



REP. TOM PRICE, M.D. (R-GA), CHAIRMAN
PAUL TELLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
424 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

rsc.price.house.gov

ph (202) 226-9717 / fax (202) 226-1633

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H.R. 403—Homes for Heroes Act of 2009 (*Green, D-TX*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 16, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Changes from the last time the bill was considered: No significant changes have been made since the bill (H.R. 3329) was last considered in the 110th Congress and passed by a vote of [412 – 9](#).

Summary: H.R. 403 creates a Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs within the Department of Housing and Urban Affairs (HUD) and creates a new \$200 million capital advance grant program for new construction for very-low income and homeless veterans. In addition, it authorizes an additional 20,000 new vouchers for homeless veterans. The bill would also permit the use of private financing and Low Income Housing Tax Credits in combination with authorized capital funds by enabling for-profit limited partnerships to own such properties, under the condition that the sole or managing general partner be a private non-profit organization.

Specifically, H.R. 403 would create a new Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs to increase access to HUD's housing assistance programs, coordinate all HUD programs and activities pertaining to veterans, and act as a liaison between HUD and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The bill would authorize \$200,000,000 for low-income (defined as making less than 50 percent of the median income of an area) and homeless veterans to provide advances and planning grants to non-profit organizations to provide new and refurbished housing or be used for project rental assistance for very low income veterans.

H.R. 403 also authorizes additional appropriations to provide 20,000 additional housing choice vouchers for homeless veterans through 2013. Finally, the legislation requires a report to Congress every five years for the cost of research, studies, testing or

demonstrations that are required to conduct an assessment of the housing needs of very low-income veteran families.

Additional Background: According to an August 2007 [report](#) from the Government Accountability Office, 2.3 million veteran households are low-income renters, 1.3 million of whom have housing affordability problems. GAO also found that low income veteran households were less likely to receive HUD assistance than other low-income households, due in part to the lack of housing preferences for veterans among public housing agencies. Furthermore, the VA estimates that at least 194,000 veterans were homeless in FY 2005.

Committee Action: On January, 9, 2009, the bill was introduced and referred to the Committee on Financial Services and Ways and Means, which took no further subsequent public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy has been provided.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, the cost of implementing similar legislation in the 110th Congress would authorize *\$2.385 billion* over the 2009-2013 period, assuming the appropriation of the necessary amounts.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: Yes, the bill creates a Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs within the Department of Housing and Urban Affairs (HUD) and creates a new \$200 million capital advance grant program for new construction for very-low income and homeless veterans. In addition, it authorizes an additional 20,000 new vouchers for homeless veterans.

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?: A committee report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits was not available. Such a report is technically not required because the bill is being considered under suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority was not available.

RSC Staff Contact: Bruce F. Miller, bruce.miller@mail.house.gov, (202)-226-9720

S. 614—A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots (Sen. Hutchison, R-TX)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 16, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S. 614 authorizes the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of the Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) in recognition of their pioneering military service and exemplary record.

Additional Background: A more detailed explanation of the history of the WASP's can be found [here](#). According to the bill's sponsor, more than 300 WASP's are still alive and a list of survivors can be found by contacting Rep. Ros-Lehtinen's office. The WASPs were the first women in history to fly American military aircraft. After the beginning of World War II, Jacqueline Cochran, America's leading woman pilot of the time, convinced General Hap Arnold, Chief of the Army Air Forces that women could take over some of the stateside military flying jobs, which would release male pilots for combat duty. 1,830 women were accepted to the program and were eventually stationed at 120 Army air bases across the nation. In 1977, 33 years after the WASPs were disbanded, the Congress voted to give the WASPs veteran status.

Committee Action: On March 17, 2009, the bill was introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. On May 20, 2009, the full Senate passed an amended version of the bill by unanimous consent.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is provided.

Cost to Taxpayers: S. 614 authorizes \$30,000 from the United States Mint Public Enterprise to pay for the cost of the medal.

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?: A committee report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits was not available. Such a report is technically not required because the bill is being considered under suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority was not available.

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H.R. 1674—National Consumer Cooperative Bank Act Amendments of 2009 (*Maloney, D-NY*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 16, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Changes from the last time the bill was considered: No significant changes have been made since the bill (H.R. 6642) was last considered in the 110th Congress and passed by a voice vote.

Summary: H.R. 1674 would allow the National Consumer Cooperative Bank (NCB) to apply for federal assistance through the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) fund of the Department of Treasury. This legislation would not guarantee assistance to NCB or authorize additional amounts to the CDFI program.

Additional Background: According to their [website](#), the NCB is “dedicated to strengthening communities nationwide through the delivery of banking and financial services, complemented by a special focus on cooperative expansion and economic development.” Chartered by Congress in 1978, NCB serves more than 2,600 members and manages about \$6.2 billion in assets. A non-profit subsidiary of NCB, does not meet the criteria to qualify for assistance from the CDFI due to the corporate structure of the NCB. The CDFI program provides grants and other financial assistance to organizations that encourage growth in low-income communities. H.R. 1674 would grant eligibility to NCB and its subsidiaries, unless the bank received other incentives through the Bank Enterprise Awards program, which is also operated by the CDFI fund.

Committee Action: On March, 23, 2009, the bill was introduced and referred to the Committee on Financial Services, which took no further subsequent public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is provided.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, enacting identical legislation in the 110th Congress 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.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits was not available. Such a report is technically not required because the bill is being considered under a suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority was not available.

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