korean War and diminishing prospects for a peaceful unification of Korea;
- “during the Korean War, more than 36,000 members of the United States Armed Forces were killed and approximately 1,789,000 members of the United States Armed Forces served in-theater along with the South Korean forces and 20 other members of the United Nations to secure peace on the Korean Peninsula and in the Asia- Pacific region;
- “North Korea has systematically violated numerous International Atomic Energy Agency and United Nations Security Council Resolutions with respect to its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs;
- “July 27, 2013, marks the 60th anniversary of the Armistice Agreement of the Korean War.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 41 was introduced on June 25, 2013, and was referred to the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, as well as the House Armed Services Committee. Neither committee took action on the resolution.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO score is available as of 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 Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: The legislation does not contain earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

Constitutional Authority: House rules do not require a statement of constitutional authority for House resolutions.

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