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H.R. 2984 — Fair Ratepayer Accountability, Transparency, and Efficiency Standards Act (Rep. Kennedy, D-MA)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on March 14, under a suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 2984](#) would deem any inaction by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that allows a rate change to go into effect as a FERC order for the purposes of rehearing and court review.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that H.R. 2984 could increase FERC's workload. However, based on information from FERC about the extremely limited number of cases that would be affected by the proposed change, CBO estimates that any increased administrative costs to the agency would be insignificant in any given year. Because enacting H.R. 2984 would not affect direct spending or revenues, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2984 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

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.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 2984 would amend section 205 of the Federal Power Act ([16 U.S.C. 824d\(d\)](#)) by stipulating that any inaction by FERC that allows a change to take effect would be treated as an order by FERC, thus accepting the change.

According to the sponsor's [statement](#), the bill "would fix a technical flaw in the current regulatory process that denies consumers a legal vehicle to dispute rate increases in certain circumstances." Under current law, a FERC order may only be challenged in court after petitioning for a rehearing from FERC. In the event that the panel is deadlocked, no order is issued but electricity rate changes are allowed to move forward, creating a situation where the effective decision cannot be challenged for want of a FERC order to rehear or challenge in court.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 2984 was introduced on July 8, 2015 and was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The bill was then reported by the committee on February 25, 2016 by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8--to provide for the general welfare, and to regulate commerce among the states.” No specific enumerating clause was included.

H.R. 1268 — Energy Efficient Government Technology Act (Rep. Eshoo, D-CA)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on March 14, 2016 suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 1268](#) would require each federal agency to develop an implementation strategy for the maintenance, purchase, and use by federal agencies of energy-efficient and energy-saving information technologies.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 1268 would not significantly affect the federal budget. CBO estimates that any increased costs associated with reporting and administrative requirements under H.R. 1268, which would be subject to appropriation, would not exceed \$500,000 in any given year. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1268 would not increase direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

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.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 1268 would require each federal agency to coordinate with the Director of Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Secretary of Energy to develop an implementation strategy for the maintenance, purchase, and use of energy-efficient and energy-saving information technologies by federal agencies. The Director would be mandated to establish performance goals for evaluating those efforts.

The Secretary of Energy would be mandated to maintain a data center energy practitioner program that leads to the certification of energy practitioners qualified to evaluate the energy usage and efficiency opportunities in federal data centers. Each agency would be required to consider having the data centers evaluated every 4 years by certified energy practitioners, whenever practicable using certified practitioners employed by the agency. The Secretary would also be required to establish an open data initiative for federal data center energy usage information. The Secretary and the EPA administrator would be prohibited from disclosing any proprietary information or trade secrets provided by any individual or company for the purposes of carrying out the bill.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 1268 was introduced on March 4, 2015 and was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. On February 25, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported (amended) by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8 and Article IV, Section 3 of the Constitution." No specific clause was included.

H.R. 4427 — To amend section 203 of the Federal Power Act (Rep. Pompeo, R-KS)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on March 14, 2016 suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4427](#) would modify a public utility's authority to merge or consolidate its facilities in excess of \$10,000,000.

COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is not yet available.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

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.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 4427 would amend [section 203\(a\)\(1\)\(B\) of the Federal Power Act](#) by exempting public utility mergers or consolidation of facilities valued under \$10 million from Federal Energy Regulatory Commission oversight.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4427 was introduced on February 2, 2016 and was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. On February 25, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported (amended) by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 3."

H.R. 2080 — To reinstate and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving Clark Canyon Dam. (Rep. Zinke, R-MT)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on March 14, 2016 suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 2080](#) would require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to reinstate the license and extend the time period during which the licensee is required to commence construction of a hydroelectric project ([number 12429](#)) at Clark Canyon Dam in Montana.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 2080 would have no net effect on the federal budget. H.R. 2080 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

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.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 2080 would require FERC to reinstate the license and extend the time period for 3 years during which the licensee is required to commence construction of a FERC project (number 12429), a hydroelectric project at Clark Canyon Dam in Montana. Under current law, a license is automatically revoked if the licensee does not begin construction within two years of issuance, or within a maximum of four years if FERC uses its authority to extend the deadline. The Clark Canyon project was originally licensed in 2009, and the license was automatically revoked when construction had not commenced by the extended 2013 deadline.

A similar bill ([S. 1103](#)) was introduced in the Senate on April 27, 2015. The report (S. Rept. 114-132) accompanying S. 1103 can be found [here](#). Testimony from FERC given to the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Power on February 2, 2016 can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 2080 was introduced on April 28, 2015 and was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. On February 25, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution."

H.R. 2081 — To extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the Gibson Dam (Rep. Zinke, R-MT)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on March 14, 2016 suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 2081](#) would authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to extend the deadline for initiating construction of a hydroelectric project ([number 12478-003](#)) at the Gibson Dam in Montana.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 2081 would have no net effect on the federal budget. H.R. 2081 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

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.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 2081 would authorize FERC to extend the time period for 6 years during which the licensee is required to commence construction of a hydroelectric project at the Gibson Dam in Montana. Under current law, a license is automatically revoked if the licensee does not begin construction within two years of issuance, or within a maximum of four years if FERC uses its authority to extend the deadline. The Gibson project was originally licensed in 2012, and the license was automatically revoked when construction had not commenced by the extended January 2016 deadline.

A similar bill ([S. 1104](#)) was introduced in the Senate on April 27, 2015. The report (S. Rept. 114-133) accompanying S. 1104 can be found [here](#). Testimony from FERC given to the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Power on February 2, 2016 can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 2081 was introduced on April 28, 2015 and was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. On February 25, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution."

H.R. 3447 — To extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project (Rep. Foxx, R-NC)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on March 14, 2016 suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 3447](#) would authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to extend the deadline for initiating construction of a hydroelectric project ([number 12642](#)) at the W. Kerr Scott Hydropower Project in North Carolina.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 3447 would have no net effect on the federal budget. Enacting H.R. 3447 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

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.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 3447 would authorize FERC to extend the time period at the request of the licensee for the project, and after reasonable notice, for up to 3 consecutive 2-year periods during which the licensee is required to commence construction of a hydroelectric project at the W. Kerr Scott Hydropower Project in North Carolina. Under current law, a license is automatically revoked if the licensee does not begin construction within two years of issuance, or within a maximum of four years if FERC uses its authority to extend the deadline. The W. Kerr Scott project was originally licensed in 2012, and the license will be automatically revoked in July 2016, before which construction is not scheduled to have commenced.

A similar bill ([S. 2083](#)) was introduced in the Senate on September 28, 2015. The report (S. Rept. 114-192) accompanying S. 2083 can be found [here](#). Testimony from FERC given to the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Power on February 2, 2016 can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 3447 was introduced on September 8, 2015 and was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. On February 25, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18, Congress may enact laws necessary and proper to the execution of its enumerated powers. As this legislation solely amends the amount of time available for execution of previously granted authority, it is merely technical in nature and an appropriate exercise of Congress' authority to amend its previous actions through necessary and proper statutes."

H.R. 4416 — To extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project (Rep. McKinley, R-WV)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on March 14, 2016 suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4416](#) would authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to extend the deadline for initiating construction of a hydroelectric project ([number 12715](#)) at Jennings Randolph Hydroelectric Project in West Virginia.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 4416 would have no net effect on the federal budget. Because enacting H.R. 4416 would not affect direct spending or revenues, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

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.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 4416 would authorize FERC to extend the time period at the request of the licensee for the project, and after reasonable notice, for up to 3 consecutive 2-year periods during which the licensee is required to commence construction of a hydroelectric project at the Jennings Randolph Hydroelectric Project in West Virginia. Under current law, a license is automatically revoked if the licensee does not begin construction within two years of issuance, or within a maximum of four years if FERC uses its authority to extend the deadline. The Jennings Randolph project was originally licensed in 2012, and the license will be automatically revoked in April 2016, before which construction is not scheduled to have commenced.

Testimony from FERC given to the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Power on February 2, 2016 can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4416 was introduced on February 1, 2016 and was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. On February 25, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: According to Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes,

duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States but all duties, imposts, and excises shall be uniform throughout.”

H.R. 4434 — To extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project (Rep. Gibson, R-NY)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on March 14, 2016 suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4434](#) would authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to extend the deadline for initiating construction of a hydroelectric project ([number 13287](#)) at the Cannonsville Hydroelectric Project in New York.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 4434 would have no net effect on the federal budget. H.R. 4434 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

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.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 4434 would authorize FERC to extend the time period at the request of the licensee for the project, and after reasonable notice, for up to 4 consecutive 2-year periods during which the licensee is required to commence construction of a hydroelectric project at the Cannonsville Hydroelectric Project in New York. Under current law, a license is automatically revoked if the licensee does not begin construction within two years of issuance, or within a maximum of four years if FERC uses its authority to extend the deadline. The Cannonsville project was originally licensed in 2014, and the license will be automatically revoked in May 2016, without an extension in from FERC or in statute. It is expected that reviews of the dam design will extend beyond the maximum FERC extension of May 2018.

Testimony from FERC given to the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Power on February 2, 2016 can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4434 was introduced on February 2, 2016 and was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. On February 25, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution."

H.R. 4411 — To extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project (Rep. Griffith, R-VA)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on March 14, 2016 suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4411](#) would authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to extend the deadline for initiating construction of a hydroelectric project ([number 12737](#)) at the Gathright Hydroelectric Project in Virginia.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 4411 would have no net effect on the federal budget. H.R. 4411 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

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.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 4411 would authorize FERC to extend the time period at the request of the licensee for the project, and after reasonable notice, for up to 3 consecutive 2-year periods during which the licensee is required to commence construction of a hydroelectric project at the Gathright Hydroelectric Project in Virginia. Under current law, a license is automatically revoked if the licensee does not begin construction within two years of issuance, or within a maximum of four years if FERC uses its authority to extend the deadline. The Gathright project was originally licensed in 2012, and the license will be automatically revoked in March 2016, before which construction is not scheduled to have commenced.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4411 was introduced on February 1, 2016 and was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. On February 25, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

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, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution."

H.R. 4412 — To extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project (Rep. Griffith, R-VA)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on March 14, 2016 suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4412](#) would authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to extend the deadline for initiating construction of a hydroelectric project ([number 12740](#)) at the Flannagan Hydroelectric Project in Virginia.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 4412 would have no net effect on the federal budget. H.R. 4412 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

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.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 4412 would authorize FERC to extend the time period at the request of the licensee for the project, and after reasonable notice, for up to 3 consecutive 2-year periods during which the licensee is required to commence construction of a hydroelectric project at the Flannagan Hydroelectric Project in Virginia. Under current law, a license is automatically revoked if the licensee does not begin construction within two years of issuance, or within a maximum of four years if FERC uses its authority to extend the deadline. The Flannagan project was originally licensed in 2012, and the license was automatically revoked in January 2016.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4412 was introduced on February 1 2016 and was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. On February 25, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

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 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution."

H. Con Res. 121 — Expressing the sense of the Congress condemning the gross violations of international law amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity by the Government of Syria, its allies, and other parties to the conflict in Syria, and asking the President to direct his Ambassador at the United Nations to promote the establishment of a war crimes tribunal where these crimes could be addressed (Rep. Smith, R-NJ)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on March 14, 2016 suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H. Con. Res. 121](#) would express a sense of Congress condemning the gross violations of international law amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity by the Government of Syria led by Bashar al-Assad, its allies, and other parties to the war in Syria, and would ask the President of the United States to direct his Ambassador at the United Nations to promote the establishment of a war crimes tribunal where these crimes could be addressed.

COST:

No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available.

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.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H. Con. Res 121 would clarify that Congress: (1) strongly condemns the continued use of unlawful and indiscriminate violence against civilian populations by the Assad regime, its allies – specifically, Russia and Iran – and other parties to the conflict; (2) urges the United States and its partners to continue to demand and work toward the cessation of attacks on Syrian civilians; (3) urges the president to establish additional mechanisms for the protection of civilians and to ensure consistent and equitable access to humanitarian aid for vulnerable populations; (4) urges the United States to continue its support for efforts to collect and analyze documentation related to ongoing violations of human rights in Syria, and to prioritize the collection of evidence that can be used to support future prosecutions for war crimes and crimes against humanity; (5) urges the president to direct the United States representative to the United Nations to use the voice and vote of the United States to immediately promote the establishment of a Syrian war crimes tribunal; and (6) urges other nations to apprehend and deliver into the custody of such a Syrian war crimes

tribunal persons indicted for war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide in Syria, along with providing information pertaining to the war crimes.

According to the findings of the resolution, “the Government of Syria, led by President Bashar al-Assad, has engaged in widespread torture and rape, employed starvation as a weapon of war, and massacred civilians, including through the use of chemical weapons, cluster munitions, and barrel bombs.” A press release from the resolution’s sponsor can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H. Con. Res. 121 was introduced on March 1, 2016 and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. On March 2, 2016, the resolution was ordered to be reported by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

No constitutional authority statement is available.

H. Con. Res. 75 — Expressing the sense of Congress that the atrocities perpetrated by ISIL against religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq and Syria include war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, as amended (Rep. Fortenberry, R-NE)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on March 14, 2016 suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H. Con. Res. 75](#) would express a sense of Congress that those who commit or support atrocities against Christians and other ethnic and religious minorities, including [Yezidis](#), [Turkmen](#), [Sabea-Mandeans](#), [Kaka'e](#), and [Kurds](#), and who target them specifically for ethnic or religious reasons, are committing, and are hereby declared to be committing, “war crimes”, “crimes against humanity”, and “genocide”.

COST:

No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available.

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.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H. Con. Res. 75 would clarify that Congress resolves that: (1) the atrocities perpetrated by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) against Christians, Yezidis, and other religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq and Syria constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide; (2) all governments, including the United States, and international organizations, including the United Nations and the Office of the Secretary-General, should call ISIL atrocities by their rightful names: war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide; (3) the member states of the United Nations should coordinate urgently on measures to prevent further atrocities in Iraq and Syria, and to punish those responsible; (4) the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Lebanese Republic, the Republic of Turkey, and the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq are to be commended for, and supported in, their efforts to shelter and protect those fleeing ISIL’s violence and other combatants until they can safely return to their homes in Iraq and Syria; and (5) the protracted Syrian civil war and the indiscriminate violence of the Assad regime have contributed to the growth of ISIL and will continue to do so as long as this conflict continues.

According to the findings of the resolution, “the conflict among all parties to the Syrian civil war has killed 470,000 and displaced 11,000,000 people”. In Iraq and Syria, “religious and ethnic minorities have been murdered, subjugated, forced to emigrate, and subjected to grievous bodily and psychological harm, kidnapping, human trafficking, torture, and rape”.

Press releases from the resolution's sponsor can be found [here](#) and [here](#) respectively. A list of cosponsors can be found [here](#). The 2015 annual report from the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom on Iraq and Syria can be found [here](#) and [here](#) respectively.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H. Con. Res. 75 was introduced on September 9, 2015 and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. On March 2, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported in the nature of a substitute (amended) by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

No constitutional authority statement is available.

S. 2426 — To direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in the International Criminal Police Organization, and for other purposes (Sen. Gardner, R-CO)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on March 14, 2016 suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[S. 2426](#) would require the Secretary of State to develop and implement a strategy to help Taiwan get status as an observer in the International Criminal Police Organization ([INTERPOL](#)).

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing the bill would not add significantly to the department's workload. CBO estimates that implementing S. 2426 would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2016-2020 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply to this legislation because it would not affect direct spending or revenues.

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.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

S. 2426 would require the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in INTERPOL and at other related meetings, and activities. The bill would further instruct INTERPOL Washington to officially request observer status for Taiwan in INTERPOL, and to actively urge INTERPOL member states to support observer status and participation for Taiwan. Finally, the bill would require the Secretary of State to submit a report to Congress describing the United States strategy to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan in appropriate international organizations, including INTERPOL.

According to the findings of the bill, "the United States, in the [1994 Taiwan Policy Review](#), declared its intention to support Taiwan's participation in appropriate international organizations and has consistently reiterated that support."

COMMITTEE ACTION:

S. 2426 was introduced on December 18, 2015 and was referred to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. On March 8, 2016, the bill passed the Senate without an amendment by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

Measures originating in the Senate do not require a constitutional authority statement.

H.R. 4721 — Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2016 (Rep. Shuster, R-PA)

CONTACT: [Matt Dickerson](#), 202-226-9718

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

March 14, 2015 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4721](#) would extend the authorization for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) through July 15, 2016, and also extend the taxes and expenditure authority for the Airport and Airways Trust Fund through March 31, 2017.

COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is not available at this time. The bill continues funding for aviation programs at current levels.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

Some conservatives may be concerned that the bill could set up a “cliff” where the authorization for the FAA would expire immediately before the Congress adjourns for the July party conventions and August district work period. This concern may be lessened by the fact that the revenue provisions of the bills extend into 2017.

Some conservatives may be concerned that H.R. 4721 extends the Essential Air Service (EAS) program. This program heavily subsidizes flights to and from rural areas—often at a cost of several hundred dollars per passenger. The [House Republican Budget](#) recommended phasing out the EAS.

Some conservatives may be concerned that a CBO estimate is not available for the bill in violation of the GOP Conference Rules. Rule 28 (a)(1) of [Rules of the House Republican Conference for the 114th Congress](#) states that the Republican Leader shall not schedule, or request to have scheduled, any bill or resolution for consideration under suspension of the Rules which fails to include a cost estimate.

- **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:

The authorization for the FAA and other aviation programs is currently set to expire on March 31, 2016.

H.R. 4721 would extend the authorization through July 15, 2016, for:

- The Airport Improvement Program;
- Federal Aviation Administration Operations;
- Air Navigation Facilities and Equipment;
- Research, Engineering, and Development; and
- The Essential Air Service.

H.R. 4721 would extend through March 31, 2017 for:

- Revenue sources for the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, including ticket and fuel taxes.

- Expenditure authority from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4721 was introduced on March 10, 2016, and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure and Ways and Means Committees. The committees took no further action on the bill.

In the 114th Congress, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has [held a number of hearings](#) and other events regarding the FAA reauthorization. In June 2015, the Committee [laid out principles](#) for reauthorization that would partially privatize the air traffic control system.

In February 2016, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee marked up and reported [H.R. 4441, the Aviation Innovation, Reform, and Reauthorization Act of 2016](#), which would extend aviation programs through 2022 and make major changes to the FAA's air traffic control operations by transitioning those services to a new federally chartered ATC Corporation.

The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee recently introduced [S. 2658, the Federal Aviation Administration \(FAA\) Reauthorization Act of 2016](#), which would reauthorize aviation programs in their current structure through 2017.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

“Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1, Clause 3, and Clause 18.”

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