

Legislative Bulletin.....April 22, 2009

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H.Res. 339—Expressing the sense of the United States House of Representatives regarding the hijacking of the Maersk Alabama, the kidnapping of Captain Richard Phillips by Somali pirates, the rescue of Captain Phillips by United States Navy SEALs and the crews of the USS Bainbridge, USS Boxer, USS Halyburton and Patrol Squadron (VP) 8 (Langevin D-RI/Welch, D-VT)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, April 22, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 339 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Commends the crew of the Maersk Alabama and Captain Phillips, who selflessly placed himself in harm’s way to protect his crew;
- “Recognizes the United States Navy, the crews of the USS Bainbridge, Boxer, Halyburton, and Patrol Squadron (VP) 8 for their role in the rescue;
- “Congratulates the Navy SEALs on the scene for their decisive action that resulted in the rescue of Captain Phillips; and
- “Joins all Americans in expressing great relief that the crew has returned home safely.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “On April 8, 2009, a group of armed Somali pirates hijacked the Norfolk, Virginia-based Maersk Alabama, a U.S. flagged cargo ship

- “This attack represents the first such attack on a U.S. flagged vessel in modern history;
- “Captain Richard Phillips of Underhill, Vermont, commander of the Maersk Alabama, graduated from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy and has over 20 years of maritime experience;
- “The crew of the Maersk Alabama overpowered one of the pirate attackers, and Captain Phillips offered himself up in return for the safe release of his crew and ship;
- “Four pirates then fled with Captain Phillips to an 18-foot lifeboat;
- “The United States Navy destroyer USS Bainbridge, which had been patrolling the region due to increased pirate activities, arrived on the scene;
- “The USS Bainbridge, under the command of U.S. Navy Commander Frank Castellano, monitored the conditions on the lifeboat and prevented the pirates from escaping;
- “While being held by pirates, Captain Phillips attempted a daring escape, diving into the ocean and trying to swim to safety before being recaptured;
- “The pirates held Captain Phillips at gunpoint for 5 days;
- “The Navy SEALs once again demonstrated their extraordinary bravery, skill, and professionalism in rescuing Captain Phillips;
- “The USS Boxer assisted in the rescue operation by standing by to provide immediate medical support, which was thankfully not needed in this operation.”

Committee Action: As of press time, the bill has not been introduced.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would not authorize any additional 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?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable for H.Res. 339.

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H.Con.Res. 101— Providing for the acceptance of a statue of Ronald Wilson Reagan from the people of California for placement in the United States Capitol (Lewis, R-CA)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, April 22, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 101 resolves that the House of Representatives (and the Senate concurring):

- Allows the statue of Ronald Wilson Reagan furnished by the people of California to be placed in the United States Capitol and gives thanks to the people of California for providing this commemoration of one of California's most eminent persons;
- Authorizes the State of California to use the rotunda of the Capitol on June 3, 2009, for a presentation ceremony. The Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board shall take such action as may be necessary with respect to physical preparations and security for the ceremony;
- Provides for the display of the statue accepted under this section in the rotunda of the Capitol.

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 101 was introduced on April 21, 2009 and referred to the House Committee on House Administration, which took no subsequent public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would not authorize any additional 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?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

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