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## Legislative Bulletin.....June 24, 2009

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**Bonus Suspension H.R. 2990**—Disabled Military Retiree Relief Act of 2009

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### **H.R. 2990— Disabled Military Retiree Relief Act of 2009** *(Skelton, D-MO)*

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday June 24, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. Upon passage, the bill will be engrossed into final passage H.R. 2647, the FY 2010 National Defense Authorization Act, as determined by H.Res. 572.

**Summary:** Introduced late last night, H.R. 2990 extends and increases a number of retiree and financial benefits for members of the Armed Force and federal workforce. The also bill repeals the Deepwater Oil and Gas Funding Source Program. Highlights of the bill are as follows:

- **Military Benefits:** The legislation would extend bonus and special pay authorities that provide incentives for enlisted and officer service members to enlist, accept appointment, reenlist, remain on active duty, and accept certain assignments until December 31, 2010. The bill provides for special bonus payment to those who serve in fields deemed critical, such as aviation and health care.

Additionally, the bill would temporarily expand (through September 2010) the eligibility to receive concurrent receipt of military retired pay and disability compensation paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to include service members that are retired.

- **Federal Employee Benefits:** The bill will allow federal employees in the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) to receive credit for unused sick leave toward their retirement annuity, as is currently the case for employees covered by the older Civil Service Retirement System. Additionally, the bill permits returning federal employees the option of restoring credit toward their retirement fund upon return. Finally, this section provides for locality pay benefits for

retirees in Alaska, Hawaii, and U.S. Territories. Many of the provisions in this section of the bill passed the house (H.R. 1804) by a voice vote on April 1, 2009.

- ***Repeal of Oil and Gas Research Program:*** Title III of the bill repeals the Ultra-Deepwater Oil and Gas Funding Source Program authorized in the 2005 Energy Policy Act. From any revenue generated by Federal royalties, rents, and bonuses derived oil and gas leases issued under the Outer Continental Shelf each year, \$50 million is deposited in the fund. The intent of the fund is to provide a steady funding source from funds paid by the oil and gas industry for federally directed research at universities and private companies.

The bill amends Public Law to provide that effective October 1, 2010, the Fund is abolished and funding from OCS receipts is eliminated. Receipts originally intended for the fund will be transferred to the general treasury where proponents of the bill claim will be used to pay for the benefits authorized in H.R. 2990.

**Committee Action:** None. On June 23, 2009, the bill was introduced and referred to four committees of jurisdiction, which took no further action.

**Administration Position:** In a Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is unavailable.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for H.R. 2990 is unavailable at press time.

**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?:** No committee report citing compliance with the House earmark rule is available.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable for H.R. 2990.

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