



Legislative Bulletin.....October 2, 2013

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Order of Business: These bills are scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, October 2, 2013, under what is expected to be a closed rule.

Summary: This collection of bills provides short-term funding to a number of areas of government:

1) Pay Our Guard and Reserve Act (text: [H.R. ____](#)):

- The bill appropriates such sums as are necessary for pay and allowances to members of the reserve and guard components of the Armed Forces, including the Army National Guard, the Army Reserve, the Navy Reserve, the Marine Corps Reserve, the Air National Guard, the Air Force Reserve and the Coast Guard Reserve ([10 U.S.C. 10101](#)) who perform inactive-duty training (inactive-duty training defined: [10 U.S.C. 101\(d\)\(7\)](#)).
- This appropriation expires on January 1, 2015, or upon the passage of a superseding appropriations act, whichever comes first.

2) Research for Lifesaving Cures Act ([H.J. Res. 73](#)):

- The bill provides funding for the National Institutes of Health (Department of Health and Human Services) provided only the amount necessary to keep current staffing levels is used AND that the agency takes all necessary action to reduce administrative expenses.
- The NIH is the primary hub for federal health research and provides tens of billions of dollars in grants to tens of thousands of scientists in thousands of research institutions. To read the CRS breakdown of NIH functions, click [here](#).
- Funds are appropriated at the Fiscal Year 2013 post-sequester level through December 15, 2013, or the passage of a superseding appropriations act, whichever comes first.

3) Open Our Nation’s Parks and Museums Act (text: [H.J. Res. 70](#)):

- This bill failed when it was brought to the floor as a suspension (roll call vote [here](#)).

- The bill provides continuing appropriations 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
- Funds are appropriated at the Fiscal Year 2013 post-sequester level through December 15, 2013, or the passage of a superseding appropriations act, whichever comes first.

4) Provide Local Funding for the District of Columbia Act (text: [H.J. Res. 71](#)):

- This bill failed when it was brought to the floor as a suspension (roll call vote [here](#)).
- The 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](#)).
- This funding is provided through December 15, 2013. To read CRS analysis regarding funding (both federal and local) of the District of Columbia’s budget, click [here](#).
- 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](#))

5) Honoring Our Promises to America’s Veterans Act (text: [H.J. Res. 72](#)):

- This bill failed when it was brought to the floor as a suspension (roll call vote [here](#)).
- The 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.
- This funding is available through December 15, 2013. 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.

Administration Position: The White House has issued a veto threat for bills 3-5. A veto threat is expected for bills 1-2 but was not available at 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 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 bills 3-5.

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