

**Legislative Bulletin.....September 9, 2009**

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**H.R. 3165—Wind Energy Research and Development Act**  
**(Tonko, D-NY)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 9, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 3165 *authorizes \$1 billion over five years to establish a new program* at the Department of Energy for the purpose to “improve the energy efficiency, reliability, and capacity of wind turbines.” Specifically, the bill instructs the Secretary to focus on finding technology that will make rotor blades more reliable, larger, lighter, and less expensive. Additionally, the Secretary is instructed to find technologies to improve gearbox performance and reliability, as well as, advanced generators.

In collaboration with private industry, the DOE is instructed to conduct a wind energy demonstration program to “measure wind energy system performance under the full productive range of wind conditions in the United States.” The contracts will be awarded on a competitive basis with a focus on technical merit and attempt to coordinate with existing programs at the DOE.

The bill instructs the Secretary to provide special consideration to applications submitted by institutions, businesses, or entities containing majority representation by individuals identified in the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act. This is a Congressionally-mandated advisory committee to the National Science Foundation that provides advice to encourage full participation of women, minorities, and other groups currently underrepresented in scientific, engineering, and professional fields.

**Potential Conservative Concerns:** Today’s proportion of U.S. electric generation of power from wind is less than 2 percent. While many conservatives support the idea of increasing our wind capacity, some have argued this should be done through the private sector. Additionally, some conservatives have expressed concern this program may be duplicative as the DOE already has a [Wind and Hydropower Technologies Program](#) that participates in projects with wind industry partners to advance renewable wind energy technology.

**Committee Action:** On July 7, 2009, the bill was introduced and referred to the Committee on Science and Technology. On July 21, 2009, the subcommittee on energy and environment held a mark-up and ordered the bill be forwarded to the full committee by voice vote. On July 29, 2009, the full committee held a mark-up and ordered the bill to be reported by voice vote.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy is provided.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to CBO, “H.R. 3165 would authorize the appropriation of \$200 million a year over the 2010-2014 period for research, development, and demonstration activities related to wind energy systems.”

**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. 3165.

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**H.Res. 447 - Recognizing the remarkable contributions of the American Council of Engineering Companies for its 100 years of service to the engineering industry and the Nation. (*Shuler, D-NC*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 447 resolves that Congress:

- “Congratulates the American Council of Engineering Companies for its 100 years of service.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) and its thousands of member firms are celebrating the Council's 100th anniversary in 2009;
- “The ACEC is the oldest and largest business association of America's engineering industry, representing more than 5,000 engineering firms that employ 500,000 professionals, engaged in a wide range of practices that propel our economy and ensure a high quality of life for all people in the United States;
- “The ACEC member firms have been responsible for many of the Nation's most significant achievements over the past 100 years, including the roads, bridges, subways, airports, buildings, industrial facilities, and water systems that are the most advanced in the world; and
- “The ACEC member firms have also been at the forefront of the environmental movement, cleaning up hazardous waste sites and incorporating sustainable solutions in infrastructure works.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 447 was introduced on May 14, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Science and Technology and the Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no 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?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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## **H.Con.Res. 167 – Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives supporting the goals and ideals of Campus Fire Safety Month, and for other purposes. (*Pascrell, D-NJ*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 167 resolves that Congress:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of Campus Fire Safety Month;
- “Encourages administrators and municipalities across the country to provide educational programs to all students during September and throughout the school year; and
- “Encourages administrators and municipalities to evaluate the level of fire safety being provided in both on- and off-campus student housing and take the necessary steps to ensure firesafe living environments through fire safety education, installation of fire suppression and detection systems, and the development and enforcement of applicable codes relating to fire safety.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Each year, States across the Nation formally proclaim September as Campus Fire Safety Month;
- “Since January 2000, at least 129 people including students, parents, and children, have died in student housing fires, many of which were preventable;

- “It is recognized that automatic fire sprinkler systems are a highly effective method of controlling or extinguishing a fire in its early stages, protecting the lives of a building's occupants;
- “Students are not routinely receiving effective fire safety education throughout their entire college career; and
- “By developing a generation of firesafe adults, future loss of life from fires can be significantly reduced.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 167 was introduced on February 12, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor and the Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, and Competitiveness, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no 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?:** A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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## **H.R. 445—Heavy Duty Hybrid Vehicle Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 2009 (Sensenbrenner, R-WI)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 09, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Major Changes Since the Last Time This Legislation Was Before the House:** None, the bill was considered in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress (H.R. 6323) and passed by a voice vote

**Summary:** H.R. 445 would authorize \$ 48 million for three years to provide grants to support efforts to develop advanced heavy duty hybrid vehicles. The bill instructs the Secretary of Energy (DOE) to award between three and seven grants to entities that submit proposals to improve heavy duty hybrid vehicles. At least one grant must be awarded to proposals with the goal of developing plug-in hybrid trucks. To be eligible, recipients must produce trucks with a gross weight between 14,000 and 33,000 pounds (e.g. Class IV through Class VII vehicles).

The grants are issued in two phases, with the first grant giving one year to build or retrofit one or more advanced heavy duty hybrid vehicles and report back to the DOE with data on the performance of key vehicle components; the estimated costs of producing, operating, and maintaining the vehicle; the emissions of the vehicle. If the Secretary approves phase two of the grant, the recipient will produce or retrofit 50 heavy duty plug-in vehicles by producing or retrofitting 50 advanced heavy duty hybrid vehicles within two years and report back to the DOE obstacles they encounter in developing and producing the vehicles and on the projected costs of each vehicle. Per the bill, the Secretary shall award not more than \$3,000,000 to each recipient per year for each of the 3 years of the project.

H.R. 445 creates a new program to study alternative power train designs for use in advanced heavy duty hybrid vehicles, and a new program through the National Laboratories and Technology Centers of the Department of Energy to research and test the effects on the domestic electric power grid of the widespread use of plug-in hybrid vehicles.

**Additional Background:** Currently, the Department of Energy (DOE) administers several grants to speed production of hybrid cars, but DOE does not have a grant program specifically intended for trucks. However, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) has a research program to develop heavy hybrid propulsion systems “that are projected to increase the fuel efficiency of heavy trucks (Class 3-8) and buses by as much as 100%,” according to [NREL](#).

H.R. 445 would establish the DOE's first grant program to promote hybrid and plug-in hybrid trucks expand DOE's focus to include trucks as well as cars, and establish a cost-share program to increase the number of hybrid and plug-in hybrid trucks on the market.

**Committee Action:** On January 9, 2009, the bill was introduced and referred to the Committee on Science and Technology, which took no further public subsequent action.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy is provided.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to CBO, similar legislation considered in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress “would authorize the appropriation of \$16 million in each of fiscal years 2009 through 2011.” Additionally, CBO estimated that implementing the bill would have cost \$41 million over the 2009-2013 period, with additional spending occurring in later years.

**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. 445.

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**H.Res. 623 – Requesting that the President focus appropriate attention on neighborhood crime prevention and community policing, and coordinate certain Federal efforts to participate in National Night Out, which occurs the first Tuesday of August each year, including by supporting local efforts and community watch groups and by supporting local officials, to promote community safety and help provide homeland security. (Stupak, D-MI)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 623 resolves that Congress:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of National Night Out; and
- “Requests that the President—
  - “Issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to conduct appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for National Night Out;
  - “Focus appropriate attention on neighborhood crime prevention, community policing, and reduction of school crime by delivering speeches, convening meetings, and directing the Administration to make crime reduction an important priority; and
  - “Coordinate the efforts of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the USA Freedom Corps, the Citizen Corps, the National Senior Service Corps, and AmeriCorps to participate in National Night Out by supporting local efforts and neighborhood watches and by supporting local officials, including law enforcement personnel, to provide homeland security and combat terrorism in the United States.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Neighborhood crime is of continuing concern to the American people;
- “Over 37,000,000 people in more than 15,000 communities from all 50 States, territories, District of Columbia, and military bases worldwide participated in National Night Out in 2007;

- “National Night Out will celebrate its 26th anniversary on Tuesday, August 4, 2009, when citizens, businesses, local law enforcement officers, mayors, State and Federal officials, and others will celebrate ‘America’s Night Out Against Crime’ and participate in events to support community crime prevention;
- “National Night Out is supporting the Department of Homeland Security’s Ready campaign by handing out materials and educating and empowering the public on how to prepare for, and respond to, potential terrorist attacks or other emergencies; and
- “Citizens and communities that participate on August 4, 2009, will send a positive message to other communities and the Nation, showing their commitment to reduce crime and promote homeland security.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 623 was introduced on July 9, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary and the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no 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?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.Res. 556 – Recognizing the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the Federal Credit Union Act and the vibrant Federal credit union community that was created as a result of this important piece of legislation. (Himes, D-CT)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 556 resolves that Congress:

- “Recognizes the 75th anniversary of the passage of the Federal Credit Union Act and the vibrant Federal credit union community that was created as a result of this landmark piece of legislation.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “On June 26, 1934, President Franklin Roosevelt signed into law the Federal Credit Union Act, thus enabling credit unions to be organized throughout the United States under the charters approved by the Federal Government;
- “Credit unions have continued to exemplify the American values of thrift, self-help, and volunteerism, carving out a special place for themselves among the Nation's financial institutions;
- “Credit unions operate with the credo, ‘Not for profit, not for charity, but for service’ and have consistently reflected this philosophical tradition and the cooperative spirit of ‘people helping people’ that gave birth to the Federal Credit Union Act;
- “Credit unions continue to provide valuable services to their members, financial alternatives for the underserved, and economic stimulus to our Nation even as we face a financial crisis today; and

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 556 was introduced on June 17, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no 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?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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## **H.R. 2664 – Promoting Transparency in Financial Reporting Act (Lee, R-NY)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 2664 is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 2664 requires the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Financial Accounting Standards Board, and the Public Company Accounting Board to annually provide oral testimony (via the respective Chairperson or a designee) to the House Financial Services Committee on efforts to reduce the complexity in financial reporting to provide more accurate and clear financial information to investors, including:

- reassessing the complex and outdated accounting standards;
- improving the understandability, consistency; and overall usability of the existing accounting and auditing literature;
- developing principles-based accounting standards;
- encouraging the use and acceptance of interactive data; and
- promoting disclosures in “plain English.”

**Committee Action:** H.R. 2664 was introduced on June 2, 2009 and referred to the House Committee on Financial Services, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for H.R. 2664 is unavailable.

**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?:** A CBO score listing any potential mandates is not available.

**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 is not available.

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

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## **H.R. 2571 – Nonadmitted and Reinsurance Reform Act of 2009 (Moore, D-KS)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 2571 is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** The legislation prohibits states, outside of the home state of an insured, from requiring any premium tax payment for nonadmitted insurance. H.R. 2571 allows states to enter into a compact, to allocate among the states, the premium taxes paid to an insured’s home state.

The legislation further prohibits states from, 2 years after enactment, collecting any fees related to licensing an individual/entity as a surplus line broker *unless* the state has laws in effect that provide for the participation of the state in the national insurance producer database of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC).

H.R. 2571 prohibits any state from denying credit for reinsurance to an insurer that is NAIC-accredited by the state of domicile. To that end, the legislation preempts extraterritorial application of state law that:

- Restrict or eliminate the rights of the ceding insurer or the assuming insurer to resolve disputes pursuant to contractual arbitration.
- Require that a certain state's law govern the reinsurance contract, disputes arising from the reinsurance contract, or the requirements of the reinsurance contract;
- Attempt to enforce a reinsurance contract on terms different than those set forth in the reinsurance contract, to the extent that the terms are not consistent with this title; or
- Otherwise apply the laws of the state to reinsurance agreements of ceding insurers not domiciled in the state.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 2571 was introduced on May 21, 2009 and referred to the House Committee on Financial Services, as well as the House Committee on Judiciary. Neither committee took any official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for H.R. 2571 is unavailable.

**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?:** A CBO score listing any potential mandates is not available.

**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 is not available.

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

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## **H.R. 2097 – Star-Spangled Banner Commemorative Coin Act of 2009 (Ruppersberger, D-MD)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 2097 is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 2097 requires the Secretary of the Treasury to mint not more than 100,000 \$5 gold coins, and not more than 500,000 \$1 silver coins, in commemoration of the bicentennial of the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner.

The legislation specifies certain requirements on the design of these coins, including a requirement that the year “2012” be included on the coins, as well as a requirement that all of the following words appear: “In God We Trust,” “United States of America,” “Liberty,” and “E Pluribus Unum.”

The legislation requires the coin designs to be emblematic of the War of 1812, and particularly the Battle for Baltimore that formed the basis for the *Star-Spangled Banner*. The bill further requires the coin design be selected by the Secretary of the Treasury after consultation with the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts.

H.R. 2097 requires that coins sold include a \$35 surcharge for the \$5 coin, and a \$10 surcharge for the \$1 coin.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 2097 was introduced on April 23, 2009 and referred to the House Committee on Financial Services, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** No CBO score exists, but such coin-minting legislation usually yields some revenue for the federal government.

**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?:** A CBO score listing any potential mandates is not available.

**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 is not available.

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

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**S.J.Res. 9 - Providing for the appointment of France A. Cordova as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution  
(Sen. Leahy, D-VT)**

**Order of Business:** S.J.Res. 9 is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** The resolution provides for the appointment of France A. Cordova of Indiana as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution. The appointment is for a term of 6 years, effective on the later of April 7, 2009, or the date of enactment of this joint resolution.

**Background:** According to the Smithsonian Institution’s website, “France A. Córdoba of Indiana is the 11th President of Purdue University, an internationally recognized astrophysicist, and a national leader in postsecondary education. Prior to joining Purdue in 2007, she served in the University of California system for 11 years, first as the Professor of Physics and Vice Chancellor for Research at UC Santa Barbara and then as the Distinguished Professor of Physics and Astronomy and Chancellor for UC Riverside. Dr. Córdoba also was Chief Scientist at NASA from 1993 to 1996. She has published more than 150 scientific papers and continues to pursue scholarly research. Currently, Dr. Córdoba and two colleagues have a collaborative experiment flying on the European Space Agency’s X-Ray Multi-Mirror Mission. She also serves on numerous state and national boards, most recently accepting an appointment to the Board of Trustees for Mayo Clinic in May 2008 and a six-year presidential appointment to the National Science Board, effective November 2008.”

**Committee Action:** S.J.Res. 9 was introduced on February 10, 2009, and referred to the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration. The resolution passed the Senate by unanimous consent on March 17, 2009. The bill was then referred to the House Committee on Administration which took no further public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no 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?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.R. 2498 – To designate the Federal building located at 844 North Rush Street in Chicago, Illinois, as the “William O. Lipinski Federal Building.” (Oberstar, D-MN)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.R. 2498 would designate the Federal building located at 844 North Rush Street in Chicago, Illinois as the “William O. Lipinski Federal Building.”

**Additional Information:** William Oliver Lipinski was a Democratic member of the House of Representatives from 1983 to 2005, representing a district in Chicago.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 2498 was introduced on May 19, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Building and Emergency Management, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for H.R. 2498 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a U.S. federal building renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect 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 reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.R. 2121 – To provide for the transfer of certain Federal property to the Galveston Historical Foundation. (Paul, R-TX)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.R. 2121 would transfer by quitclaim deed, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the real property located at 503 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Galveston, Texas 77550. to the Galveston Historical Foundation.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 2121 was introduced on May 19, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Building and Emergency Management, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for H.R. 2121 states that the conveyance would not have a significant net impact on the deferral budget. According to the General Services Administration (GSA), the property is leased for about \$1,200 per year to the Galveston Historical Foundation. By selling the property, the government would lose those receipts. Proceeds from the sale of the property would increase offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending) by less than \$500,000 in 2010. H.R. 2121 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

**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 reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Curtis Rhyne, [Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov](mailto:Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-8576

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**H.R. 2053 – To designate the United States courthouse located at 525 Magoffin Avenue in El Paso, Texas, as the “Albert Armendariz, Sr., United States Courthouse.” (Reyes, D-TX)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.R. 2053 would designate the United States courthouse located at 525 Magoffin Avenue in El Paso, Texas, as the “Albert Armendariz, Sr., United States Courthouse.”

**Additional Information:** Albert Armendariz, Sr., was a veteran of World War II, who then became well known as a civil rights attorney and a founder of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 2053 was introduced on April 22, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Building and Emergency Management, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for H.R. 2053 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a U.S. federal office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect 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 reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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### **H.Con.Res. 136 – Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for a celebration of Citizenship Day (*Watson, D-CA*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 09, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 136 resolves that:

- “The National Korean American Service and Education Consortium shall be permitted to sponsor a public event on the Capitol Grounds to celebrate Citizenship Day. The event shall be held on September 17, 2009, or on such other day as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.”

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 136 was introduced on May 21, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution states that the National Korean American Service and Education Consortium shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the event.

**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 reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.R. 3193 – To designate the United States courthouse under construction at 101 South United States Route 1 in Fort Pierce, Florida, as the “Alto Lee Adams, Sr., United States Courthouse.”  
(Rooney, R-FL)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 09, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.R. 3193 would designate the United States courthouse under construction at 101 South United States Route 1 in Fort Pierce, Florida as the “Alto Lee Adams, Sr., United States Courthouse.”

**Additional Information:** Alto Lee Adams served as a justice on the Florida Supreme Court from 1940-1951 and 1967-1968 and as Chief Justice from 1949-1951.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 3193 was introduced on July 13, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Building and Emergency Management, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for H.R. 3193 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a U.S. federal building renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect 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 reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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## **H.Res. \_\_\_ - Honoring the first responders and paying tribute to the victims of the California wildfires (*Schiff, D-CA*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 09, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. \_\_\_ resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Offers its deepest sympathy to those servicemen and their families who lost their lives fighting the Station Fire in Southern California;
- “Commends the thousands of firefighters and emergency responders who continue to risk their lives fighting the wildfires throughout California;
- “Expresses condolences to the individuals and families who lost their homes and other property in the wildfires;
- “Extends its appreciation for the ongoing work to protect the communities and businesses that continue to be threatened by fire; and
- “Condemns the acts of arson perpetrated in igniting the Los Angeles County Station Fire.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Beginning in August 2009, Southern California has experienced a number of devastating wildfires which have destroyed hundreds of thousands of acres of public and private lands, destroyed and damaged structures and homes and forced the evacuation of thousands of homes and businesses;
- “High temperatures and erratic winds caused the multiple fires to rapidly progress to a point that the Governor of California proclaimed a state of emergency in the counties of Los Angeles and San Bernardino, Santa Cruz, Placer, Monterey and Mariposa;
- “Loss of life and serious injuries have resulted from the fires
- “It is clear that the continued commitment and heroism exhibited by firefighters has saved countless lives, homes, and businesses; and

- “Hundreds of volunteers gave their time to help ensure that evacuees are sheltered, clothed, fed, and emotionally comforted through this traumatic event.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. \_\_\_ was introduced on September 9, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no 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?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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## **H.Res. 718 – Recognizing September 11 as a “National day of Service and Remembrance” (*Matsui, R-CA*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 09, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 718 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Calls upon all people in the United States to annually observe a ‘National Day of Service and Remembrance’, with appropriate and personal expressions of reflection, including performing good deeds, attending memorial and remembrance services, and voluntarily engaging in community service or other charitable activities of their own choosing in honor of those who lost their lives or were injured in the September 11, 2001, attacks, in tribute to those who rose to come to the aid of those in need, and in defense of our Nation; and
- “Urges all people in the United States to continue to live their lives throughout the year with the same spirit of unity, service, and compassion that was exhibited throughout the Nation following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “On September 11, 2001, terrorists ruthlessly attacked the United States leading to the tragic deaths and injuries of thousands of innocent United States citizens and other citizens from more than 90 different countries and territories;
- “In response to the attacks in New York City, Washington, DC, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania, firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians, physicians, nurses, military personnel, and other first responders immediately and without concern for their own well-being rose to service, in a heroic attempt to protect the lives of those still at risk, consequently saving thousands of men and women;
- “In the immediate aftermath of the attacks, thousands of recovery workers including trades personnel, iron workers, equipment operators, and many others, joined with firemen, police officers, and military personnel to help to search for and recover victims lost in the terrorist attacks;
- “Hundreds of thousands of people in the United States from all 50 States, as well as others who live in 170 different countries already observe the anniversary of the September 11, 2001, attacks each year by personally engaging in service, good deeds, and other charitable acts; and
- “On March 31, 2009, Congress passed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, which included for the first time authorization and Federal recognition of September 11 as a ‘National Day of Service and Remembrance’, a bill signed into law on April 21, 2009, by President Barack Obama.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 718 was introduced on July 31, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no 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?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.Res. 722 - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives  
regarding the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on  
September 11, 2001 (Hoyer, D-MD & Boehner, R-OH)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 09, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 722 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes September 11 as both a day to mourn and remember those taken from their loved ones and fellow citizens, and a day for the people of the United States to recommit to the Nation and to each other;
- “Once again extends its deepest sympathies to the friends, families, and loved ones of the innocent victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks;
- “Recognizes the heroic service of United States personnel, including members of the United States Armed Forces, United States intelligence agencies, and the United States diplomatic service, and their families, who have sacrificed much, including their lives and health, to defend their country against terrorists;
- “Vows that it will continue to take whatever actions are appropriate to defend the people of the United States and to identify, intercept, and defeat terrorists, including providing the United States Armed Forces, United States intelligence agencies, and the United States diplomatic service with the resources and support to effectively accomplish this mission; and
- “Calls on all Americans to renew their devotion to the universal ideals that make the Nation great: freedom, pluralism, equality, and the rule of law.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “On the morning of September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked and destroyed four civilian aircraft, crashing two of them into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City and a third into the Pentagon outside of Washington, DC;
- “The passengers and crew aboard United Flight 93 fought heroically and sacrificed their own lives by crashing the plane in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, to prevent terrorist hijackers from killing additional innocent Americans;
- “Nearly 3,000 innocent men, women, and children were murdered in the attacks;
- “Congress has passed, and the President has signed, numerous laws to protect the Nation, prevent terrorism at home and abroad, assist victims of terrorism, and support, in the field and upon return, the members of the Armed Forces who courageously defend the United States;
- “Immediately following September 11, 2001, the United States Armed Forces moved swiftly against al-Qaeda and the Taliban, which the President and Congress had identified as enemies of America; and
- “Many members of the Armed Forces remain abroad, defending the Nation from further terrorist attacks and continuing to battle al-Qaeda and the Taliban.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 722 was introduced on September 8, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, Judiciary, Homeland Security, and the Permanent Select Committee on House Intelligence, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no 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?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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