



S. 665—Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act of 2015 (Sen. Cardin, D-MD)

CONTACT: ANDREW SHAW, ANDREW.SHAW@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV, 6-9143

FLOOR SCHEDULE: MAY 12, 2015 UNDER A SUSPENSION OF THE RULES, WHICH REQUIRES A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR PASSAGE.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: [S. 665](#) would require the Department of Justice (DOJ) to establish “blue alert” national communications network for law enforcement officers killed, seriously injured, threatened, or deemed missing under certain circumstances.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: There are no substantive 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.

COST: The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that S. 665 would cost about \$1 million annually from appropriated funds. This legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues, and pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: On December 20, 2014, New York Police Department (NYPD) Officers [Rafael Ramon and Wenjian Liu](#) were murdered by Ismaaiyl Abdullah Brinsley, while sitting in their patrol car in the Bedford–Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn. Following a pursuit by NYPD officers, Brinsley committed suicide at a subway station. In the investigation that followed, it was determined that Brinsley made threats to police officers on social media.

This bill would establish and promote national “blue alerts” to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, is missing in connection with the officer’s official duties, or an imminent and credible threat intends to cause the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer.

Section 4 would establish a blue alert communications network within the DOJ, and promote coordination with states, units of local government, law enforcement agencies, and other appropriate entities. Section 5 would require the attorney general to appoint a Blue Alert Coordinator establish voluntary guidelines for states and units of local government to use in developing blue alert plans that will promote compatible and integrated blue alert plans throughout the country.

COMMITTEE ACTION: This bill was introduced on March 4, 2015, by Senator Cardin and referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. On March 26, the committee reported the legislation would amendment. S. 665 passed the Senate without amendment by voice vote. On May 5, 2015, the legislation was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: A constitutional authority statement is not required under House rules.

H.R. 606— Don't Tax Our Fallen Public Safety Heroes Act (Paulsen, R-MN)

CONTACT: MATT DICKERSON, MATTHEW.DICKERSON@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV, 6-9718

FLOOR SCHEDULE: [H.R. 606](#) IS EXPECTED TO BE CONSIDERED ON MAY 12, 2015, UNDER A MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND PASS THE BILL, WHICH REQUIRES A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE FOR PASSAGE.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: This bill would exclude federal and state benefits paid to surviving dependents of public safety officers killed in the line of duty from federal income taxes.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: There are no substantive 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

COST: A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate for H.R. 606 is not available at this time.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: IRS regulations currently exempt federal survivors' benefits from taxation, but clarity on taxation for benefits paid by states is needed.

OUTSIDE GROUPS: Support:

[Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association](#)

[Fraternal Order of Police](#)

[National Association of Police Organizations](#)

COMMITTEE ACTION: H.R. 606 was introduced on January 28, 2015 and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. The Committee took no further action.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8."

H.R. 2146— Defending Public Safety Employees' Retirement Act (Reichert, R-WA)

CONTACT: MATT DICKERSON, MATTHEW.DICKERSON@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV, 6-9718

FLOOR SCHEDULE: [H.R. 2146](#) IS EXPECTED TO BE CONSIDERED ON MAY 12, 2015, UNDER A MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND PASS THE BILL, WHICH REQUIRES A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE FOR PASSAGE.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: This bill would allow retired federal public safety officers to withdraw defined contribution retirement benefits without penalty beginning at age 50.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: There are no substantive 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

COST: A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate for H.R. 2146 is not available at this time.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: In general, distributions from a defined contribution retirement plan made before age 59 ½ are subject to an additional 10 percent tax penalty to discourage early withdrawals. However, there are [several exemptions](#) to this penalty.

Under current law, state and local law enforcement and public safety officials qualify for distributions without penalty at age 50. The bill would provide parity for federal public safety officers, including federal law enforcement officers, customs and border protection officers, firefighters, and air traffic controllers.

OUTSIDE GROUPS: Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association [supports](#) the bill.

COMMITTEE ACTION: The bill was introduced on April 30, 2015 and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. The committee took no further action.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Pursuant to Clause I of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.”

H.R. 723— Fallen Heroes Flag Act (Rep. King, R-NY)

CONTACT: ANDREW SHAW, ANDREW.SHAW@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV, 6-9143

FLOOR SCHEDULE: MAY 12, 2015 UNDER A SUSPENSION OF THE RULES, WHICH REQUIRES A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR PASSAGE.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: [H.R.723](#) would allow members of the House of Representatives to provide Capitol-flown flags without cost to the immediate family of fire fighters, law enforcement officers, members of rescue squads or ambulance crews, and public safety officers who are killed in the line of duty.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: There are no substantive 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.

COST: The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not provided a cost estimate for this legislation.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: H.R. 415 would authorize members of the U.S. House of Representatives to provide, free of charge, U.S. flags flown over the U.S. Capitol to the immediate families of fire fighters, law enforcement officers, and other rescue workers who died in the line of duty.

Currently, representatives may provide flags, but at a price to the requestor plus shipping costs. The bill would require the clerk of the House of Representatives to establish procedures, request forms, and guidelines for providing the flags and accompanying certificates.

The bill would authorize up \$30,000 for each Fiscal Year 2015 through 2020, and derive this appropriation from funds for operation of the Capitol Visitor Center.

COMMITTEE ACTION: This bill was introduced on February 4, 2015, by Rep. King and referred to the House Committee on Administration.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: No statement of administration policy is available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

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