

Legislative Bulletin.....December 1, 2009

Contents:

- H.R. 3634** - The "George Kell Post Office" Designation Act
- H.R. 3667** - The "Clyde L. Hillhouse Post Office Building" Designation Act
- H.Res. 727** - Expressing support for greater awareness of ovarian cancer
- H.Res. 742** - Congratulating the Warner Robins Little League on winning the 2009 Little League Softball World Series
- H.Res. 743** - Honoring the life of Frank McCourt for his many contributions to American literature, education, and culture
- H.R. 3029** - To establish a research, development, and technology demonstration program to improve the efficiency of gas turbines
- H.R. 3598** - Energy and Water Research Integration Act

H.R. 3634 - To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 109 Main Street in Swifton, Arkansas, as the “George Kell Post Office.” (Berry, D-AR)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3634 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 109 Main Street in Swifton, Arkansas, as the “George Kell Post Office Building.”

Additional Information: George Kell played Major League Baseball for the Philadelphia Athletics, Detroit Tigers, Boston Red Sox, Chicago White Sox and Baltimore Orioles. He played third base and was elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1983. After being injured in 1957 he became an announcer. Mr. Kell passed away on March 24, 2009.

Committee Action: H.R. 3634 was introduced on September 23, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. A markup was held and the bill was approved by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score for H.R. 3634 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.R. 3667 - To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16555 Springs Street in White Springs, Florida, as the “Clyde L. Hillhouse Post Office Building.” (Crenshaw, R-FL)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3667 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16555 Springs Street in White Springs, Florida as the “Clyde L. Hillhouse Post Office Building.”

Additional Information: Clyde L. Hillhouse served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during WWII. Mr. Hillhouse was a prisoner of war for over three-and-a-half years. After WWII, he returned to White Springs, Florida and served as the Postmaster until he retired in 1973. Rep. Crenshaw’s statement on the bill can be found [here](#).

Committee Action: H.R. 3667 was introduced on September 29, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. A markup was held and the bill was approved by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score for H.R. 3667 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. 727 - Expressing support for greater awareness of ovarian cancer. (*Israel, D-NY*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 727 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “ovarian cancer is the 5th leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the United States;
- “due to the lack of a reliable screening test, 75 percent of ovarian cancer cases are diagnosed in an advanced stage when the five-year survival rate is below 45 percent;
- “awareness and early recognition of ovarian cancer symptoms are currently the best way to save women's lives; and
- “the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance, during the month of September, holds a number of events to increase public awareness of ovarian cancer.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 727 was introduced on September 9, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. A markup was held and the resolution was approved by voice vote.

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. 742 - Congratulating the Warner Robins Little League softball team from Warner Robins, Georgia, on winning the 2009 Little League Softball World Series. (*Marshall, D-GA*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 742 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Congratulates the Warner Robins Little League softball team from Warner Robins, Georgia, on winning the 2009 Little League Softball World Series Championship; and
- “Respectfully requests that the Clerk of the House transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the City of Warner Robins and each player, manager, and coach of the Warner Robins Little League softball team.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “On August 19, 2009, the Warner Robins Little League softball team from Warner Robins, Georgia, defeated the Crawford Little League softball team from Crawford, Texas, by a score of 14-2 to win the 2009 Little League Softball World Series Championship in Portland, Oregon;
- “With this title, the Warner Robins Little League becomes the first little league to have won both a baseball and softball World Series Championship; and
- “The achievement of the Warner Robins Little League softball team is the cause of enormous pride for the Nation, the State of Georgia, and the city of Warner Robins.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 742 was introduced on September 14, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. A markup was held and the resolution was approved by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures. This resolution does ask the Clerk to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the City of Warner Robins and each player, manager, and coach of the Warner Robins Little League softball team.

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. 743 – Honoring the life of Frank McCourt for his many contributions to American literature, education, and culture.
(Murphy, D-CT)**

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 743 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Honors the life of Frank McCourt for his many contributions to American literature, education, and culture.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Frank McCourt was born on August 19, 1930, in Brooklyn, New York;
- “Frank McCourt returned to his parents' homeland of Ireland during the Great Depression where he remained until the age of 19;
- “Frank McCourt returned to the United States and served in the United States Army where he was stationed in Germany during the Korean War;
- Frank McCourt authored an autobiography titled ‘Angela's Ashes’ which vividly tells of the poverty, hunger, and alcoholism that challenged his family and others in the town of Limerick, Ireland, where he grew up; and
- Frank McCourt also authored other award winning books including, ‘Tis’, the follow up to ‘Angela's Ashes’, and ‘Teacher Man’, about his work in the New York School system.”

Additional Information: Frank McCourt was born in Brooklyn, New York and was the son of Irish immigrant parents. His family returned to Ireland during the depression as they were unable to find work. He returned to the United States at the age of 19, and was

shortly thereafter drafted into the United States Army at the onset of the Korean War. He spent the war stationed in Germany. After graduating from New York University, he taught creative writing for the New York City Public School system for 27 years. He is known for his books *Angela's Ashes* (which has sold more than 4 million copies), *Tis*, and *Teaching Man*.

Committee Action: H.Res. 743 was introduced on September 14, 2009 and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. A markup was held and the resolution was approved by voice vote.

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 bill 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. 3029—To establish a research, development, and technology demonstration program to improve the efficiency of gas turbines
(Rep. Tonko, D-NY)**

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: Authorizing \$350 million from FY 2011 through FY 2014, H.R. 3029 would require the Department of Energy (DOE) to conduct a new research, development, and demonstration program to improve the efficiency of steam generation and combustion turbines that use natural gas to generate electricity. The legislation seeks to increase the efficiency of combined cycle engines by 65 percent and simple cycle efficiency engines by 50 percent.

Specifically, the bill requires the DOE to support a “first-of-a-kind” detailed gas turbine design for megawatt-scale and utility-scale electric power generation through improving the efficiency of high temperature materials, manufacturing technologies, advanced controls, advanced compressors, and testing facilities. The bill contains multiple phases

to establish success. Under Phase I, the expressed goal is to develop a design and demonstrate the technology can allow turbines to achieve 62 percent combined cycle efficiency and 47 percent simple cycle efficiency. Under Phase II of the program, the defined goal is to develop the conceptual design for advanced high efficiency gas turbines that can achieve at least 65 percent combined cycle efficiency or 50 percent simple cycle efficiency.

Finally, the bill requires the Secretary of Energy to solicit grant and contract proposals from industry, universities and other parties, as well as, take into consideration whether it will stimulate job creation or lead to an increased retention of jobs in the United States. The bill also requires that funding for projects be awarded on a competitive basis with an emphasis on technical merit and requires a 20% non-federal cost share.

Possible Conservative Concern: Some conservatives may have concerns over the high authorization levels. Some conservatives may also question the need for the creation of an additional program when the DOE [currently participates](#) in activities to increase the efficiency of natural gas turbines.

Committee Action: On June 24, 2009, the bill was introduced and referred to the Committee on Science and Technology. On July 29, 2009, the committee held a mark-up and ordered the bill reported (as amended) by a voice vote.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is provided.

Cost to Taxpayers: While a CBO report for H.R. 3029 was available at press time, it does not reflect the authorizations in the bill considered today. H.R. 3029 authorizes \$85 million each year over the FY 2011-2014 period (\$350 million). The version CBO originally reported out of committee authorized an appropriation of \$65 million for each fiscal year over the same period (\$260 million).

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: Yes, the bill creates a new program at the Department of Energy to study efficiency in engines.

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 is not available at press time. However, such a report is technically not required because the bill is being considered under a suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A Committee Report sighting constitutional authority is not available at press time.

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

H.R. 3598 - Energy and Water Research Integration Act *(Rep. Gordon, D-TN)*

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: Authorizing a total of \$325 million from FY 2011 through FY 2015, H.R. 3598 would require the Secretary of Energy to improve energy and water-use efficiency in Department of Energy (DOE) research, development, and demonstration programs and establish an Energy-Water Architecture Council to provide energy and water resource data collection.

Specifically, the bill authorizes \$300 million over five years to identify and integrate DOE programs that minimize freshwater withdrawal, increase water use efficiency, provide for the consideration of nontraditional sources, consider effects on climate, and improve the understanding of water's impact on energy development. The legislation requires the Secretary to develop and submit to Congress a "strategic plan" (within nine months of being signed into law) to outline research and development needs and establish milestones for the development of:

- Advanced cooling technologies for energy generation and fuel production technologies;
- Performance improvements in existing cooling technologies and cost reductions associated with using those technologies;
- Innovative water reuse, recovery, and treatment in energy generation and fuel production;
- Technology development for carbon capture and storage systems;
- Technologies that are life-cycle cost effective;
- Systems analysis and modeling of issues relating to the energy required to provide water supplies and the water required to provide reliable energy supplies throughout the U.S;
- Technologies to treat and utilize produced waters discharged from oil, coalbed methane and mining activities;
- Increases in energy efficiency of water distribution and collection systems;
- Technologies for energy generation from water distribution and collection systems; and
- Other areas as determined by the Secretary.

The bill provides provisions to increase intra-agency collaboration in the development of the strategic plan with the goal to decrease the chances of program duplication. The legislation requires the Secretary to coordinate and collaborate with a "diverse group of representatives" from research institutions, academia, and industry. In addition to the strategic plan, the bill requires the Secretary to provide to Congress updated reports on these factors at least every two years.

Additionally, H.R. 3598 authorizes \$25 million over five years to establish an Energy-Water Architecture Council (EWAC) for the purposes of providing improved energy and water resource data collection, reporting and technological innovation. The EWAC will be led by the DOE but also include representatives from research institutions, academia, and industry. The purpose of the Council is to improve data collection and data communication, make improvements to federal water use data, use information from existing monitoring networks to provide nationally uniform water and energy use and infrastructure data, and conduct annual technical workshops.

The legislation contains language to clarify that nothing in the act establishes regulations that impair the use of water by state, tribal and local governments, or to require any state, local or tribal government to take any action that may result in an increased financial burden by restricting their use of water.

Additional Background: According to the National Energy Technology Laboratory, the thermoelectric power sector accounts for 39 percent of total freshwater withdrawal in the United States, and 3.3 percent of total freshwater consumption.

Possible Conservative Concerns: Some conservatives may be concerned that the Energy-Water Architecture Council created under the bill is duplicative or similar to a number of other federal, state, and private sector entities with the same mission.

Committee Action: On September 17, 2009, the bill was introduced and referred to the Committee on Science and Technology. On October 7, 2009, the committee held a mark-up and ordered the bill reported (as amended) by a voice vote.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is provided.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, H.R. 3598 would authorize the appropriation of \$325 million over the 2011-2015 period.

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 is not available at press time. However, such a report is technically not required because the bill is being considered under a suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A Committee Report sighting constitutional authority is not available at press time.

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