



[1\) H.R. 439 - National FFA Organization's Federal Charter Amendments Act](#)

[2\) H.R. 498 - Clean Up the Code Act of 2019](#)

[3\) H.R. 31 - Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019, as amended](#)

[4\) H.R. 353 - To direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes](#)

[5\) H.R. 676 - NATO Support Act](#)

[6\) H.R. 328 - Hack Your State Department Act](#)

# H.R. 439 – National FFA Organization’s Federal Charter Amendments Act (Rep. Langevin, D-RI)

## FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on January 22, 2019 under a suspension of the rules which requires 2/3 majority for final passage.

## TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 439](#) would amend the charter of the [Future Farmers of America](#) to give the organization greater authority to control its operations and structure.

## COST:

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

## 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. 439 would amend the charter of the Future Farmers of America to give the organization greater authority to control its operations and structure. The FFA charter was originally passed in the 1950s and was most recently revised in 1998. The changes in the bill were requested by the [FFA and the Education Department](#).

This revision would add to the charter’s purposes, expounding upon the organization’s role in agricultural education. It would provide for technical revisions to the membership and other portions of the charter, including replacing “corporation” with “FFA” and would detail who would serve on the FFA’s governing body and as student officers, and allow the FAA to choose its directors and officers. The FFA would be permitted to collaborate with the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture.

## COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 439 was introduced on January 10, 2019 and was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

## 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.”

# H.R. 498 – Clean up the Code Act of 2019 (Rep. Chabot, R-OH)

## FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on January 22, 2019 under a suspension of the rules which requires 2/3 majority for final passage.

## TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 498](#) would repeal several nonsensical provisions from the federal criminal code.

## COST:

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

## 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:

The federal criminal code is bloated with numerous provisions that are minor, rarely prosecuted, if ever, and are generally unnecessary.

H.R. 498 would repeal several nonsensical provisions from the federal criminal code. Some provisions that would be repealed include the prohibition on the transportation of the water hyacinth across state lines and unauthorized use of the Woodsy Owl character.

## COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 498 was introduced on January 11, 2019 and was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. Similar legislation passed in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress on December 20, 2018 by a [vote](#) of 386-5.

## ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes" and, Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: "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 in any department or officer thereof."

# H.R. 31 — Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019, as amended (Rep. Engel, D-NY)

## FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on January 22, 2019 under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

### TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 31](#) would impose sanctions on people and entities that engage in certain transactions with Syria and related groups and direct the Department of Treasury to determine whether to use countermeasures against Syria's central bank for laundering money.

### COST:

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

### 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?** Yes, the bill would give sanction waiver authority to the President.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

## DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 31 would require that the President impose certain sanctions on foreign persons that knowingly provide significant support – financial, material, or technical – to, or engage in a significant transaction with the Government of Syria, its military and military contractors, mercenaries, or paramilitary organizations operating in Syria on behalf of any of the governments of Syria, Russia, or Iran, or foreigners that are subject to other sanctions related to Syria.

The bill would also impose sanctions on foreigners that knowingly sell or provide significant goods or services that support Syria's fossil fuel sector, aircraft or related parts used for Syrian military purposes, or construction/engineering services to Syria.

The sanctions that would be required under the bill would include freezing the assets of sanctioned persons that are in the U.S., revoking visas, and denying entry into the U.S.

The bill would exempt humanitarian and related aid activities in Syria except for designated terrorists.

The bill would allow the President to suspend sanctions if Syria and related military support stops targeting civilians using Syrian airspace, allows free travel in conflict zones for civilians, releases political prisoners, makes programs on weapons reduction, and prosecutes war criminals.

The bill would direct the Department of Treasury to determine whether to use countermeasures against Syria's central bank for laundering money. Countermeasures include additional recordkeeping and reporting requirements and limiting access to the financial system of the U.S.

The bill would expire 5 years after enactment.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

H.R. 31 was introduced on January 3, 2019 and was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and the Judiciary. The version of H.R. 31 expected to be considered on January 22, 2019 is a minimally modified version originally anticipated to be considered in the House on January 10, 2019.

**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 of the Constitution." No specific enumerating clause was cited.

# H.R. 353 — To direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes (Rep. Yoho, R-FL)

## FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on January 22, 2019, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 vote for passage.

### TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 353](#) would direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization.

### COST:

A cost estimate by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is currently unavailable.

However, during the 115<sup>th</sup> CBO estimated that implementation of H.R. 3320, the legislation introduced in the previous Congress, would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2018-2022 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Enacting H.R. 3320 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3320 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

### CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** It would expand the scope of a report the State Department is required to produce.
- **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. 353 would direct the Department of State to include in a report to Congress required by [subsection \(c\) of section 1 of Public Law 108-235](#) (118 Stat. 656), an account of the changes and improvements the Secretary of State has made to the United States plan to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the World Health Assembly, following any annual meetings of the World Health Assembly at which Taiwan did not obtain observer status.

## COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 353 was introduced on January 8, 2019 and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

**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 of the Constitution of the United States."

# H.R. 676 – the NATO Support Act (Panetta, D-CA)

## FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on January 22, 2019, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 vote for passage.

**TOPLINE SUMMARY:** [H.R. 676](#) would declare the Sense of Congress that the President should not withdraw with NATO, prohibit the use of funding to do so, and declare it is the policy of the United States to remain a member in good standing with NATO.

**COST:** A score by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is currently unavailable.

## CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

Some conservatives may be concerned that the language contained in the bill is not strong enough with regard to urging other NATO members to contribute their promised share of defense funding to the organization under the 2014 Wales Defense Investment Pledge. Stronger language was contained in [H.Res. 397](#), passed by the House in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress.

- **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. 676 would generally express Congressional support for NATO and prohibit the use of funds to withdraw from NATO.

This legislation would provide a brief background on the history of NATO and the United States history of support for the organization.

This legislation would provide a Sense of Congress that the President shall not withdraw the United States from NATO; and that the case [Goldwater v. Carter](#) is not controlling legal precedent with respect to the withdrawal of the United States from a treaty.

The bill would provide that it is U.S. policy to stay a member in good standing in NATO, reject efforts to withdraw from NATO which includes de facto withdrawal by severely reducing contributions, work with NATO members to meet their funding commitments, and support robust U.S. funding for the European Deterrence Initiative, which defends against Russian aggression.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:** H.R. 676 was introduced on January 17, 2019 and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

## ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.



**CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:** According to the sponsor of this Legislation: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, clause 18"

# H.R. 328 – Hack Your State Department Act (Lieu, D-CA)

## FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on January 22, 2019, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 vote for passage.

### TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 328](#) would require the Secretary of State to design and establish a Vulnerability Disclosure Process (VDP) to improve the Department's cybersecurity programs.

### COST:

For the legislation introduced in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that additional costs under the bill would be less than \$500,000 over the 2018-2023 period, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting [H.R. 5433](#) would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 5433 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

### CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Yes, the bill would create a pilot program.
- **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. 328](#) would require the Secretary of State to design and establish a Vulnerability Disclosure Process (VDP) to improve Department cybersecurity by providing security researchers with clear guidelines for conducting vulnerability discovery activities directed at Department information technology; and submitting discovered security vulnerabilities to the Department; and creating Department procedures and infrastructure to receive and fix discovered vulnerabilities.

In establishing the VDP, the Secretary shall identify which Department information technology should be included in the process; determine whether the process should differentiate among and specify the types of security vulnerabilities that may be targeted; provide a readily available means of reporting discovered security vulnerabilities and the form in which such vulnerabilities should be reported; identify which Department offices and positions will be responsible for receiving, prioritizing and addressing security vulnerability disclosure reports; consult with the Attorney General regarding how to ensure that approved individuals, organizations, and companies that

comply with the requirements of the process are protected from prosecution for specific activities authorized under the process; consult with the relevant offices at the Department of Defense that were responsible for launching the 2016 Vulnerability Disclosure Program, “Hack the Pentagon”, and subsequent Department of Defense bug bounty programs; engage qualified interested persons, including nongovernmental sector representatives; and award a contract to an entity, as necessary, to manage the process and implement the remediation of discovered security vulnerabilities. The bill would require the Department to submit a report to Congress on the VDP annually for the next six years.

The bill would require the Secretary of State to establish a bug bounty pilot program to minimize security vulnerabilities of internet-facing information technology of the Department. The Secretary shall provide compensation for reports of previously unidentified security vulnerabilities within the websites, applications, and other internet-facing information technology of the Department that are accessible to the public; award a contract to an entity, as necessary, to manage such pilot program and for executing the remediation of security vulnerabilities; identify which Department information technology should be included in such pilot program; as well as other specified requirements.

The pilot program should be short-term in duration and not last longer than one year. The bill would additionally require the Secretary of State to submit a report to Congress on such pilot program.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

H.R. 329 was introduced on January 8, 2019 and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs

**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.” No enumerating clause was listed.

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