



Legislative Bulletin.....March 19, 2007

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Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: One new federal grant program

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: At least \$6 million

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: 7

Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 1

H.Res. 138 — Recognizing the importance of Hot Springs National Park on its 175th anniversary (Ross, D-AR)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Monday, March 19, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 138 would resolve that, on the 175th anniversary of the Act of Congress that created the Hot Springs Reservation, the House of Representatives recognizes the important contribution of the Hot Springs Reservation and Hot Springs National Park to the history of conservation in the United States.

The resolution also states a number of findings, including the following:

- “the concept in the United States of setting aside a nationally significant place for the future enjoyment of its citizens was first implemented 175 years ago in Hot Springs, Arkansas, with the creation of the Hot Springs Reservation, which protected 47 area hot springs;
- “the Act that created the Hot Springs Reservation, entitled ‘An Act authorizing the governor of the territory of Arkansas to lease the salt springs, in said territory, and for other purposes’, approved April 20, 1832 (4 Stat. 505), required that ‘the hot springs in said territory, together with four sections of land, including said springs, as near the centre thereof as may be, shall be reserved for the future disposal of the United States, and shall not be entered, located, or appropriated, for any other purpose whatever’;
- “the Act creating the Hot Springs Reservation preceded both the establishment of the Department of the Interior in 1849 and the establishment of Yellowstone National Park as the first national park in 1872; and
- “the tradition of preservation and conservation that developed into the National Park System, which now includes 390 units, began with the Act that created the Hot Springs Reservation.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 138 was introduced on February 7, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources’ Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes 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.

RSC Staff Contact: Derek V. Baker; derek.baker@mail.house.gov; 202-226-8585

H.R. 902 — More Water and More Energy Act of 2007 (*Udall, D-CO*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, March 19, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

An almost identical bill, H.R. 5110, passed the House during the 109th Congress by a voice vote on December 5, 2006.

Summary: H.R. 902 would authorize \$5 million for the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the U.S Geological Survey to conduct a study to identify the technical, economic, environmental, legal, and other obstacles to increasing the extent to which produced water can be

used for irrigation and other purposes. The bill would direct the Secretary to report to Congress on the results of this study.

H.R. 5110 would also authorize \$5 million in **new federal grants** for the implementation of several local projects. Specifically, the bill authorizes “at least one project in one of the Upper Basin States other than New Mexico,” “at least one project in either New Mexico or one of the Lower Basin States other than California,” “at least one project in California,” and “at least one project in Texas.” The bill states the purpose of the grants is to “provide financial assistance for the development of facilities to demonstrate the feasibility, effectiveness, and safety of processes to increase the extent to which produced water may be recovered and made suitable for use for irrigation, municipal or industrial uses, or other purposes without adversely affecting water quality or the environment.”

Committee Action: H.R. 902 was introduced on February 7, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources’ Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources and the Subcommittee on Water and Power, neither of which took any official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H.R. 902 is unavailable. However, the bill authorizes \$6 million.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: As noted above, this bill creates one new grant program.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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]*

RSC Staff Contact: Derek V. Baker; derek.baker@mail.house.gov; 202-226-8585

H.R. 1021 — Taunton, Massachusetts Special Resources Study Act (Frank, D-MA)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, March 19, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

An almost identical bill, H.R. 1512, passed the House during the 109th Congress by a voice vote on June 27, 2005.

Summary: H.R. 1021 would direct the Secretary of Interior to conduct a special resources study regarding the suitability and feasibility of designating certain historic buildings and areas

in Taunton, Massachusetts, as a unit of the National Park System. The study is to determine whether the historic areas in Taunton:

- “can be managed, curated, interpreted, restored, preserved, and presented as an organic whole under management by the National Park Service or under an alternative management structure;
- “have an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use;
- “reflect traditions, customs, beliefs, and historical events that are valuable parts of the national story;
- “provide outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, historic, cultural, architectural, or scenic features;
- “provide outstanding recreational and educational opportunities; and
- “can be managed by the National Park Service in partnership with residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and State and local governments to develop a unit of the National Park System consistent with State and local economic activity.”

The Secretary of the Interior is to submit a report within three years to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate on the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the study.

Committee Action: H.R. 1021 was introduced on February 13, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources’ Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H.R. 1021 is unavailable.

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 unavailable.

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]*

RSC Staff Contact: Derek V. Baker; derek.baker@mail.house.gov; 202-226-8585

H.R. 658 — Natural Resource Protection Cooperative Agreement Act (Porter, R-NV)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, March 19, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 658 would allow the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with state, local or tribal governments, other federal agencies, other public entities, educational institutions, private nonprofit organizations, or participating private landowners, for the purpose of “protecting natural resources of units of the National Park System through collaborative efforts on land inside and outside of National Park System units.” The bill stipulates specific benefits to park natural resources that cooperative agreements must include:

- the preservation of watersheds and wetlands,
- preventing, controlling, or eradicating invasive exotic species that are within the National Park System, or
- the restoration of native wildlife habitats and ecosystems.

Committee Action: H.R. 658 was introduced on January 24, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources’ Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H.R. 658 is unavailable. The bill states that “Funds available to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be limited to programs and amounts specified in the statute for such use in the annual appropriation Act for the National Park Service.”

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 unavailable.

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]*

RSC Staff Contact: Derek V. Baker; derek.baker@mail.house.gov; 202-226-8585

H.R. 838 - To provide for the conveyance of the Bureau of Land Management parcels known as the White Acre and Gambel Oak properties and related real property to Park City, Utah, and for other purposes (Bishop, R-UT)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, March 19, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 838 directs the Secretary of Interior to convey to Park City, Utah, two parcels of property located in Park City that are currently under the management jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and known as the White Acre and Gambel Oak properties. The bill requires that the conveyance be made by a deed or deeds containing a restriction requiring that the lands be maintained as open space and used only for public recreation purposes

or other similar purposes. H.R. 838 requires Park City, Utah to pay to the Secretary of Interior an amount “consistent with conveyances to governmental entities for recreational purposes under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act.” According to CBO, the amount paid by Utah to the Secretary will be “negligible.”

H.R. 838 also directs the Secretary to sell two specified parcels of property (different from the two parcels of land previously mentioned) located in Park City that are currently under the management jurisdiction of the BLM, and requires that the land be sold through a competitive bidding process and for not less than fair market value.

Additional Information: According to a Committee Report from a similar bill last Congress, “Park City, Utah currently holds a 25 year Recreation and Public Purposes Act lease on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands within the city limits. Consistent with Park City’s long-term management plan for sensitive lands, the City has begun purchasing large blocks of environmentally-sensitive land and has placed those lands in conservation status. Park City recently approved a \$20 million bond for the purchase of such lands.” The Committee Report also stated that the sale of the land provided for in the bill will be used to enhance existing BLM resources in the State of Utah.

Committee Action: H.R. 838 was introduced on February 6, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Resources, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to a CBO estimate for a similar bill last Congress, enacting this legislation would have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill would not affect revenues. According to the agency, the affected federal parcels currently generate no significant receipts and are not expected to do so over the next 10 years.”

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No. The bill reduces federal landholdings in the state of Utah. According to the GSA, as of September 2004, the federal government owned 57.5% of all land in Utah.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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]*

RSC Staff Contact: Joelle Cannon; joelle.cannon@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-0718.

H.R. 839 - Arthur V. Watkins Dam Enlargement Act (Bishop, R-UT)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, March 19, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 839 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior (through the Bureau of Reclamation) to conduct a feasibility study on raising the height of the Arthur V. Watkins Dam to provide additional storage to meet water supply needs within the Weber Basin Project area and the Wasatch Front, Utah. The study must include an environmental evaluation and a cost allocation. The bill limits the federal share to 50 percent of the study's cost, and allows the Interior Department to accept in-kind contributions of goods or services from the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District. It terminates the Secretary's authority for the Act ten years after enactment, and authorizes appropriations of \$1 million for the federal share.

Committee Action: H.R. 839 was introduced on February 6, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to a CBO estimate for a similar bill last Congress, "assuming appropriation of the specified amount, implementing this legislation would cost \$1 million over the 2006-2007 period.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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]*

RSC Staff Contact: Joelle Cannon; joelle.cannon@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-0718.

H.R. 1006 - Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Amendments of 2007 (Young, R-AK)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, March 19, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1006 would reauthorize the Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Event Fund, which expired in 1993, for FY 2007 through FY 2010, at the current level--\$500,000 annually. In addition, the bill would also reauthorize the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant program at \$7 million annually over the FY 2007 to FY 2010 period. This program provides grants to eligible stranding network participants for the recovery or treatment of marine mammals, the collection of data from living or dead stranded marine mammals for scientific research regarding marine mammal health, and facility operation costs.

Committee Action: H.R. 1006 was introduced on February 13, 2007 and was referred to the Committee on Resources, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score for this bill is unavailable.

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 unavailable.

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]*

RSC Staff Contact: Joelle Cannon; joelle.cannon@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-0718.

H.R. 759 - To redesignate the Ellis Island Library on the third floor of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, located on Ellis Island in New York Harbor, as the “Bob Hope Memorial Library” (*Engel, D-NY*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, March 19, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 759 would redesignate the Ellis Island Library on the third floor of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, as the “Bob Hope Memorial Library.”

RSC Bonus Fact: Bob Hope was born just outside of London, England and immigrated to the United States when he five years old. His birth name was Leslie Townes Hope.

Committee Action: H.R. 759 was introduced on January 31, 2007 and was referred to the Committee on Resources, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO estimate for this bill is unavailable.

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 unavailable.

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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