



Legislative Bulletin.....March 12, 2007

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Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$60 million over five years

Effect on Revenue: \$0

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 3

Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 0

**H.R. 1068 — To amend the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991
(Baird, D-WA)**

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, March 12, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1068 would significantly amend the National High-Performance Computing Program, which is an interagency coordination program run by the Office of Science and Technology Policy. Specifically, H.R. 1068 would replace the program's existing purpose and goals with the following:

- “provide for long-term basic and applied research on high-performance computing;
- “provide for research and development on, and demonstration of, technologies to advance the capacity and capabilities of high-performance computing and networking systems;
- “provide for sustained access by the research community in the United States to high-performance computing systems that are among the most advanced in the world in terms of performance in solving scientific and engineering problems, including provision for technical support for users of such systems;
- “provide for efforts to increase software availability, productivity, capability, security, portability, and reliability;
- “provide for high-performance networks, including experimental testbed networks, to enable research and development on, and demonstration of, advanced applications enabled by such networks;
- “provide for computational science and engineering research on mathematical modeling and algorithms for applications in all fields of science and engineering;
- “provide for the technical support of, and research and development on, high-performance computing systems and software required to address Grand Challenges;
- “provide for educating and training additional undergraduate and graduate students in software engineering, computer science, computer and network security, applied mathematics, library and information science, and computational science; and
- “provide for improving the security of computing and networking systems, including Federal systems, including research required to establish security standards and practices for these systems.”

H.R. 1068 also strikes the program's activities as defined by current law and establishes the following activities for the program:

- “establish the goals and priorities for Federal high-performance computing research, development, networking, and other activities;
- “establish Program Component Areas that implement the goals established under subparagraph (A) [listed above], and identify the Grand Challenges that the Program should address;
- “provide for interagency coordination of Federal high-performance computing research, development, networking, and other activities undertaken pursuant to the Program; and
- “develop and maintain a research, development, and deployment roadmap for the provision of high-performance computing systems.”

H.R. 1068 would direct the President to establish an advisory committee on high-performance computing consisting of non-federal members, including representatives of the research, education, and library communities, network providers, and industry, who are specially qualified to provide the Director with advice and information on high-performance computing. The advisory committee is to report to the Director with an assessment of progress being made in the program and any recommendations for needed improvements.

Additional Information: According to CBO, H.R. 1068 would seek to adjust the objectives of the National High-Performance Computing Program with the current research and development priorities of individual agencies. The following agencies conduct nondefense research and development on high-performance computing, and would be affected by this legislation: National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, National Institutes of Health, NASA, Department of Commerce, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Committee Action: H.R. 1068 was introduced on February 15, 2007, and referred to the House Committee on Science and Technology, which held a mark-up and reported the bill by voice vote, on March 8, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1068 would have no significant effect 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.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available. House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution” (*emphasis added*).

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**H.R. 1126 — To reauthorize the Steel and Aluminum Energy
Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act of 1988
(Lipinski, D-IL)**

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, March 12, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1126 would reauthorize, at \$60 million over five years (\$12 million each year from FY2008 through FY2012), the Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation

and Technology Competitiveness Act of 1988. This Act funds research and development of energy-efficient manufacturing of steel and aluminum. H.R. 1126 would also amend the Act to include research for bar steel and technology that aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Committee Action: H.R. 1126 was introduced on February 16, 2007, and referred to the House Committee on Science and Technology, which held a mark-up and reported the bill by voice vote, on March 8, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO confirms that enacting H.R. 1126 would authorize \$12 million in FY2008, and \$60 million over five 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.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available. House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution” (*emphasis added*).

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H.R. 85 — Energy Technology Transfer Act (Biggert, R-IL)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, March 12, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 85 would expand a current grant program that provides grants to nonprofit institutions, state and local governments, and other entities, for geographically dispersed network of Advanced Energy Technology Transfer Centers, located in areas determined by the Secretary of Commerce, to have the greatest need of the services offered by the Centers. These federally-funded Centers operate a program to encourage demonstration and commercial application of advanced energy methods and technologies through education and outreach to building and industrial professionals. H.R. 85 would authorize the following uses for recipients of these grants:

- “Developing and distributing informational materials on technologies that could use energy more efficiently.
- “Carrying out demonstrations of advanced energy methods and technologies.
- “Developing and conducting seminars, workshops, long-distance learning sessions, and other activities to aid in the dissemination of knowledge and information on technologies that could use energy more efficiently.

- “Providing or coordinating onsite energy evaluations, including instruction on the commissioning of building heating and cooling systems, for a wide range of energy end-users.
- “Examining the energy efficiency needs of energy end-users to develop recommended research projects for the Department.
- “Hiring experts in energy efficient technologies to carry out activities described in paragraphs (1) through (5).”

H.R. 85 would require that certain cost-sharing requirements be met by grant awardees. In addition, the bill limits a grant recipient to receiving not more than 11 years of funding through this new program. Finally, the bill prohibits funds awarded through this program from being utilized for construction.

Committee Action: H.R. 85 was introduced on January 4, 2007, and referred to the House Committee on Science and Technology, which held a mark-up and reported the bill by voice vote, as amended, on March 8, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, enacting H.R. 85 “would not significantly affect the federal budget. We expect that any change in the amount of grants awarded under the bill or the agency’s costs to administer them would not exceed \$500,000 annually, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.”

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.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available. House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution” (*emphasis added*).

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H.Res. 136—Commending the Girl Scouts of the United States of America on the occasion of their 95th anniversary, for providing quality age-appropriate experiences that prepare girls to become the leaders of tomorrow and for raising issues important to girls (*McCarthy, D-NY*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, March 12th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 136 would resolve that the House:

- “commends the Girl Scouts of the United States of America for its efforts to launch a national dialogue on the issue of obesity among young girls;
- “recognizes the Girl Scouts of the United States of America for its leadership and expertise in knowing the needs of girls through the work of the Girl Scout Research Institute; and
- “commends the Girl Scouts of the United States of America for continuing to actively promote issues important to girls.”

The resolution also notes that “the Girl Scouts of the United States of America...is an organization that is committed to helping girls of today become leaders of tomorrow and that delivers quality experiences for girls locally, nationally, and internationally (through USA Girl Scouts Overseas).” Additionally, “the Girl Scouts advocate for public policy that is girl-centered and beneficial to all girls.”

Additional Background: The Girl Scouts are celebrating their 95th anniversary today, March 12, 2007.

To read a *National Review* piece on the more controversial aspects of the Girls Scouts, visit this webpage: <http://www.nationalreview.com/23oct00/lopez102300.shtml>.

For more information on the Girl Scouts, visit this website: <http://www.girlscouts.org/>.

RSC Bonus Fact: The earliest mention of a Girl Scout cookie sale found to date was that of the Mistletoe Troop in Muskogee, Oklahoma, which baked cookies and sold them in its high school cafeteria as a service project in December 1917.
http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs_cookies/cookie_history/early_years.asp

Committee Action: On February 7, 2007, the resolution was referred to the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which, on March 8th, marked up and ordered the resolution reported to the full House by unanimous consent.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

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.

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H.Res. 89—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a day should be established as Dutch-American Friendship Day to celebrate the historic ties of the United States and the Netherlands (Hoekstra, R-MI)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, March 12th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 89 would resolve that a sense of the House that “a day should be established as Dutch-American Friendship Day to celebrate the historic ties of the United States and the Netherlands.”

Additional Background: The resolution notes that, on April 19, 1782, in the City of the Hague, the ambassadorial credentials of John Adams were officially recognized by the Republic of the Netherlands, thus establishing formal diplomatic ties between the two governments. The diplomatic ties between the United States and the Netherlands are the longest continuous ties between the U.S. and any country of the world.

RSC Bonus Fact: The 104th Congress changed the [House Rules](#) to prohibit a bill from being considered on the House floor if “it establishes or expresses a commemoration”, which is defined as “a remembrance, celebration, or recognition for any purpose through the designation of a specified period of time.” This rule is still in effect in the 110th Congress. <http://www.rules.house.gov/ruleprec/110th.pdf>. Technically, this resolution does not itself establish a commemorative day.

Committee Action: On January 23, 2007, the resolution was referred to the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which, on March 8th, marked up and ordered the resolution reported to the full House by unanimous consent.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

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.

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H.Res. 198—Recognizing the significance of Black History Month (*Al Green, D-TX*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, March 12th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 198 would resolve that the House:

- “recognizes the significance of Black History Month as an important time to recognize the contributions of Black Americans in the Nation’s history, and

encourages the continued celebration of this month to provide an opportunity for all people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the Nation; and

- “affirms that--
 - the contributions of Black Americans are a significant part of the history, progress, and heritage of the United States; and
 - the ethnic and racial diversity of the United States enriches and strengthens the Nation.”

The resolution also asserts, after noting the enslavement and other injustices done to black Americans, that “the history of the United States is the story of a people regularly affirming high ideals, striving to reach them but often failing, and then struggling to come to terms with the disappointment of that failure before committing themselves to trying again.”

Additional Background: The resolution notes that “the month of February is officially celebrated as Black History Month, which dates back to 1926, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period of time in February to recognize the heritage and achievement of Black Americans.” Black History Month was officially established in 1976.

For more information on Black History Month, visit this webpage:

http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/history_geography_and_population/population_and_diversity/african_americans/African_American_History_Month.html.

RSC Bonus Fact: The 104th Congress changed the [House Rules](#) to prohibit a bill from being considered on the House floor if “it establishes or expresses a commemoration”, which is defined as “a remembrance, celebration, or recognition for any purpose through the designation of a specified period of time.” This rule is still in effect in the 110th Congress. <http://www.rules.house.gov/ruleprec/110th.pdf>. Technically, this resolution does not itself establish a commemorative day.

Committee Action: On February 27, 2007, the resolution was referred to the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which, on March 8th, marked up and ordered the resolution reported to the full House by unanimous consent.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

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.

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