

Legislative Bulletin.....January 26, 2009

Contents:

H.Res. 31 - Expressing support for designation of January 28, 2009, as “National Data Privacy Day”

H.Res. ___ - Honoring the heroic actions of the pilot, crew, and rescuers of US Airways Flight 1549

H.Res. 31 - Expressing support for designation of January 28, 2009, as “National Data Privacy Day” (Price, D-NC)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on January 26, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 31 would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the designation of a National Data Privacy Day;
- “Encourages State and local governments to observe the day with appropriate activities that promote awareness of data privacy;
- “Encourages privacy professionals and educators to discuss data privacy and protection issues with teens in high schools across the United States; and
- “Encourages individuals across the Nation to be aware of data privacy concerns and to take steps to protect their personal information online.”

The resolution lists a number of finding including:

- “The Internet and the capabilities of modern technology cause data privacy issues to figure prominently in the lives of many people in the United States at work, in their interaction with government and public authorities, in the health field, in e-commerce transactions, and online generally;
- “Many individuals are unaware of data protection and privacy laws generally and of specific steps that can be taken to help protect the privacy of personal information online;
- “National Data Privacy Day constitutes an international collaboration and a nationwide and statewide effort to raise awareness about data privacy and the protection of personal information on the Internet;
- “Government officials from the United States and Europe, privacy professionals, academics, legal scholars, representatives of international businesses, and others with an

interest in data privacy issues are working together on this date to further the discussion about data privacy and protection;

- “Privacy professionals and educators are being encouraged to take the time to discuss data privacy and protection issues with teens in high schools across the country;
- “The recognition of “National Data Privacy Day” will encourage more people nationwide to be aware of data privacy concerns and to take steps to protect their personal information online; and
- “January 28, 2009, would be an appropriate day to designate as `National Data Privacy Day.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 31 was introduced on January 7, 2009, and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, which took no official action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would not authorize any additional 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?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

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

H.Res. _____ - Honoring the heroic actions of the pilot, crew, and rescuers of US Airways Flight 1549 (*Crowley, D-NY*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on January 26, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: The resolution would express the sense that the House of Representatives:

- “Applauds the skill, quick thinking, and bravery of Captain Chesley B. Sullenberger III and First Officer Jeffrey B. Skiles;
- “Commends the quick response by the flight attendants Doreen Welsh, Donna Dent, and Sheila Dail of Flight 1549 to prepare passengers for impact and rapid evacuation; and
- “Praises the quick response from the boats, first responders, and private citizens that arrived at the scene to aid and rescue passengers.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “US Airways Flight 1549 took off from LaGuardia Airport in Queens, New York on January 15, 2009, bound for Charlotte, North Carolina, and lost engine power shortly after takeoff;
- “Captain Chesley B. Sullenberger III and First Officer Jeffrey B. Skiles recognized the need to land the plane quickly and sought out the Hudson River as the best option to avoid populated areas;
- “Sullenberger and Skiles displayed quick thinking and skillful control of the aircraft, setting the plane down in a controlled landing in the water;
- “Flight attendants Sheila Dail, Doreen Welsh, and Donna Dent of Flight 1549 reacted swiftly to prepare passengers for impact in a minimal amount of time;
- “Local ferry boats, official police boats, and U.S. Coast Guard crafts were able to reach the airliner quickly and rescue the passengers and crew from the near-freezing water;
- “Dail, Welsh, and Dent, evacuated all 150 passengers onto the awaiting U.S. Coast Guard ferry boats, and official police boats within minutes;
- “Even as the plane began sinking in the Hudson River, Sullenberger remained in the plane surveying the aisle twice to make sure all passengers had gotten out safely before he exited the aircraft; and
- “Due to the heroic efforts of the flight crew of Flight 1549, and the rescue boats, all 155 passengers and crew survived, without serious injury.”

Committee Action: This resolution has not been introduced as of “press time.”

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would not authorize any additional 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?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

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