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H.R. 1877 — Mental Health First Aid, as amended (Rep. Jenkins, R-KS)

CONTACT: [Rebekah Armstrong](#), 202-226-0678

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration September 26, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 1877](#) would reauthorize and amend the mental health awareness training grants program awarded by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS).

COST:

According to Congressional Budget Office (CBO) initial cost estimates, this bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

The bill would reauthorize the training grant program at a level just below \$15 million for FY 2017-21. The program's previous authorization of \$25 million annually expired in FY 2003.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** The bill would expand eligibility for training under the program to include veterans, law enforcement, and other individuals as determined by the secretary.
- **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:

This bill would make several small changes to mental health awareness training grants awarded to states, tribal organizations and nonprofit private entities. These grants are used to train teachers and other relevant school personnel to recognize symptoms of childhood and adolescent mental disorder and, if necessary, to make the proper referrals. Grant money would be used for evidence-based programs to provide education to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental illness, and ensure there are resources available in the community for individuals with mental illness.

This bill would reauthorize the grant program through 2021, and decrease the authorization for appropriation to \$14,963,000 from its previously expired authorized level of \$25,000,000.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This bill was introduced by Representative Jenkins and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. A mark-up was held on September 21, 2016, and the bill ordered to be reported, as amended, by vote.

No committee report has been filed at this time.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8: 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. No specific enumerating clause was cited.

H.R. 3537 — Dangerous Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2016 (Rep. Dent, R-PA)

CONTACT: [Rebekah Armstrong](#), 202-226-0678

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration September 26, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 3537](#) would amend the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) to include 22 synthetic drug compounds on Schedule 1, which would authorize the prosecution of dealers of such substance by the Drug Enforcement Agency.

COST:

According to an initial Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost estimate, this bill would have insignificant effects on direct spending and revenues in each year, over five years, and over ten years.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** This bill would expand the list of substances classified on Schedule 1 and commensurately expand the prosecutorial authority associated with such classification.
- **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:

Drugs and substances can be scheduled administratively by the Attorney General and the Secretary of HHS, through processes outlined in the CSA, and they can also be scheduled directly through congressional legislation. This bill would amend the [Controlled Substances Act](#) to add 22 synthetic drug compounds to the Schedule 1 classification. This would include 11 new cannabimimetic agents, three synthetic opioids, and eight other drugs.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This bill was introduced by Representative Dent and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on the Judiciary. A mark-up was held on September 21, 2016, and the bill ordered to be reported, as amended, by voice vote.

No committee report has been filed at this time.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution. No specific enumerating clause was cited.

H.R. 5883 — Clarification of Treatment of Electronic Sales of Livestock Act of 2016 (Rep. Rouzer, R-NC)

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

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on September 26, 2016 under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5883](#) would redefine the term “marketing agency” to include any person buying or selling livestock in commerce through online, video, or other electronic methods on a commission or other fee basis when handling or providing a means to handle receivables or proceeds from the sale of that livestock in addition to the current-law definition of those engaged in the business of buying or selling in commerce livestock on a commission basis; furnishing stockyard services.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that the cost to implement the provisions of the bill would be insignificant; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting H.R. 5883 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting the legislation would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

CONSERVATIVE 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. 5883 would amend section 301 of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 ([7 U.S.C. 201](#)) and redefine the term “marketing agency” to mean any person engaged in the business of buying or selling in commerce livestock on a commission basis; furnishing stockyard services; or buying or selling livestock in commerce through online, video, or other electronic methods on a commission or other fee basis when handling or providing a means to handle receivables or proceeds from the sale of that livestock.

The bill would authorize funds for purchasing livestock to be transferred to the account of the seller by wire, electronic fund transfer, or any other expeditious method determined appropriate by the Department of Agriculture. Current law specifies only wire transfer as an acceptable method. The House report (H. Rept. 114-768) accompanying H.R. 5883 can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 5883 was introduced on July 14, 2016 and was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture. The committee has taken no additional action on the measure and no committee report has been filed at this time.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the bill's sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Consistent with the understanding and interpretation of the Commerce Clause, Congress has the authority to enact this legislation in accordance with Clause 3 of Section 8, Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution."

H.R. 845 — National Forest Trails Stewardship Act (Rep. Lummis, R-WY)

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

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on September 26, 2016 under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 845](#) would require the Forest Service to develop a strategy to significantly increase the number of volunteers engaged in trail maintenance activities on Forest Service lands and publish the strategy in the Federal Register.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing the legislation would cost \$3 million a year over the 2017-2021 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. CBO also estimates that the bill would increase direct spending for additional compensation claims from volunteers related to workers compensation, torts, and lost or damaged personal property by \$1 million over the 2017-2026 period; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 845 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits by more than \$5 billion in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

CONSERVATIVE 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. 845 would require the Forest Service to develop a strategy to significantly increase the number of volunteers engaged in trail maintenance activities on Forest Service lands and publish the strategy in the Federal Register. The strategy would: (1) augment and support the capabilities of federal employees to carry out or contribute to trail maintenance; (2) provide meaningful opportunities for volunteers and partners to carry out trail maintenance in each region of the Forest Service; (3) address the barriers to increased volunteerism and partnerships in trail maintenance identified by volunteers, partners, and others; (4) prioritize increased volunteerism and partnerships in trail maintenance in those regions with the most severe trail maintenance needs; and (5) aim to increase trail maintenance by volunteers and partners by 100 percent after 5 years.

The Secretary of Agriculture would be directed to adopt regulations implementing the bill within 2 years. The Forest Service would be directed to require each administrative unit to develop a volunteer and partner coordination implementation plan for the strategy which clearly defines roles and responsibilities for the administrative unit and district staff, and includes strategies to ensure sufficient coordination, assistance, and support for volunteers and partners to improve trail maintenance.

H.R. 845 would establish a priority trail maintenance program by selecting no fewer than 9 and no more than 15 priority areas for increased trail maintenance accomplishments. Priority areas shall include a well-defined region on National Forest System land where the lack of trail maintenance has reduced access to

public land, led to an increase, or risk of increase, in harm to natural resources, jeopardized public safety, resulted in trails being impassible by the intended managed users, or increased future deferred trail maintenance costs. Within 6 months of the selection of priority areas, the Forest Service would be directed to develop an approach to substantially increase trail maintenance accomplishments within each priority area.

The Secretary of Agriculture would be required to study opportunities to improve trail maintenance by addressing opportunities to use fire crews in trail maintenance activities in a manner that does not jeopardize firefighting capabilities, public safety, or resource protection.

H.R. 845 would provide liability coverage for volunteers working or affiliated with partner organizations.

The Forest Service would be authorized to enter into a cooperative agreement with any state, tribal, local governmental, and private entity to carry out the legislation.

The Forest Service would be directed to establish a pilot program on not less than 20 administrative units to offset all or part of the land use fee for an outfitting and guiding permit by the cost of the work performed by the permit holder to construct, improve, or maintain National Forest System trails, trailheads, or developed sites that support public use under terms established by the Secretary of Agriculture, through the Forest Service. In establishing the program, the Forest Service would be mandated to select administrative units where the pilot program will improve trail maintenance; and establish appropriate terms and conditions, including meeting National Quality Standards for Trails and the Trail Management Objectives identified for the trail.

More information on the Forest Service backlog for trail maintenance can be found [here](#) provided by the bill's sponsor. Letters of support from the Western Governors' Association and from other organizations can be found [here](#) and [here](#) respectively.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 845 was introduced on February 10, 2015 and was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture. On September 14, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported (as amended) by voice vote.

No committee report has been filed at this time.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the bill's sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2: ``The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state."

H.R. 5943 — Transit Security Grant Program Flexibility Act (Rep. Donovan, R-NY)

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

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on September 26, 2016 under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5943](#) would clarify the use of certain funds under a public transportation security assistance grant program and establish a period of performance for the grant funds to not fewer than 36 months.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that implementing H.R. 5943 would cost about \$1 million in 2017 and a negligible amount over the remainder of the 5-year period. Any such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 5943 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits by more than \$5 billion in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** The bill would expand the allowable use of federal public transportation security grant funds.
- **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. 5943 would amend [section 1406\(b\)\(2\) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007](#) by clarifying the allowable use of funds under a public transportation security assistance grant program to include for security training and associated backfill. The bill would allow funds to remain available for a grant recipient for not fewer than 36 months and would allow the funds to be available for longer (not fewer than 55 months) under two exceptions: security improvements for public transportation systems and infrastructure.

The bill would further require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) conduct a review of the transit security grant program under [section 1406 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007](#), to include assessments of: (1) the type of projects funded under the transit security grant program; (2) the manner in which such projects address threats to transportation infrastructure; (3) the impact, if any, of the bill on types of projects funded under the transit security grant program; (4) the management and administration of transit security grant program funds by grantees. The review would additionally include recommendations to improve the manner in which transit security grant program funds address vulnerabilities in transportation infrastructure, and to improve the management and administration of the transit security grant program. The GAO would be required to submit the review to Congress.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 5943 was introduced on September 7, 2016 and was referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security. On September 13, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported (as amended) by voice vote.

No committee report has been filed at this time.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the bill's sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States." No specific enumerating clause was included.

H.R. 5460 — First Responder Access to Innovative Technologies Act (Rep. Payne, D-NJ)

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

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on September 26, 2016 under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5460](#) would establish a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) uniform process for reviewing applications that contain explanations to use grants provided under the Urban Area Security Initiative or the State Homeland Security Grant Program to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable national voluntary consensus standards.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is not 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:

- **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. 5460 would amend [subsection \(f\) of section 2008 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002](#) (6 U.S.C. 609) to establish a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) uniform process for reviewing applications that contain explanations to use grants provided under the Urban Area Security Initiative or the State Homeland Security Grant Program to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable national voluntary consensus standards, developed under section 647 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 ([6 U.S.C. 747](#)).

The FEMA Administrator would be directed to consider: (1) current or past use of proposed equipment or systems by federal agencies or the Armed Forces; (2) the absence of a national voluntary consensus standard for such equipment or systems; (3) the existence of an international consensus standard for such equipment or systems, and whether such equipment or systems meets such standard; (4) the nature of the capability gap identified by the applicant and how such equipment or systems will address such gap; (5) the degree to which such equipment or systems will serve the needs of the applicant better than equipment or systems that meet or exceed existing consensus standards; (6) any other factor determined appropriate by the administrator.

The bill would require the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security to submit a report to Congress assessing the implementation of the review, including: (1) the number of requests to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable consensus standard evaluated under such review process; (2) the capability gaps identified by applicants and the number of such requests granted or denied; (3) the processing time to review requests.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 5460 was introduced on June 13, 2016 and was referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security. On September 13, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported (as amended) by voice vote.

No committee report has been filed at this time.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the bill's sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8." No specific enumerating clause was cited.

H.R. 5459 — Cyber Preparedness Act of 2016 (Rep. Donovan, R-NY)

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

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on September 26, 2016 under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5459](#) would require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to provide cybersecurity assistance to, and share cybersecurity risk information with, state, local, and regional fusion centers

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 5459 would have no significant effect on the federal budget over the 2017-2021 period. Enacting H.R. 5459 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

Some conservatives might be concerned that the bill codifies the sharing of information with fusion centers that could serve a duplicative role, at the expense of FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force offices.

- **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. 5459 would amend the [Homeland Security Act of 2002](#) by requiring the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to provide cybersecurity assistance to and share cybersecurity risk information with, state, local, and regional fusion centers, in coordination with the national cybersecurity and communications integration center, to assist in accessing timely technical assistance, risk management support, and incident response capabilities with respect to cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, cybersecurity risks, and incidents, which may include attribution, mitigation, and remediation, and the provision of information and recommendations on security and resilience, including implications of cybersecurity risks to equipment and technology related to the electoral process.

H.R. 5459 would amend the [subsection \(a\) of section 2008 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002](#) by authorizing recipients of the Urban Area Initiative or State Homeland Security grants to use those funds to enhance cybersecurity, including to prepare for and respond to cybersecurity risks and incidents and develop state-wide cyber threat information analysis and dissemination activities. The bill would express a sense of Congress that to facilitate the timely dissemination to appropriate state, local, and private sector stakeholders of homeland security information related to cyber threats, the Secretary of Homeland Security should, to the greatest extent practicable, work to share actionable information related to cyber threats in an unclassified form.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 5459 was introduced on June 13, 2016 and was referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security. On September 13, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported (as amended) by voice vote.

No committee report has been filed at this time.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the bill's sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States." No specific enumerating clause was cited.

H.R. 5346 — Securing Our Agriculture and Food (Rep. Young, R-IA)

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

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on September 26, 2016 under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5346](#) would require the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Health Affairs to coordinate the department's efforts related to defending the food, agriculture, and veterinary systems of the United States against terrorism and other high-consequence events that pose a high risk to homeland security.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 5346 would cost less than \$500,000 a year; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting H.R. 5346 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CONSERVATIVE 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. 5346 would amend the [Homeland Security Act of 2002](#) to require the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Health Affairs to coordinate the Department of Homeland Security's efforts related to defending the food, agriculture, and veterinary systems of the United States against terrorism and other high-consequence events that pose high risk to homeland security. The coordination program would, at a minimum: (1) provide oversight and management of the department's responsibilities pursuant to [Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 - Defense of United States Agriculture and Food](#); (2) provide oversight and integration of the department's activities related to veterinary public health, food defense, and agricultural security; (3) lead the department's policy initiatives relating to food, animal, and agricultural incidents, and the impact of such incidents on animal and public health; (4) lead the department's policy initiatives relating to overall domestic preparedness for and collective response to agricultural terrorism; (5) coordinate with other department components, including U.S. Customs and Border Protection, as appropriate, on activities related to food and agriculture security and screening procedures for domestic and imported products; and (6) coordinate with appropriate federal departments and agencies.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 5346 was introduced on May 26, 2016 and was referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security. On September 13, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported (as amended) by voice vote.

No committee report has been filed at this time.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the bill's sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution." No specific enumerating clause was cited.

H.R. 3779 — To restrict the inclusion of social security account numbers on documents sent by mail by the Federal Government, and for other purposes (Rep. Valadao, R-CA)

CONTACT: [Rebekah Armstrong](#), 202-226-0678

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration September 26, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 3779](#) would prohibit the inclusion of social security numbers on any document sent by the federal government through the mail, unless determined to be necessary by the head of the agency sending the correspondence.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost 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:

- **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:

This bill would prohibit the inclusion of social security numbers on any document sent by the federal government through the mail, except when deemed necessary by an agency head. No later than one year after enactment, the head of each department and agency would be required to issue regulations outlining circumstances in which it may be necessary to include a social security number on a mailed document, and steps taken to conceal or redact the account number.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This bill was introduced by Representative Valadao and referred to House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. A mark-up was held on September 15, 2016, and the bill ordered to be reported out by unanimous consent.

No committee report has been filed at this time.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

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

House Amendment to S. 2754 — A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 300 Fannin Street in Shreveport, Louisiana, as the "Tom Stagg United States Court House" (Sen. Cassidy, R-LA)

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

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

September 26, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[The House amendment to S. 2754](#) would designate a courthouse in Louisiana as the Tom Stagg United States Court House.

COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is not available at this time.

CONSERVATIVE 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:

[Tom Stagg](#) was a federal judge for the Western District of Louisiana and a Captain in the U.S. Army. He passed away in June, 2015. The bill would name a federal building and courthouse in Shreveport, Louisiana in his honor.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

S. 2754 was introduced on April 6, 2016, and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. The Committee marked up and reported the bill on May 18, by a voice vote. The Senate passed the bill by unanimous consent on September 15, 2016.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

A bill from the Senate does not have a Constitutional authority statement.

H.R. 5873 — To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 511 East San Antonio Avenue in El Paso, Texas, as the "R.E. Thomason Federal Building and United States Courthouse" (Rep. O'Rourke, D-TX)

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

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

September 26, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5873](#) would designate a courthouse in Texas as the R.E. Thomason Federal Building and United States Courthouse.

COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is not available at this time.

CONSERVATIVE 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:

[Robert Ewing Thomason](#) was a Democrat member of the Texas House of Representatives, Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, Mayor of the City of El Paso, Member of Congress, and a Federal District Judge from El Paso, Texas. Thomason passed away in 1973. The bill would name a federal building and federal courthouse in El Paso in his honor.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 5873 was introduced on July 14, 2016, and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The Committee marked up and reported the bill on [September 14, 2016](#), by a voice vote.

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: Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the 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 any Department or Officer thereof".

H.R. 5978 — Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Amendments Act of 2016 (Rep. Hunter, R-CA)

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

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

September 26, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5978](#) would make a number of changes to current laws regarding the Coast Guard.

COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is not available at this time.

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:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Yes, the bill would require the establishment of a backup global positioning system.
- **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 bill would require the Coast Guard's Chief Acquisition Officer to keep the Commandant of the Coast Guard informed about major acquisition programs. The bill would also require the commandant's views be "strongly considered by program managers".

The bill would restrict the Coast Guard's acquisition of new unmanned aerial systems over 55 pounds for which funds have not previously been appropriated through the Department of Defense or Homeland Security.

The bill would authorize the acquisition of three heavy icebreakers.

The bill would make a technical change to the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015 to require the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to make a payment for the actuarial value of healthcare for members of the Coast Guard provided by the Department of Defense during periods when the Coast Guard is not operating as a service in the Navy. The Coast Guard normally operates under the Department of Homeland Security, except during a declaration of war when it operates as a service of the Navy.

Would require the Coast Guard to establish a land based backup global positioning system,

The bill would allow a three year period for compliance after regulations are issued with the Coast Guard's alternate safety compliance program for fishing vessels.

The bill would require that a specific vessel (the Apollonia with serial number 1266527) be granted a [coastwise endorsement](#).

The report from the T&I committee is not available at this time.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 5978 was introduced on September 9, 2016, and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The Committee marked up and reported the bill on [September 14, 2016](#), by a voice vote.

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 3 (to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with Indian Tribes) and Clause 14 (to make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces)."

H.R. 5162 — Vet Connect Act of 2016 (Rep. O'Rourke, D-TX)

CONTACT: [Rebekah Armstrong](#), 202-226-0678

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration September 26, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5162](#) would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to disclose certain veteran medical records with non-VA health providers who provide care to veterans.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that implementing this bill would have insignificant costs over the 2017-2021 period; any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

CONSERVATIVE 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:

Under current law, the VA cannot release certain medical records to non-VA health care providers without the veteran's consent. This bill would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to disclose certain veteran medical records with non-VA health providers who provide care to veterans.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This bill was introduced by Representative O'Rourke and referred to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. A mark-up was held on September 21, 2016, and the bill ordered to be reported out by voice vote.

No committee report has been filed at this time.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

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

H.R. 5392 — No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act (Rep. Young, R-IA)

CONTACT: [Rebekah Armstrong](#), 202-226-0678

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration September 23, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5392](#) would direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop quality assurance document to use in carrying out the Veterans Crisis Line.

COST:

The [Congressional Budget Office](#) (CBO) estimates that implementing the bill would have insignificant costs over the 2017-2021 period; that spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

CONSERVATIVE 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. 5392](#) would direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop quality assurance document to use in operating the [Veterans Crisis Line](#). This document would define performance indicators and objectives to improve the performance of the Veterans Crisis Line, and would include quantifiable timeframes to meet designated objectives to track its progress.

In addition, the secretary would develop a plan to ensure that each telephone call, text message, and other communications received by the Veterans Crisis Line is answered in a timely manner by a person, consistent with the guidelines established by the American Association of Suicidology.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This bill was introduced by Representative Young and referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. It was [marked-up](#) on September 21, 2016.

No committee report has been filed at this time.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

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

H.R. 5509 — To name the Department of Veterans Affairs temporary lodging facility in Indianapolis, Indiana, as the Dr. Otis Bowen Veteran House (Rep. Brooks, R-IN)

CONTACT: [Rebekah Armstrong](#), 202-226-0678

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration September 23, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5509](#) would name the Department of Veterans Affairs temporary lodging facility in Indianapolis, Indiana, as the 'Dr. Otis Bowen Veteran House'.

COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost estimate is not available at this time.

CONSERVATIVE 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:

This bill would name the Department of Veterans Affairs temporary lodging facility in Indianapolis, Indiana, as the 'Dr. Otis Bowen Veteran House'.

Dr. Otis Bowen was a physician and politician, serving as both the Governor of Indiana and the Secretary of Health and Human Services in the Reagan Administration. He was born in February 1918 near Rochester, Indiana, and became active in politics while still practicing medicine. Throughout his political career in Indiana he continued to teach at Indiana University until being appointed as Secretary of Health and Human Services. He died in May 2013 at the age of 95.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This bill was introduced by Representative Brooks and referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. It was [marked-up](#) on September 21, 2016.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8. No specific enumerating clause was cited.

H.R. 3216 — Veterans Emergency Treatment (VET) Act (Rep. Newhouse, R-WA)

CONTACT: [Rebekah Armstrong](#), 202-226-0678

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration September 23, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 3216](#) would require VA medical facilities to examine and provide emergency and stabilizing care to any veteran who presents himself or herself at the facility with emergency needs and who is enrolled in the VA health system.

COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 3216 would have insignificant costs resulting from updating regulations, as the requirements of the bill align with current practice at the VA. Any spending required would be subject to appropriations. Enacting H.R. 3216 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CONSERVATIVE 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:

This bill would ensure veterans in a VA hospital emergency department who request examination and treatment for a medical condition are provided with appropriate medical screenings to determine whether an emergency medical condition exists. If it is determined an emergency medical condition exists, the veteran would be provided further medical examination and treatment or be transferred to another VA or non-department medical facility. If a veteran refuses further treatment or a transfer to another hospital, all reasonable steps would be taken to secure the written consent of the veteran. Veterans could not be transferred if they were not first stabilized unless the veteran requests, in writing, a transfer, or it is determined the medical benefits of the transfer outweigh the risks.

VA and non-VA hospitals would be barred from delaying appropriate medical screenings in order to inquire about the method of payment or insurance status of a veteran.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This bill was introduced by Representative Newhouse and referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. It was [marked-up](#) on September 21, 2016.

No committee report has been filed at this time.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

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

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