

Legislative Bulletin.....June 14, 2010

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H.Res. 1368 - Supporting the goals of National Dairy Month *(Courtney, D-CT)*

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 14, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 989 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the goals of National Dairy Month;
- “Encourages States and local governments to observe National Dairy Month with appropriate activities and events that promote the dairy industry;
- “Recognizes the important role that the dairy industry has played in the economic and nutritional well-being of Americans;
- “Commends dairy farmers for their continued hard work and commitment to the United States economy and to the preservation of open space; and
- “Encourages all Americans to show their continued support for the dairy industry and dairy farmers.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “Since 1939, June has been celebrated as National Dairy Month;
- “There are nearly 70,000 dairy farms throughout the United States, and approximately 99 percent of these farms are family owned;
- “The dairy industry in the United States produces more than 170 billion pounds of milk annually and contributes tens of billions of dollars to the economy;
- “Dairy farmers are significant contributors to efforts to preserve farmland and the rural character of communities across the country; and
- “The dairy industry has faced significant challenges recently due to high production costs and low retail prices, which has forced many farms to close.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1368 was introduced on May 18, 2010, and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture, which took no 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.

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

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H.Res. 1383 - Honoring Dr. Larry Case on his retirement as National FFA Advisor (Luetkemeyer, R-MO)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 14, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1383 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Honors Dr. Larry Case on his retirement as National FFA Advisor.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “On May 3, 2010, the U.S. Department of Education announced the retirement of National FFA Advisor Dr. Larry Case, effective January 1, 2011, after 26 years of service in that capacity;
- “Dr. Case served as the Missouri director of agricultural education for seven years;
- “In addition to serving as the National FFA Advisor, Dr. Case served as the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National FFA organization and Board President of the National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees;

- “Dr. Case has provided agricultural education and the FFA with strong leadership and a strategic vision for the future, and agriculture owes him a debt of gratitude for his good work.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1383 was introduced on May 20, 2010, and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture, which took no 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.

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

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H.Res. 1409 - Expressing support for designation of June 20, 2010, as "American Eagle Day", and celebrating the recovery and restoration of the bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States (Roe, R-TN)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 14, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1409 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the designation of ‘American Eagle Day’;
- “Applauds the issuance of bald eagle commemorative coins by the Secretary of the Treasury as a means by which to generate critical funds for the protection of bald eagles; and
- “Encourages—
 - “Educational entities, organizations, businesses, conservation groups, and government agencies with a shared interest in conserving endangered

- species to collaborate and develop educational tools for use in the public schools of the United States; and
- “The people of the United States to observe American Eagle Day with appropriate ceremonies and other activities.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “On June 20, 1782, the bald eagle was officially designated as the national emblem of the United States by the founding fathers at the Second Continental Congress;
- “On January 15, 2008, the Secretary of the Treasury issued 3 limited edition bald eagle commemorative coins under the American Bald Eagle Recovery and National Emblem Commemorative Coin Act (Public Law 108-486; 118 Stat. 3934);
- “The sale of the limited edition bald eagle commemorative coins issued by the Secretary of the Treasury has raised approximately \$7,800,000 for the nonprofit American Eagle Foundation of Pigeon Forge, Tennessee to support efforts to protect the bald eagle;
- “The American Eagle Foundation has brought substantial public attention to the cause of the protection and care of the bald eagle nationally; and
- “November 4, 2010, marks the 25th anniversary of the American Eagle Foundation.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1409 was introduced on May 27, 2010, and was referred to the House Committee on Financial Services, which took no public action.

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

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize 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.

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H.R. 5502—ECO Gift Card Act *(Rep. Maffei, D-NY)*

Order of Business: The House will consider H.R. 5502 on Monday, June 14, 2010 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure (CARD) Act set the effective date for new regulations on general-use prepaid cards, gift certificates, and store gift cards at 15 months after enactment. The law was enacted on May 22, 2009, which would make the regulations effective in August of this year.

H.R. 5502 would move back the effective date of these regulations, in the case of a gift certificate, store gift card, or general-use prepaid card issued prior to April 1, 2010 to January 31, 2011. Under current law, the regulations would be effective August 22, 2010.

The CARD Act prohibited certain practices for gift cards including:

- Selling a gift card with an expiration date (unless the expiration date is five years after the card was sold and the expiration date is “clearly and conspicuously” stated).
- Placing a “service fee” on a gift card.

The legislation is prompted by concern that if these regulations become effective as currently scheduled per the CARD Act, issuers would have to recall a vast quantity of gift cards that they have already produced, since these cards do not meet all of the legislation’s disclosure requirements.

Additional Information: For the RSC Legislative Bulletin on the Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act, see [here](#), including extensive conservative concerns beginning on page 4 of the RSC Legislative Bulletin. The legislation consisted of a laundry list of federal mandates on the intricate details of private-market transactions.

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO score is available.

Committee Action: The legislation was introduced on June 10, 2010, was referred to the House Financial Services Committee, but was not considered by the committee.

Administration Position: None available.

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 committee report citing any state-government, local government, or private-sector mandates is available.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: No committee report citing compliance with the House earmark rule is available.

Constitutional Authority: No committee report citing constitutional authority is available.

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