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Legislative Bulletin.....September 15, 2009

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**H.R. 22—The United States Postal Service Financial Relief Act of 2009
(McHugh, R-NY)**

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 15, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 22 would amend current law to allow the United States Postal Service (USPS) to supplement current revenue losses with future funds to cover health current

retirees' health insurance premiums for 2009 through 2011. Under current law, the USPS Retiree Health Benefit Fund is obligated to future retirees who are not eligible to those funds until they retire.

Additional Background: The American Postal Workers Union (APWU) represents roughly 220,000 full-time postal employees. Since 2008, mail volume is down 12.6 percent due to the increased use of email and the struggling economy. In order to address the liability of providing health care to current and future retirees, Congress enacted into law legislation that required the USPS to contribute a portion of its pension savings to a Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund. This required the USPS to pre-fund its health care costs on an accrued basis instead of simply paying a portion of their retirees' health premiums each year.

Possible Conservative Concerns: Some conservatives have argued that Congress should not allow the USPS to borrow against future earnings, potentially leaving taxpayers on the hook for future shortfalls. The 1970 Postal Reorganization Act was intended to convert the USPS into an independent, self-financing entity.

The CBO, in the score for this legislation notes that H.R. 22 would *discourage* the USPS from imposing cost-cutting measures to become more efficient such as reducing delivery to five days instead of six. According to the Postmaster General, this could potentially result in annual savings of \$3.8 billion. Additionally, as the Federal Times [reported](#), the USPS still retains some wasteful practices, and invokes a business model where approximately 1,125 full-time employees sit idle, at a cost of more than \$50 million per year.

Some conservatives have expressed concerns that H.R. 22 would mark the third time in just eight years that taxpayers have been asked to assist the USPS. Some conservatives also believe the USPS has an artificial advantage in the marketplace because of their current exemption from taxes and the ability to borrow funds from taxpayers.

Other conservatives are supportive of the bill including a number of members of the Republican Study Committee. They argue that HR 22 is needed to avoid a taxpayer-funded bailout of the US Postal System later on. The USPS is the only federal entity required to pre-fund its pension and retiree health plans. HR 22 would enable the USPS to use its existing reserves that have been funded over the years through its own operations to pay for retiree health benefits as opposed to using this year's operating revenues. While those conservatives also believe the USPS needs to continue to reduce costs, they also argue the USPS made significant reforms. One example is they have reduced their workforce by 22% over the last decade – this is compared to a 13% increase in the federal workforce excluding USPS.

Committee Action: H.R. 22 was introduced on January 8, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. On June 24, 2009, the subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Post Office, and the District of Columbia held a

mark-up and ordered the bill to be reported by unanimous consent. On July 10, 2009, the full committee held a mark-up and ordered the bill to be reported favorably by voice vote.

Administration Position: A statement of Administration Policy is not available.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, H.R. 22 would increase mandatory spending by \$2.35 billion over ten years and consequently increase the national deficit.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: Yes, because it creases the size of mandatory spending by \$2.35 billion.

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?: According to Committee Report 111-216, “H.R. 22 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(t) of rule XXI.”

Constitutional Authority: The Oversight and Government Reform Committee cites Article I, Section 8 Clauses 7 and 18 of the Constitution of the United States grant the Congress the power to enact this law.

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H.R. 3137—To amend title 39, United States Code, to provide clarification relating to the authority of the United States Postal Service to accept donations as an additional source of funding for commemorative plaques. (Issa, R-CA)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 15, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3137 would amend current law to clarify that the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) may accept financial donations toward the cost of providing a commemorative plaque.

Additional Background: Click [here](#) for a CRS report that describes how the practice of naming post offices through public law originated and, how it is commonly done today. House and Senate practices for approving such legislation, and procedures followed by the U.S. Postal Service in organizing a dedication ceremony, are also described.

Committee Action: H.R. 3137 was introduced on July 9, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. On July 10, 2009, the committee held a mark-up and ordered the bill to be reported favorably by voice vote.

Administration Position: A statement of Administration Policy is not available.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, H.R. 3137 “would increase offsetting receipts and the spending of those receipts would count as new mandatory spending. Any collections and spending would offset each other, so we estimate that, on net, they would not have a significant budgetary impact in any year.”

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. 3137.

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

H.R. 3386 – To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1165 2nd Avenue in Des Moines, Iowa, as the “Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Memorial Post Office.” (*Boswell, D-IA*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.R. 3386 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1165 2nd Avenue in Des Moines, Iowa, as the “Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Memorial Post Office.”

Additional Information: The bill will honor and pay respect to those who have served and continue to serve their nation under Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom following the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

Committee Action: H.R. 3386 was introduced on July 29, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score for H.R. 3386 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: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

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

H.Res. 679 – Supporting the goals and ideals of American Legion Day. (Halvorson, D-IL)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 679 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of American Legion Day; and
- “Calls upon the people of the United States to observe American Legion Day with appropriate programs and activities.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The American Legion, a veterans service organization, remains active at the national, State, and local levels;
- “The American Legion National Emergency Fund provides financial assistance to Legionnaires who are displaced by natural disasters;
- “The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation has provided millions of dollars for programs focused on America's children and youth, such as the Special Olympics and the Children's Miracle Network;
- “Legionnaires believe a veteran's service to the United States goes on long after the veteran is discharged from the Armed Forces; and

- “Many Americans recognize September 16 of each year as American Legion Day.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 679 was introduced on July 24, 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.

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

H.Res. 317 – Recognizing the region from Manhattan, Kansas, to Columbia, Missouri, as the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor, and for other purposes. (Moore, D-KS)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 317 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes the region from Manhattan, Kansas, to Columbia, Missouri, including the metropolitan Kansas City area and St. Joseph, Missouri, as the ‘Kansas City Animal Health Corridor’;
- “Recognizes the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor as the national center of the animal health industry based on the unmatched concentration of animal health and nutrition businesses and educational and research assets; and
- “Expresses its commitment to establishing a favorable business environment and supporting animal health research to foster the continued growth of the animal health industry for the benefit of the economy, universities, businesses, and young people hoping to pursue an animal health career in the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “34 percent of the \$16,800,000,000 annual global animal health industry is based in the Kansas City region;
- “Several leading veterinary colleges and animal research centers are located in Kansas and Missouri, including the College of Veterinary Medicine and the \$54,000,000 Biosecurity Research Institute of Kansas State University and the College of Veterinary Medicine, the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources' Division of Animal Sciences, the \$60,000,000 Life Sciences Center, the National Swine Resource and Research Center, and the Research Animal Diagnostic Laboratory of the University of Missouri;
- “The Department of Homeland Security selected Manhattan, Kansas, as the future location for the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility (NBAF);
- “The \$750,000,000 NBAF project will provide area economic development opportunities by employing 300 people, with an annual payroll of up to \$30,000,000 and over 1,500 construction jobs; and
- “Retaining and growing existing animal health companies, attracting new animal health companies, increasing animal health research capacity, and developing commercialization infrastructure will create quality jobs and wealth for Kansas and Missouri.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 317 was introduced on April 1, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture, and the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry, and the Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture, 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.

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

**H.Con.Res. 95 – Recognizing the importance of the Department of
Agriculture Forest Service Experimental Forest and Ranges**

(Childers, D-MS)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 95 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes the important contributions that the 77 experimental forests and ranges within the National Forest System have made in understanding and conserving the environment and ensuring that natural resources in the United States remain a source of pride and enjoyment.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The general provisions of the Act of June 4, 1897 (commonly known as the Organic Administration Act of 1897; 16 U.S.C. 551) and section 4 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1643) authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to designate experimental forests and ranges;
- “In 2008, the Department of Agriculture celebrated the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the first experimental forest at Fort Valley, Arizona, which eventually led to the creation of 77 additional experimental forests and ranges within the National Forest System;
- “The network of experimental forests and ranges provides places for long-term science and management studies in major vegetation types of the 195 million acres of public land administered by the Forest Service;
- “Research at these experimental forests and ranges has provided critical information to the public, such as recognition of acid rain based on long-term precipitation chemistry data at Hubbard Brook, New Hampshire, characterization of old-growth Douglas-fir forests and ecology of the northern spotted owl, which set the stage for conservation planning in the Pacific Northwest, improved understanding of the science of forest hydrology, which was derived from long-term studies in experimental forests, especially Coweeta, and the forest and rangeland management systems built from foundation studies at many experimental properties; and
- “Experimental forests and ranges provide opportunities to study the resources of the United States, including knowledge of forest and stream ecosystems, long-term records of climate, forest dynamics, hydrology, and other ecosystem components, information about long-term field experiments and opportunities to participate in them, access to a cadre of knowledgeable scientists, and access to thousands of publications about natural resource management and ecosystem science.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 95 was introduced on April 2, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture, the Subcommittee on Department Operations,

Oversight, Nutrition and Forestry, and the Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Energy, and Research, 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.

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

H.R. 511—To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to terminate certain easements held by the Secretary on land owned by the Village of Caseyville, Illinois, and to terminate associated contractual arrangements with the Village. (*Costello, D-IL*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 15, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 511 would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to terminate any easement held by the Secretary on land owned by the Village of Caseyville, IL, and terminate associated contractual arrangements with the Village.

In consideration for this easement, the legislation requires the Village of Caseyville, IL to enter into such compensatory arrangements with the Secretary as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

Committee Action: H.R. 511 was introduced on January 14, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture, which held a mark-up and ordered the bill to be reported favorably on July 29, 2009.

Administration Position: A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, H.R. 511 would increase offsetting receipts (a credit against mandatory spending) by \$60,000 in FY 2010.

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?: According to the committee report, the legislation “does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI of the rules of the House Representatives.”

Constitutional Authority: The committee report cites constitutional authority in Article I, clause 8, section 18, that grants Congress the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested by Congress in the Constitution of the United States or in any department or officer thereof.

RSC Staff Contact: Brad Watson, brad.watson@mail.house.gov, (202)-226-9719.

H.R. 3175—To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to Miami-Dade County certain federally owned land in Florida. (Diaz-Balart, Lincoln, R-FL)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 15, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3175 directs the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to Miami-Dade County all right, title, and interest of the United States in certain property, subject of easements and right-of-way of record and such other terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe.

In consideration for the conveyance of the property, the legislation requires the county to pay to the Secretary an amount equal to the market value of the property.

Committee Action: H.R. 3175 was introduced on July 10, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture, which held a mark-up and ordered the bill to be reported favorably on September 10, 2009.

Administration Position: A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, the legislation would have no net 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?: According to the committee report, “H.R. 3175 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI of the rules of the House Representatives.”

Constitutional Authority: The committee report cites constitutional authority in Article I, clause 8, section 18, that grants Congress the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested by Congress in the Constitution of the United States or in any department or officer thereof.

RSC Staff Contact: Brad Watson, brad.watson@mail.house.gov, (202)-226-9719.

H.R. 940—To provide for the conveyance of National Forest System land in the State of Louisiana. (Alexander, R-LA)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 15, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 940 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to sell by quitclaim deed federally owned land in the Kisatchie National Forest in Louisiana. In consideration for the conveyance of the property, the legislation requires the land to be sold at the market value.

Committee Action: H.R. 940 was introduced on February 10, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture, which held a mark-up and ordered the bill to be reported favorably on July 29, 2009.

Administration Position: A statement of Administration Policy is not available.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, the legislation would have no net 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?: According to the committee report, “H.R. 940 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as

defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI of the rules of the House Representatives.”

Constitutional Authority: The committee report cites constitutional authority in Article I, clause 8, section 18, that grants Congress the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested by Congress in the Constitution of the United States or in any department or officer thereof.

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

H.Res. 81 – Recognizing the importance and sustainability of the United States hardwoods industry and urging that United States hardwoods and the products derived from United States hardwoods be given full consideration in any program directed at constructing environmentally preferable commercial, public, or private buildings. (*Ellsworth, D-IN*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 81 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes that United States hardwoods are an abundant, sustainable, and legal resource under the United States rule of law; and
- “Urges that United States hardwoods and products derived from United States hardwoods should be given full consideration in any program directed at constructing environmentally preferable commercial, public, or private buildings.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Hardwood trees grown in the United States are an abundant, sustainable, and legal resource, as documented by annually by the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program of the United States Forest Service;
- “Despite development pressure and cropland needs, Department of Agriculture data shows that the inventory of United States hardwood has more than doubled over the past 50 years;
- “United States hardwoods are net absorbers of carbon and are widely recognized to be critical to reducing the United States carbon footprint;
- “United States hardwoods are grown primarily in those States located along or east of the Mississippi River and in the Pacific Northwest, but, with a presence in every State, the hardwood industry is one of the major sources of economic activity and sustenance in many rural communities; and

- “United States hardwoods and the products derived from United States hardwoods are prized throughout the world as a superior and long-lasting building material.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 81 was introduced on January 22, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture, and the Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition and Forestry, 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.R. 1002—Pisgah National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act of 2009. *(Shuler, D-NC)*

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1002 adjusts the boundaries of the Pisgah National Forest in McDowell County, North Carolina, allowing the Secretary of Agriculture (subject to appropriation) to buy 301 acres of private land.

Committee Action: H.R. 1002 was introduced on February 11, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture, which held a mark-up and ordered the bill to be reported favorably on July 29, 2009.

Administration Position: A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, the legislation would have no net effect on mandatory spending or revenues. The CBO score also states that implementing the legislation would cost less than \$1 million over the next year or two (subject to appropriation).

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?: According to the committee report, “H.R. 940 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI of the rules of the House Representatives.”

Constitutional Authority: The committee report cites constitutional authority in Article I, clause 8, section 18, that grants Congress the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested by Congress in the Constitution of the United States or in any department or officer thereof.

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H.R. 3146—21st Century FHA Housing Act of 2009. (*Adler, D-NJ*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 15, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3146 makes environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 2009 inapplicable to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the purpose of insuring any mortgage for a condominium.

The legislation allows the Secretary to appoint and fix the compensation of officers and employees as necessary to carry out the functions of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The bill allows the Secretary to use up to \$72 million of premium-generated fees for “appropriate investment in information technology.”

H.R. 3146 requires the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to carry out a “comprehensive training and education program” intended to improve the service provided by personnel of the Department to carry out FHA mortgage insurance programs.

The legislation requires the Secretary to conduct an ongoing review of mortgages on single family housing originated during the preceding 12 months and insured pursuant to this Act. The legislation authorizes “the amount necessary” to provide 90 additional full-time equivalent provisions for the Department to conduct these reviews.

Finally, H.R. 3146 creates a new “foreclosure avoidance demonstration program” giving the Secretary broad authority to carry out demonstration programs intended to “demonstrate the effectiveness of alternative methods of avoiding foreclosure.”

Potential Conservative Concerns: Some conservatives may be concerned that the legislation creates a new federal program consisting of “such demonstration programs as the Secretary may from time to time determines are appropriate to demonstrate the effectiveness of alternative methods of avoiding foreclosure.”

Committee Action: H.R. 3146 was introduced on July 9, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Financial Services, which took no official action.

Administration Position: A statement of Administration Policy is not available.

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO score is available.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: Yes, it creates new federal programs.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No CBO report analyzing any potential 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.

RSC Staff Contact: Brad Watson, brad.watson@mail.house.gov, (202)-226-9719.

H.R. 2947—Securities Law Technical Corrections Act. (Jenkins, R-KS)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 15, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2947 makes several “technical” corrections to the Securities Act of 1933, and makes several conforming amendments to the repeal of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935.

Committee Action: H.R. 2947 was introduced on June 18, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Financial Services, which took no official action.

Administration Position: A statement of Administration Policy is not available.

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO score is 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 CBO report analyzing any potential 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.

RSC Staff Contact: Brad Watson, brad.watson@mail.house.gov, (202)-226-9719.

H.R. 3527—FHA Multifamily Loan Limit Adjustment Act. (Weiner, D-NY)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3527 increases Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loan limits for certain multi-family units to a maximum of 50% of the insurable amount for the unit. These units include:

- rental housing;
- cooperative housing;
- rehabilitation and neighborhood conservation housing;
- housing for moderate income and displaced families;
- housing for elderly persons; and
- condominiums.

The legislation authorizes the Secretary to prescribe a higher maximum for the principal obligation of mortgages consisting of more than four dwelling units located in an extremely high-cost area as determined by the Secretary.

Potential Conservative Concerns: Some conservatives may believe that increasing the maximum FHA loan limit for certain multi-family units will make the FHA more insolvent, exposing taxpayers.

Committee Action: H.R. 3527 was introduced on July 31, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Financial Services, which took no official action.

Administration Position: A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO score is 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 CBO report analyzing any potential 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.

RSC Staff Contact: Brad Watson, brad.watson@mail.house.gov, (202)-226-9719.

H.Res. 215 – Congratulating the Minority Business Development Agency on its 40th anniversary and commending its achievements in fostering the establishment and growth of minority businesses in the United States. (Honda, D-CA)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 215 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Congratulates the Minority Business Development Agency on its 40th anniversary;
- “Commends the Minority Business Development Agency for its achievements in fostering the establishment and growth of minority businesses; and
- “Encourages the Minority Business Development Agency to continue its efforts to assist minority businesses as such enterprises continue to strengthen communities, create jobs, and contribute to the health of the economy in the United States.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The success of minority businesses is a critical component of a robust economy in the United States;
- “Minority businesses are twice as likely to generate revenues through exports compared to nonminority businesses due to their language capabilities, cultural competencies, ancestral ties, and business agility;
- “Minority groups represent 26.1 percent of the population, but own only 11.6 percent of the Nation's businesses and receive only 6.2 percent of total sales;

- “The Minority Business Development Agency has operated for the last 40 years as the only Federal agency created specifically to serve minority entrepreneurs; and
- “The Minority Business Development Agency's long-term strategic direction is achieving entrepreneurial parity so that minority business enterprises are in proportion to the minority population.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 215 was introduced on March 5, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Financial Services and the House Committee on Small Business, 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.R. 3179—SIG TARP Small Business Awareness Act (Paulsen, R-MN)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 15, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3179 would require the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) to examine how smaller financial institutions are being affected by:

- Expenditures under the TARP program; and
- The decisions of the Secretary of the Treasury/regulators of smaller financial institutions, with respect to capital adequacy and troubled assets.

The legislation also requires the Special Inspector General for the TARP program to examine the effects financial assistance under the TARP program has had on small businesses.

Committee Action: H.R. 3179 was introduced on July 10, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Financial Services, which took no public action.

Administration Position: A statement of Administration Policy is not available.

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO score is 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.

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. 3179.

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