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H. Res. 156 – Calling for accountability and justice for the assassination of Boris Nemtsov (Engel, D-NY)

FLOOR SCHEDULE: Scheduled for consideration on March 12, 2019, under a suspension of the rules which requires a 2/3rds majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: [H. Res. 156](#) would express the sense of the House that there should be accountability and justice for the assassination of Boris Nemtsov.

COST: A Congressional Budget Office score is not required for House Resolutions.

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. Res. 156](#) would express the sense of the House that there should be accountability and justice for the [assassination of Boris Nemtsov](#).

This resolution would provide background information on the life of Boris Nemtsov, his opposition to Vladimir Putin as well as the events which led to the assassination of Nemtsov.

This resolution would express that it is the sense of the House of Representatives to condemn Vladimir Putin and his regime for targeting political opponents and covering up the assassination of Nemtsov; urge the United States Government to raise the case of the assassination to bring the masterminds to justice; calls on Russia to allow an impartial investigation; calls for certain sanctions on individuals related to the assassination; and calls for the Secretary of State to submit a report to the Congress detailing the circumstances of the assassination.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This Resolution was introduced on February 27, 2019 and as referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. A markup was held on March 7, 2019 and the bill was Ordered to be Reported, as amended, Favorably by Voice Vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No stated Administration position available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

Constitutional Authority Statements are not required for House Resolutions.

H.R. 596 – Crimea Annexation Non-recognition Act (Connolly, D-VA)

FLOOR SCHEDULE: Scheduled for consideration on March 12, 2019 under a suspension of the rules which requires a 2/3rds majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: [H.R. 596](#) would prohibit the United States Government from recognizing Russia’s claim of sovereignty over Crimea, its airspace, or its territorial waters.

COST: The [Congressional Budget Office](#) states that “The federal government considers Crimea to be part of Ukraine and Russia’s occupation of it to be illegal; therefore, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 596 would not affect the federal budget.”

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?** The bill would provide waiver authority to the President on a case-by-case basis.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

[H.R. 596](#) would prohibit the United States Government from recognizing Russia’s annexation of Crimea.

This legislation would state that the policy of the United States Government is not to recognize Russia’s claim of sovereignty over Crimea, its airspace or its territorial waters.

This legislation would prohibit any Federal department or agency to take any action or extend any assistance which implies recognition of the Russian annexation.

Additionally, this legislation would provide waiver authority to the President on a case-by-case basis for the above section if the President determines that it is vital to the national security interests if the United States to do so.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This legislation was introduced on January 16, 2019 and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. A markup was held on March 7, 2019 and was Ordered to be Reported, as amended, Favorably by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No stated Administration position available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor of this legislation: “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: This bill is introduced pursuant to the authority delineated in Article I, Section I, which includes an implied power for the Congress to regulate the conduct of the United States with respect to foreign affairs.

H.R. 1404 – Vladimir Putin Transparency Act (Rep. Demings D-FL)

FLOOR SCHEDULE: Scheduled for consideration on March 12, 2019 under a suspension of the rules which requires a 2/3rds majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: [H.R. 1404](#) would direct the Office of the Director of National Intelligence to send a report to the Congress on Russian President Vladimir Putin and his corrupt financial behavior.

COST: A Congressional Budget Office cost estimate is currently unavailable.

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. 1404](#) would direct the Office of the Director of National Intelligence to send a report to the Congress on Russian President Vladimir Putin and his corrupt financial behavior.

This legislation contains a congressional findings section explaining the alleged election influence by Russia and Putin during the 2016 United States Presidential election and his personal net worth.

This legislation would express the Sense of Congress that the United States should do more to expose the corruption of Russian President Vladimir Putin. Additionally, this legislation would require that not 180 days after the enactment of this legislation, a report would be required to be sent to the Congress on: 1) the estimated net worth of Vladimir Putin; 2) a description of legitimately and illegitimately obtained assets; 3) the details of the legitimately and illegitimately obtained assets; 4) the methods used by Vladimir Putin to conceal his net worth; and 5) an identification of the most significant senior Russian political figures, oligarchs or any other persons who have engaged in activity intended to conceal the true financial condition of Vladimir Putin.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 1404 was introduced on February 27, 2019 and was referred to the House Committee on Intelligence.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Position is currently unavailable.

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"

H.R. 1617 – KREMLIN Act (Rep. Krishnamoorthi, D-IL)

FLOOR SCHEDULE: Scheduled for consideration on March 12, 2019 under a suspension of the rules which requires a 2/3rds majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: [H.R. 1617](#) would direct the Director of National Intelligence to submit intelligence assessments of the intentions of the political leadership of Russia.

COST: A Congressional Budget Office cost estimate is currently unavailable.

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. 1617](#) would direct the Director of National Intelligence to submit intelligence assessments of the intentions of the political leadership of Russia.

This legislation would express the Sense of Congress regarding the current imposed sanctions on the Russian Federation; would express support for NATO, specifically its newly deployed presence in Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia; express that the United States does not wish to threaten Russia by virtue of its military posture in Europe; and commit the United States to the defense of fundamental beliefs against any Russian aggression.

This legislation would require a report to be sent to the Congress not later than 90 days after the date of enactment. Such a report would be required to describe current Russian military intentions against members of NATO; Potential responses to an enlarged United States or NATO presence in Eastern Europe; and potential areas where the Government of Russia could exploit weaknesses and divisions among the governments of its Western adversaries.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 1617 was introduced on March 7, 2019 and was referred to the House Intelligence Committee.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Position is currently unavailable.

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"

H.R. 1582 — Electronic Message Preservation Act (Rep. Cummings, D-MD)

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on March 12, 2019, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 1582](#) would require the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to create regulations requiring the preservation of certain electronic messages and records by Federal agencies. NARA would also be directed to establish standards for the management and preservation of electronic Presidential records.

COST:

No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available.

In the 115th Congress, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimated](#) that implementing the bill would have no significant effect on federal spending because most of the provisions of H.R. 1376, the same bill from the 115th Congress, would codify current practices.

According to CBO, enacting H.R. 1376 could affect direct spending by agencies that use fees, receipts from the sale of goods, and other collections to cover operating costs. Such collections are counted by CBO as negative mandatory spending. Therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. Because most agencies can adjust the amounts collected as their operating costs change, CBO estimates that any net changes in direct spending by those agencies would be insignificant.

CONSERVATIVE VIEWS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Yes. The bill would impose additional duties, albeit ones that are inherently administrative, on executive agencies and the office of the President. Additionally, the bill could result in the imposition of higher fees imposed on private entities to cover the costs of agencies complying the bill's requirements.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** Yes. The bill would require NARA to promulgate records preservation regulations.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

The bill would require the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to issue regulations governing Federal agency preservation of electronic messages such as emails and other electronic records. The regulations would have to require that the electronic records be preserved in an electronic format and be electronically searchable. All federal agencies would be required to comply with the preservation regulations established by NARA.

The bill would require federal agencies to submit to NARA reports within 1 year of enactment of the bill on the agency's compliance and make the report public. NARA would have to report to Congress on overall agency compliance with 90 days of receipt of all agency reports.

NARA would also be directed to establish standards for the management of electronic Presidential records during the President's term in office, including for the preservation and searchability of electronic messages. NARA would be directed to annually certify and report to Congress whether the management controls established by the President are in compliance with the standards established by this bill for electronic Presidential Records and sections 2203(a) and 2206(5) of the Presidential Records Act pertaining to management and custody of Presidential records of official duties.

The bill would also require NARA to report to Congress within one year after the last term of a President on the volume and format of electronic Presidential records deposited into that President's Presidential archival depository and whether the electronic records management controls of that President met the standards established by this bill.

This bill contains similar language to H.R. 1376, which passed the House in the 115th Congress by voice vote on July 16, 2018. The RSC's legislative bulletin for H.R. 1376 can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 1582 was introduced on March 7, 2019 and was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

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 18 of the Constitution of the United States grants the Congress the power to enact this law."

H.R. 1608 — To amend the Federal Advisory Act to increase the transparency of Federal advisory committees, and for other purposes. (Rep. Clay, D-MO)

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration March 12, 2019 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 1608](#) would amend the Federal Advisory Committee Act to improve the transparency and accountability of federal advisory committees.

COST:

No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available.

In the 115th Congress, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimated](#) that, assuming availability of appropriated funds, the bill would cost about \$70 million over the FY 2018-2022 period. Enacting the bill could affect direct spending by agencies not funded through annual appropriations; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. CBO estimates, however, that any net increase in spending by those agencies would be negligible. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues.

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 amend the Federal Advisory Committee Act by increasing transparency in the appointment of candidates to advisory committees. Agencies would be required to publish potential candidates in the Federal Register and provide a mechanism for comment which must be considered prior to appointment. Appointed committee members who are not federal government employees would be designated as a special government employee if they are providing advice based on their expertise or a representative if they are representing views from outside entities. Agencies would not be allowed to deem members a representative in order to avoid subjecting them to federal ethics rules and requirements. The head of each agency would be prohibited from interfering with free and independent participation in the committee.

Each advisory committee would be required to make publicly available: (1) its charter; (2) how it appointed members; (3) a list of current members; (4) a list of members designated as special government employees; (5) any recusals made during the work of the committee; (6) how the committee made decisions; (7) detailed minutes of the meetings; (8) reasoning behind the closing of a meeting; and, (9) notices of future meetings. An advisory committee is not allowed to meet until a charter has been filed with the head of the agency it

reports to. The charter would include its official designation and a description of the duties for which it is responsible.

The head of each agency that has an advisory committee would be directed to designate an advisory committee management officer who would be responsible for the establishment and management of the advisory committees. The Comptroller General would review compliance and ensure agencies are appropriately appointing advisory committee members.

Section 12 of the bill dictates that for purposes of [Statutory PAYGO](#) any revenue or mandatory spending effects of the bill shall be estimated in accordance with a statement that may be filed by Rep. Yarmuth (D-KY), Chairman of the House Budget Committee, which presumably would mandate that the bill be estimated as not having any revenue or mandatory spending effects.

This bill contains similar language to [H.R. 70](#), which passed the House in the 115th Congress by voice vote on January 4, 2017. The RSC's legislative bulletin for H.R. 70 can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This bill was introduced on March 7, 2019 and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

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 grants the Congress the power to enact this law.

H.R. 1654 — Federal Register Modernization Act (Rep. Meadows, R-NC)

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on March 12, 2019, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 1654](#) would amend the [Federal Register Act](#) by updating the terminology and processes used by the Office of the Federal Register for publishing agency documents in the Federal Register. The bill would replace references to printing and distributing with the term “publishing” (e.g., by electronic means). Accordingly, the Federal Register would no longer be required to be distributed in printed form.

COST:

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

CONSERVATIVE VIEWPOINTS:

- **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?** The bill would direct the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register to prescribe regulations related to publication of the federal register.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

[H.R. 1654](#) would amend the [Federal Register Act](#) by updating the terminology and processes used by the Office of the Federal Register for publishing agency documents in the Federal Register. The bill would replace references to printing and distributing with the term “publishing” (e.g., by electronic means). Accordingly, the Federal Register would no longer be required to be distributed in printed form, and the requirement for agencies to submit multiple copies of documents to be printed in the Federal Register would be eliminated. The bill would require documents filed with the office to be immediately published in the Federal Register.

The bill would direct the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register to prescribe regulations providing: (1) the documents to be published; (2) the manner and form of publication; (3) the manner of distribution to government officials; (4) the price for individual copies or subscriptions to the Federal Register; (5) how the Federal Register may receive information and comments from the public; and, (6) special editions of the Federal Register. The committee would be permitted to occasionally require publication of a special edition of the Federal Register that provides a complete codification of the current regulations in the Federal Register, known as the Code of Federal Regulations. Each unit of codification would must be supplemented and republished at least annually.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H. R. 1654 was introduced on March 8, 2019 and was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.

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."

NOTE: *RSC Legislative Bulletins are for informational purposes only and should not be taken as statements of support or opposition from the Republican Study Committee.*