



---

## Legislative Bulletin.....November 5, 2007

### Contents:

**H.R. 1567**—Stop Tuberculosis (TB) Now Act of 2007

**H.R. 2949**—Eurasia Foundation Act 2007

**H.Res. 379**—A resolution congratulating Nicolas Sarkozy on his election to the presidency of France and welcoming President Sarkozy on the occasion of his appearance before a Joint Meeting of Congress

**H.Res. 435**—Expressing concern relating to the threatening behavior of the Iranian regime and its leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and the activities of terrorist organizations sponsored by that regime in Latin America

**H.Con.Res. 236**—Recognizing the close relationship between the United States and the Republic of San Marino

**H.Res. 550**—Congratulating the people of Ethiopia on the second millennium of Ethiopia, and for other purposes

**H.R. 513**—National Heroes Credit Protection Act

**H.Res. 770**—Expressing support for designation of a National Veterans History Project Week to encourage public participation in a nationwide project that collects and preserves the stories of the men and women who served our nation in times of war and conflict

**H.Con.Res. 60**—Expressing support for the goals of Veterans Educate Today's Students (VETS) Day, and for other purposes

**H.Res. 744**—Recognizing the contributions of Native American veterans and calling upon the President to issue a proclamation urging the people of the United States to observe a day in honor of Native American veterans

**H.R. 797**—Dr. James Allen Veteran Vision Equity Act

**S.J.Res. 7**—A joint resolution providing for the reappointment of Roger W. Sant as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution

**S. 2206**—A bill to provide technical corrections to Public Law 109-116 (2 U.S.C. 2131a note) to extend the time period for the Joint Committee on the Library to enter into an agreement to obtain a statue of Rosa Parks, and for other purposes

---

---

## Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

**Total Number of New Government Programs:** 1

**Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations:** \$415 million in FY 2008 and \$565 million over the FY 2008 – FY 2012 period.

**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:** 2

### **H.R. 1567—Stop Tuberculosis (TB) Now Act of 2007 (*Engel, D-NY*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, November 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 1567 would amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to require the President to increase assistance to the World Health Organization (WHO) to combat the worldwide spread of Tuberculosis (TB). The bill would stipulate that it is the stated objective of the United States, working through the WHO to reduce the number of TB and disease burden from the 1990 baseline by half.

H.R. 1567 would require the President to give funding priority to activities described in the WHO's ["Stop TB Strategy."](#)

To that end, H.R. 1567 would authorize \$400 million in FY 2008 and \$550 million in FY 2009. Of those funds, \$70 million in FY 2008 and \$100 million in FY 2009 would be earmarked for global tuberculosis activities through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**Additional Background:** According to findings listed in the bill, TB is one of the largest infectious causes of death in adults around the world. The disease kills more than 1.6 million people annually or one person every second. TB is the predominant infectious killer of people with a deficient immune system do to HIV, which is often rampant in areas where TB is most devastating. The findings also state that 80 percent of tuberculosis infections in the world occur in just 22 countries. For example, China and India alone account for 36 percent of all the new

TB cases each year. Individual TB infections can be successfully treated and contained for a cost of approximately \$16 per day.

The WHO's "Stop TB Strategy" has the expressed goal of dramatically reducing the "global burden of TB by 2015 in line with the Millennium Development Goals and the Stop TB Partnership targets." Specifically, the strategy has three following objectives:

- Achieve universal access to high-quality diagnosis and patient-centered treatment.
- Reduce the human suffering and socioeconomic burden associated with TB.
- Protect poor and vulnerable populations from TB, TB/HIV and multidrug-resistant TB.
- Support development of new tools and enable their timely and effective use.

The final goal of the strategy is to completely eradicate TB as a public health problem worldwide by the year 2050.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 1567 was introduced on March 19, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs as well as the Committee on Energy and Commerce. On July 31, 2007, the Committee on Foreign Affairs held a mark-up and passed the bill, as amended, by voice vote. On October 15, 2007, the Energy and Commerce Committee held a mark-up and reported [House Report 110 – 381](#).

**Possible Conservative Concerns:** Some conservatives may be concerned that H.R. 1567 authorizes \$950 million in new spending to assist the World Health Organization's TB programs.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to CBO, H.R. 1567 would authorize \$400 million in FY 2008 and \$550 million in FY 2009 (subject to appropriations).

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** Yes, the bill increases the federal commitment to combat TB.

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

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** The Energy and Commerce Committee, in [House Report 110 – 381](#), asserts that, "H.R. 1567 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits."

**Constitutional Authority:** The Energy and Commerce Committee, in [House Report 110 – 381](#), cites constitutional authority in Article 1, Section 8, but does not cite a specific clause. 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:** Andy Koenig; [andy.koenig@mail.house.gov](mailto:andy.koenig@mail.house.gov); 202-226-9717.

## **H.R. 2949—Eurasia Foundation Act 2007 (*Wexler, D-CA*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, November 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 2949 would establish a **new federal grant program** to assist the Eurasia Foundation for the purposes of:

- promoting civil society, private enterprise, and sound public administration and policy in the former Soviet Union and in lending encouragement and assistance to local citizens in their own efforts to develop more open, just, and democratic societies;
- strengthening indigenous institutions that foster national development, constructive social change, equitable economic growth, and cooperative international relationships that are fully consistent with and supportive of long-term United States interests in Eurasia; and
- conducting programs in response to initiatives in the region that would be difficult or impossible for an official United States entity, and, as a result of its position in the Eurasia region, to respond quickly and flexibly to meet new opportunities.

In order to make such grants, the bill would authorize \$15 million in FY 2008 and “such sums” as may be necessary annually in FY 2009 and FY 2010.

**Additional Background:** The Eurasia Foundation is a private, non-profit corporation headquartered in Washington D.C. that makes investments in former soviet nations in Eastern Europe and Western Asia. According to [their website](#), the Eurasia Foundation has invested over \$360 million through more than 8,000 grants and operating programs in former communist countries like Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan since 1992. Some of the Foundation’s notable achievements include, “creating the first independent loan program in Armenia, funding the first independent higher education institution in Uzbekistan, and developing independent news agencies in Moldova.”

**Committee Action:** H.R. 2949 was introduced on June 28, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which held a mark-up on October 23, 2007, and reported the bill, as amended, by unanimous consent.

**Possible Conservative Concerns:** Some conservatives may be concerned that H.R. 2949 authorizes “such sums” to create a **new federal grant program** for a private entity. In addition, the legislation is not accompanied by a CBO score.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score is not yet available. However, the bill would authorize at least \$15 million in FY 2008 (subject to appropriations).

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** Yes, it creates a new grant program to give funds to the Eurasia Foundation.

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

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** An earmarks/revenue benefits statement required under House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a) was not available at press time.

**Constitutional Authority:** A House Report citing constitutional authority is not currently 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]*

**RSC Staff Contact:** Andy Koenig; [andy.koenig@mail.house.gov](mailto:andy.koenig@mail.house.gov); 202-226-9717.

---

**H.Res. 379—A resolution congratulating Nicolas Sarkozy on his election to the presidency of France and welcoming President Sarkozy on the occasion of his appearance before a Joint Meeting of Congress (Poe, R-TX)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Monday, November 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 379 would express the sense that the House:

- “congratulates Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy on his election to the presidency of France and welcomes President Sarkozy on the occasion of his appearance before a Joint Meeting of Congress.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “the Marquis de Lafayette and the people of France offered unparalleled friendship to the people of the United States in their pursuit of freedom and democracy during the American Revolution;
- “there are deep cultural ties between the American and French people, as exemplified by the large flow of visitors each year between the two nations, as well as extensive exchanges between United States and French academic institutions, museums, and sister cities;
- “the United States is France’s 6th largest export market, and its top export market outside of the European Union, and for the United States, France is its 9<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner, and the United States is the largest foreign investor in France;
- “the United States and France are working together to solve important international crises;
- “Nicolas Sarkozy, upon winning the election to become the next President of France, said that the United States can count on France as a friend; and
- “the people of the United States support any effort by the Governments of France and the United States to maintain and grow a spirit of friendship and cooperation.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 379 is expected to be introduced on Monday, November 5, 2007.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** H.Res. 379 authorizes no expenditures.

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

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

**RSC Staff Contact:** Andy Koenig; [andy.koenig@mail.house.gov](mailto:andy.koenig@mail.house.gov); 202-226-9717

---

**H.Res. 435—Expressing concern relating to the threatening behavior of the Iranian regime and its leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and the activities of terrorist organizations sponsored by that regime in Latin America  
(Klein, D-FL)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Monday, November 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 435 would express the sense that the House:

- “expresses concern over the emerging national security implications of the relationships between the leaders of Iran and regimes in the Western Hemisphere like Venezuela;
- “expresses its continued support for the people of Iran and Venezuela as they strive for freedom, respect for human rights and civil liberties, democratic self-governance, and the establishment of the rule of law;
- “supports the existing counterterrorism efforts of Latin American countries, including the successful counterterrorism efforts of the 3+1 Group (consisting of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and the United States);
- “emphasizes the importance of eliminating Hizbollah’s financial network in the tri-border region of South America where Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina meet and throughout the Western Hemisphere;
- “calls on the United States government to work with governments in the Western Hemisphere to pursue an antiterrorism campaign based on cooperation and constant vigilance;
- “urges the United States Government to work bilaterally and multilaterally with countries in the Western Hemisphere to create antiterrorism legislation that would give governmental authorities new tools to take action against terrorist networks; and
- “recommends that the President of the United States create more mechanisms for joint counterterrorism operations and intraregional information sharing among supportive countries in the Western Hemisphere, especially in light of Iran’s increased involvement in the region.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “the Department of State has said that Iran is the ‘most active state sponsor of terrorism;’
- “in February 2006, the chairman of the Iranian legislative body announced plans to assist Venezuela with its nuclear program;
- “in January 2007, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the president of Iran, made his second visit to Central and South America in 5 months to meet with Hugo Chavez, president of Venezuela, to visit Daniel Ortega, president of Nicaragua, and to attend the inauguration of Rafael Correa, president of Ecuador;
- “Mr. Ahmadinejad and Mr. Chavez have announced plans for a \$2,000,000,000 shared fund to invest in projects in countries seeking to ‘liberate themselves from the U.S. imperialist yoke’;
- “according to a Naval War College report, Hizbollah raises an estimated \$10,000,000 each year in the tri-border region of South America where Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina meet;
- “Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and the United States have formed the 3+1 Group, which has focused on the financing of terrorism, drug and arms trafficking, and border security, as well as the exchange of information, with the purpose of preventing terrorism and transnational crimes; and
- “in November 2006, Brazil established a new Regional Intelligence Center in the tri-border region, dedicated to coordinating intelligence activities of the police forces of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay, and invited Argentina and Paraguay to send official representatives to the center.”

**Committee:** H.Res. 435 was introduced on May 23, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which held a mark-up on October 23, 2007, and reported the bill, as amended, by unanimous consent.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** H.Res 435 authorizes no expenditures.

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

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

**RSC Staff Contact:** Andy Koenig; [andy.koenig@mail.house.gov](mailto:andy.koenig@mail.house.gov); 202-226-9717

---

---

## **H.Con.Res. 236—Recognizing the close relationship between the United States and the Republic of San Marino (Dreier, R-CA)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Monday, November 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 236 would express the sense that the Congress:

- “recognizes the close relationship between the United States and the Republic of San Marino;
- “expresses its deep gratitude to the Republic of San Marino for its close collaboration and support in issues of critical importance to our economic and national security interests; and;
- “commemorates the first bilateral exchange of Ambassadors in the history of our long relationship.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “the Republic of San Marino is the oldest republic in the world;
- “the Republic of San Marino was founded by those fleeing the religious persecution of the Roman Empire, and has adhered to the principles of tolerance and individual liberty throughout its history
- “the United States and the Republic of San Marino have long held close ties based on common interests and common values;
- “earlier this year, the United States and the Republic of San Marino upgraded their diplomatic relations to ambassador-level, and exchanged the first bilateral Ambassadors in our history;
- “Paolo Rondelli, the first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of San Marino to the United States, presented his credentials to President Bush at a ceremony at the White House on July 25, 2007; and
- “Ronald P. Spogli, the first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States to the Republic of San Marino, presented credentials to the Captains Regent (co-Heads of State) in a ceremony in San Marino’s Palazzo Publico on March 8, 2007.”

**Committee:** H.Con.Res. 236 was introduced on October 16, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which held a mark-up on October 23, 2007, and reported the bill, as amended, by unanimous consent.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** H.Con.Res. 236 authorizes no expenditures.

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

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

**RSC Staff Contact:** Andy Koenig; [andy.koenig@mail.house.gov](mailto:andy.koenig@mail.house.gov); 202-226-9717

## **H.Res. 550—Congratulating the people of Ethiopia on the second millennium of Ethiopia, and for other purposes (*Honda, D-CA*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Monday, November 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H. Res. 550 would express the sense that the House:

- “congratulates the people of Ethiopia on the second millennium of Ethiopia;
- “recognizes the long, rich history of Ethiopia;
- “commends Ethiopia's contribution to peace and stability on the African continent through the role it played in the creation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU);
- “recognizes the longstanding relationship between Ethiopia and the United States;
- “commends the organizers of the second millennium celebration in Ethiopia and the United States; and
- “calls for a peaceful and jubilant celebration of the second millennium of Ethiopia.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “the earliest known hominid, internationally known as Lucy and classified as the *Australopithecus Afarensis*, was found in Ethiopia;
- “Ethiopia is the only country in Africa that was never colonized, with the exception of the 6 years of occupation by the Fascist government of Italy;
- “in 615, the people of Ethiopia welcomed the followers of the Prophet Mohammed, including the Prophet's wife;
- “in the 9th century, Ethiopians discovered coffee in what is now known as the Kaffa region;
- “United States-Ethiopian relations were established on December 27, 1903, by Emperor Menelik and President Theodore Roosevelt;
- “since then, the Ethiopian-American community has grown to become the second largest African immigrant group in the United States;
- “in 1908, colonial powers recognized Ethiopia's borders and sovereignty;
- “in 1974, Emperor Haile Selassie was ousted from power through a military coup by a military junta known as the Derg;
- “in May 1991, the brutal dictatorship of the Derg came to an end after a 17-year reign of terror;
- “Ethiopia played an important role in the struggle for freedom for many African countries during the colonial period; and
- “the 8th African Union Summit, held from January 29-30, 2007, officially declared the second Ethiopian millennium as the second African millennium.”

**Committee:** H. Res. 550 was introduced on July 16, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which held a mark-up on October 23, 2007, and reported the bill, as amended, by unanimous consent.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** H. Res. 550 authorizes no expenditures.

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

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

**RSC Staff Contact:** Andy Koenig; [andy.koenig@mail.house.gov](mailto:andy.koenig@mail.house.gov); 202-226-9717

---

---

## **H.R. 513—National Heroes Credit Protection Act (*Brady, D-PA*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, November 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 513 would *require* any consumer credit reporting agency to include a notation with a negative credit report of nonpayment or late payment by an individual who has served or is currently serving in the military. The notation would state that the account is delinquent or paid slowly due to military service.

H.R. 513 would require any future or potential creditor to disregard a credit report that includes such a notation. The notation would in no way relieve the debt of service members.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 513 was introduced on January 17, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. On March 3, 2007, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, which held a mark-up on October 25, 2007, and referred the bill to the full committee, as amended, by voice vote. The Committee on Veterans' Affairs took no further official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score is not yet available. However, H.R. 513 does not authorize any expenditures.

**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.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** An earmarks/revenue benefits statement required under House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a) was not available at press time.

**Constitutional Authority:** A House Report citing constitutional authority is not currently 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]*

**RSC Staff Contact:** Andy Koenig; [andy.koenig@mail.house.gov](mailto:andy.koenig@mail.house.gov); 202-226-9717.

---

**H.Res. 770—Expressing support for designation of a National Veterans History Project Week to encourage public participation in a nationwide project that collects and preserves the stories of the men and women who served our nation in times of war and conflict (Porter, R-NV)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Monday, November 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H. Res. 770 would express the sense that the House:

- “recognizes ‘National Veterans Awareness Week’;
- “supports the designation of a ‘National Veterans History Project Week’;
- “calls on the people of the United States to interview at least one veteran in their families or communities according to guidelines provided by the Veterans History Project; and
- “encourages local, State, and national organizations along with Federal, State, city and county governmental institutions to participate in support of the effort to document, preserve, and honor the service of American wartime veterans.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “the Veterans History Project was established by a unanimous vote of the United States Congress to collect and preserve the wartime stories of American veterans;
- “Congress charged the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to undertake the Veterans History Project and to engage the public in the creation of a collection of oral histories that would be a lasting tribute to individual veterans and an abundant resource for scholars;
- “there are 17,000,000 wartime veterans in America whose stories can educate people of all ages about important moments and events in the history of the United States and the world and provide instructive narratives that illuminate the meanings of ‘service’, ‘sacrifice’, ‘citizenship’, and ‘democracy’;
- “the Veterans History Project relies on a corps of volunteer interviewers, partner organizations, and an array of civic minded institutions nationwide who interview veterans according to the guidelines it provides;
- “increasing public participation in the Veterans History Project will increase the number of oral histories that can be collected and preserved and increase the number of veterans it so honors; and
- “‘National Veterans Awareness Week’ commendably preceded this resolution in the years 2005 and 2006.

**Committee:** H. Res. 770 was introduced on October 23, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** H. Res. 770 authorizes no expenditures.

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

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

**RSC Staff Contact:** Andy Koenig; [andy.koenig@mail.house.gov](mailto:andy.koenig@mail.house.gov); 202-226-9717

---

### **H.Con.Res. 60—Expressing support for the goals of Veterans Educate Today’s Students (VETS) Day, and for other purposes (*Pallone, D-NJ*)**

**Order of Business:** H.Con.Res. 60 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, November 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 60 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “recognizes the importance of veterans to the United States;
- “expresses support for the goals of Veterans Educate Today’s Students Day;
- “urges teachers, civic leaders, and veterans to carry out programs that educate children about the service of veterans and the sacrifices made by veterans and their families; and
- “encourages the people of the United States to participate in local and national activities recognizing Veterans Educate Today’s Students Day and other events that foster education about the importance of veterans to the Nation.”

H.Con.Res. 60 lists the following findings:

- “the United States has, in the course of its history, fought in many wars and conflicts to defend freedom and protect the interests of the Nation;
- “millions of men and women have served the Nation in time of need as members of the Armed Forces;
- “the service of veterans has been vital to the Nation, and the sacrifices made by veterans and their families should not be forgotten with the passage of time;
- “children throughout the Nation would benefit from programs that provide education about veterans and that instill a patriotic appreciation of the sacrifices made by veterans to defend freedom and to protect the interests of the Nation;
- “efforts are being made throughout the Nation to devote November 10, or another date as may be designated, to an event known as Veterans Educate Today’s Students Day; and
- “schools that participate in Veterans Educate Today’s Students Day set aside a portion of the school day for the study, recognition, and appreciation of veterans.”

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 60 was introduced on February 7, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

**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:** Sarah Makin; [sarah.makin@mail.house.gov](mailto:sarah.makin@mail.house.gov); 202-226-0718.

---

**H.Res. 744—Recognizing the contributions of Native American veterans and calling upon the President to issue a proclamation urging the people of the United States to observe a day in honor of Native American veterans (Wilson, R-NM)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 744 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, November 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 744 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “recognizes all Native American veterans who have served the Nation with honor, pride, devotion, wisdom and strength for serving their country and protecting their homeland; and
- “calls upon the President to issue a proclamation urging the people of the United States to observe a day honoring Native American veterans with appropriate ceremonies and activities.”

H. Res. 744 lists the following findings:

- “there are 195,871 Native American veterans in the United States;
- “Native Americans have participated for over 200 years in United States military actions;
- “the participation of Native Americans in the War of 1812, the Civil War, and the Spanish-America War was significant;
- “in World War I, it is estimated that more than 12,000 Native Americans served the United States Armed Forces;
- “more than 44,000 Native Americans served in the Armed Forces during World War II, in both the European and Pacific fronts, representing a substantial portion of the 350,000 Native Americans then living in the United States;
- “Native Americans fought in the Korean conflict, and more than 42,000 Native Americans fought in the Vietnam War, 90 percent of whom served as volunteers;
- “Native Americans also provided significant contributions in the military operations in Grenada and Panama and the Persian Gulf War in 1980s and 1990s; and
- “Native Americans should also be recognized for their participation in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 744 was introduced on October 15, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

**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:** Sarah Makin; [sarah.makin@mail.house.gov](mailto:sarah.makin@mail.house.gov); 202-226-0718.

---

---

## **H.R. 797—Dr. James Allen Veteran Vision Equity Act (*Baldwin, D-WI*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, November 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 797 would loosen the standard by which the Department of Veterans' Affairs awards disability compensation to veterans for loss of vision. H.R. 797 would require payment of compensation for impairment of vision (which is currently defined as blindness) to involve both eyes due to a service-connected and non service-connected disability. H.R. 797 defines applicable impairment as a visual acuity of 20/200 or less or of a peripheral field of 20 degrees or less.

In order to determine eligibility for veteran benefits and services, H.R. 797 would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide the Secretary of Health and Human Services with information on individuals under age 65 for comparison with the National Directory of New Hires for income verification purposes. This provision also saves money, offsetting the cost of the bill.

H.R. 797 would require that such independent verification of information must be acquired before terminating, denying, or reducing a benefit or service. In addition, H.R. 797 requires that the individual has the opportunity to argue against any negative findings.

H.R. 797 extends, through June 30, 2009, the Veterans' Administration's authority to provide an educational allowance to persons performing qualifying work-study activities.

With regard to private cemetery burials of veterans, H.R. 797 authorizes the Secretary, in lieu of furnishing a headstone or marker for the grave of certain individuals buried in a private cemetery, to furnish a bronze representation of the letter "V" to be attached to a headstone or marker (furnished at private expense).

H.R. 797 also increases the assistance for veterans interred in cemeteries other than national cemeteries by offering grants for the operation and maintenance of state Veterans' cemeteries.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 797 was introduced February 5, 2007, and referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. The bill was reported out of the committee, as amended, by voice vote. On March 21, the bill passed the House under suspension of the rules by a vote of 424-0. On November 2, the Senate passed with bill, with an amendment, by voice vote. Today, the House will vote on the bill with the Senate amendment.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Position exists at this time.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to CBO cost estimates, H.R. 797 would decrease net direct spending for veterans' benefits by less than \$500,000 in 2008, by \$13 million over the 2008-2012 period, and by a net amount of \$15 million over the 2008-2017 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.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** The Veterans' Affairs Committee, in [House Report 110-57](#), asserts that, "H.R. 797 contains no earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits."

**Constitutional Authority:** The Veterans' Affairs Committee, in [House Report 110-57](#), cites constitutional authority in Article I, Section 8. 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:** Sarah Makin, [sarah.makin@mail.house.gov](mailto:sarah.makin@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-0718

---

---

**S.J.Res. 7—A joint resolution providing for the reappointment of Roger W. Sant as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution  
(Leahy, D-VT)**

**Order of Business:** S.J.Res. 7 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, November 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** S.J.Res. 7 would express the sense that the House of Representatives "that, in accordance with section 5581 of the Revised Statutes (20 U.S.C. 43), the vacancy on the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, in the class other than Members of Congress, occurring because of the expiration of the term of Roger W. Sant of Washington, D.C., is filled by the reappointment of Roger W. Sant, for a term of 6 years, effective October 25, 2007."

**Committee Action:** S.J.Res. 7 was introduced in the Senate on March 8, 2007. On July 31, 2007, the Senate passed S.J.Res 7 by unanimous consent. On August 1, 2007 S.J.Res. 7 was referred to the House Committee on House Administration, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

**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:** Sarah Makin; [sarah.makin@mail.house.gov](mailto:sarah.makin@mail.house.gov); 202-226-0718.

---

**S. 2206—A bill to provide technical corrections to Public Law 109-116 (2 U.S.C. 2131a note) to extend the time period for the Joint Committee on the Library to enter into an agreement to obtain a statue of Rosa Parks, and for other purposes (*Feinstein, D-CA*)**

**Order of Business:** S. 2206 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, November 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** S. 2206 would extend the time period (from two to four years) for the Joint Committee on the Library to enter into an agreement to obtain a statue of Rosa Parks, and for other purposes.

**Committee Action:** S. 2206 was introduced October 18, 2007, in the Senate and passed without amendment by unanimous consent. On October 22, 2007, S. 2206 was referred to the House Committee on House Administration, where no official action was taken.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Position exists at this time.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** No CBO cost estimate exists.

**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.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** An earmarks/revenue benefits statement required under House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a) was not available at press time.

**Constitutional Authority:** A Committee Report citing such information is not available.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Sarah Makin, [sarah.makin@mail.house.gov](mailto:sarah.makin@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-0718