



Legislative Bulletin..... April 7, 2014

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H.R. 1872 — Budget and Accounting Transparency Act of 2013 (Garrett, R-GA)

Order of Business: H.R. 1872 is expected to be considered on Tuesday, April 7, 2014, under a closed rule. The rule, H. Res. 539, was [adopted by the House](#) on Friday, April 4, 2014.

Summary: H.R. 1872 would modify budget accounting standards. Specifically, the legislation would require fair-value accounting standards for federal credit programs. This would provide a more accurate measure of the costs of these programs, because the current method used does not take into account market-based risk premiums.

H.R. 1872 would bring Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac on-budget to recognize the cost of the conservatorship they have been placed under.

Committee Action: H.R. 1872 was introduced on May 8, 2013, and referred to the House Committee on the Budget and the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The Budget Committee marked up H.R. 1872 on February 11, 2014, and reported the legislation by a 17-8 vote. The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform discharged the bill on March 18, 2014. The Budget Committee’s Report can be read [here](#).

Cost to Taxpayers: [CBO states](#) that, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, enacting this legislation would cost \$16 million over the 2014-2019 period.

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: “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 9, Clause 7.”

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H.R. 3470 — Taiwan Relations Act Affirmation and Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2014 (Royce, R-CA)

Order of Business: [H.R. 3470](#) is scheduled to be considered on April 7, 2014, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary: The legislation would allow the President to sell four decommissioned naval vessels to the government of Taiwan, and to transfer two vessels each to Mexico and Thailand. The authority to transfer these excess naval vessels would expire three years after enactment of the bill. The bill also reaffirms United States support for Taiwan’s democratic institutions and security.

Additional Background: The Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), enacted 35 years ago, affirmed that the United States’ decision to establish a diplomatic relationship with the People’s Republic of China was based on the expectation that the future of Taiwan would be determined by peaceful means.

Committee Action: The legislation was introduced on November 13, 2013, and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. On November 20, 2013, the Committee favorably reported the bill by [voice vote](#).

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to the Congressional Budget Office [cost estimate](#) the sales “would increase offsetting receipts (thus, reducing direct spending) by \$40 million over the 2014-2024 period.”

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 bill sponsor, “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, section 8 of the Constitution.” Congressman Royce’s statement in the Congressional Record can be viewed [here](#).

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S. 404 — Green Mountain Lookout Heritage Protection Act (Senator Patty Murray, D-WA)

Order of Business: [S. 404](#) is scheduled to be considered on April 7, 2014, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary: The legislation amends the Washington State Wilderness Act of 1984, to specifically allow the operation and maintenance of Green Mountain Lookout in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie and Wenatchee National Forests in the State of Washington. It also prohibits the the Secretary of Agriculture (USDA) from moving the Lookout from its current location on Green Mountain in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest unless the move is necessary to ensure the safety of individuals or preserve the Lookout. The bill also requires the Secretary of the Interior to restore a land grant issued under the Alaska Native Veterans Allotment Act that was previously voided.

Additional Background: In the 112th Congress, Senators Murray and Cantwell introduced similar legislation, S. 3683, but no action was taken on the bill. The Senate Committee report for S. 404 is available [here](#).

Committee Action: S. 404 was introduced on February 28, 2014, and referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. On December 19, 2013, the Committee favorably reported the bill. On April 3, 2014, the bill passed the Senate by Unanimous Consent.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: The [Congressional Budget Office](#) “estimates that implementing the legislation would have no significant net impact on the federal budget.”

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: No statement of Constitutional Authority is available for this bill.

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H.R. 4323 — Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2014 (Goodlatte, R-VA)

Order of Business: [H.R. 4323](#) is scheduled to be considered on April 7, 2014, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary: The legislation authorizes the appropriation of \$968 million for Department of Justice (DOJ) programs related to the collection and use of DNA samples and work relating to criminal investigations. This appropriation is authorized over the 2015-2019 period. The bill provides \$151 million annually for the Debbie Smith DNA backlog grant program. It also provides \$30 million annually for the DOJ to provide grants to state and local governments for programs to collect and use DNA evidence from sexual assault crimes. In addition, the bill provides \$13 million annually for DOJ to provide grants to state and local governments to conduct training about the use of DNA evidence.

Additional Background: The programs reauthorized in this legislation were originally authorized by the Debbie Smith Act of 2004. The funding authorized by this bill is authorized at existing levels.

Committee Action: The bill was introduced on March 27, 2014 and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. On April 2, 2014, the Committee reported the bill by voice vote.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to the Congressional Budget Office [cost estimate](#) “implementing H.R. 4323 would cost \$644 million over the 2015-2019 period, with remaining amounts spent in subsequent years.”

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, “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: The authority to enact this bill is derived from, but may not be limited to, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.” Chairman Goodlatte’s statement in the Congressional Record can be viewed [here](#).

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