

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

House Meets At...	Votes Predicted At...
9:00 a.m. For Morning Hour 10:00 a.m. For Legislative Business	Last Vote: 5:00 p.m.
Unlimited "One-minutes" Per Side	

Any anticipated Member absences for votes this week should be reported to the Office of the Majority Whip at 226-3210.

Floor Schedule and Procedure

- **Suspension Bills:** Today, the House will consider several bills on the Suspension calendar. Bills considered on the Suspension calendar are debatable for 40 minutes; may not be amended; and require a two-thirds vote for passage. If a recorded vote is requested, it will be postponed.
 1. **H.R. 3678** – “Internet Tax Freedom Act Amendments Act of 2007” as amended by the Senate (*Rep. Conyers – Judiciary*)
 2. **H.R. 2787** - CJ's Home Protection Act of 2007 (*Rep. Ellsworth – Financial Services*)
 3. **S. 2106** - Procedural Fairness for September 11 Victims Act of 2007 (*Sen. Biden/Rep. Bishop (NY) – Judiciary*)
 4. **S. ____** - To temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (*Sen. Kennedy – Education and Labor*)
 5. **H.R. 1236** - To make permanent the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a special postage stamp to support breast cancer research (*Rep. Clay – Oversight and Government Reform*)
 6. **H.Res. 759** – Recognizing the 40th Anniversary of the Mass Movement for Soviet Jewish Freedom and the 20th Anniversary of the Freedom Sunday Rally for Soviet Jewry on the Mall in Washington, D.C. (*Rep. Waxman – Oversight and Government Reform*)
 7. **H.R. 3307** – To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 570 Broadway in Bayonne, New Jersey, as the "Dennis P. Collins Post Office Building" (*Rep. Sires – Oversight and Government Reform*)

8. **H.R. 3446** – To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 202 East Michigan Avenue in Marshall, Michigan, as the "Michael W. Schragg Post Office Building" (*Rep. Walberg – Oversight and Government Reform*)
 9. **H.Res. ____** - Recognizing and honoring the heroic service, actions, and sacrifices of first responders, National Guardsmen, volunteers, and others who participated in responding to the outbreak of wildfires in Southern California and to express full support to and solidarity with the state of California (*Rep. Lofgren – Oversight and Government Reform*)
- **H. Res. 773-Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3867 – Small Business Contracting Program Improvements Act (Rep. Cardoza-Rules)**: The structured rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Small Business. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution. The rule provides one motion to recommit H.R. 3867 with or without instructions. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rep. Cardoza, and consideration will proceed as follows:
 - One hour of debate on the rule.
 - Possible vote on a Democratic motion to move the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on the motion.**
 - Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on adoption of the rule.**
 - **H.R. 3867 – Small Business Contracting Program Improvements Act (Rep. Velazquez-Small Business)**: Pursuant to the rule, debate on bill will be managed by Rules Committee Chair Rep. Nydia Velazquez and will proceed as follows:
 - One hour of debate on the bill.
 - Debate and votes on amendments to the bill.
 - Possible debate and vote on a Republican motion to recommit the bill.
 - Vote on final passage of the bill. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on final passage.**
 - **Postponed Suspension Votes:** At some point today, the House will take a recorded vote on the following measure, which was debated on Monday:
 1. **H.J.Res. 58** – Expressing support for designation of the month of October 2007 as "Country Music Month" and to honor country music for its long history of supporting America's armed forces and its tremendous impact on national patriotism (*Rep. Poe – Education and Labor*)

H.R. 3867, the Small Business Contracting Program Improvements Act

H.R. 3867, the Small Business Contracting Program Improvements Act encourages participation by qualified small businesses, particularly veteran owned businesses, in the appropriate contracting programs offered under the supervision of the Small Business Administration. The Act amends key sections of the Small Business Act to assist small business participation, prevent fraud and bring consistency to the operation of the main contract assistance programs.

Ensuring Government Contract Opportunities for Small Businesses Owned and Controlled by Service-Disabled Veterans. Title I expands procurement opportunities for service-disabled veteran-owned businesses; a group that currently receives only a small fraction of their contracting goal. Further, it creates penalties for misrepresentation of a service-disabled veteran owned business classification and adopts a roadmap for providing information, advice and training to service-disabled veterans as prescribed by President. Finally, it provides discretion to contracting officers in cases that must now be set aside for HUBZones but that could, with these amendments be used for service-disabled veteran-owned businesses.

Protecting Taxpayers and Ensuring Program Consistency. Title II provides that the Administrator perform the necessary checks on applicants for participation in the in the various contracting assistance programs to ensure their business integrity and qualifications. This is already required by most programs but this makes it uniform.

Expanding Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs. Title III sets out requirements for the SBA to implement the Women's Procurement Program immediately. The SBA has taken too much time to implement the Women's Procurement Program. This bill will provide agencies will sufficient information to immediately begin competing contracts among women business owners. Women have been waiting nearly seven years for this – they have lost tens of billions of dollars in contracting opportunities – and they will not have to wait any longer.

Strengthening Community Development. Title IV strengthens the HUBZone program by verifying that small businesses receiving contracts under its authority are qualified. It further requires construction contracts to be performed within a reasonable distance of the particular HUBZone the contractor is to benefit.

Modernizing the 8(a) Program. Title V modernizes the 8(a) program to update and revise the qualification requirements, extend and realign the program term for participation and ensure that contracts issued under the authority of 8(a) go only to 8(a) qualified companies.

Bipartisan Bill with Broad Support. This legislation has bipartisan support within this committee and includes the input from a number of Members. There is remarkably broad support on this legislation, ranging from the National Black Chamber of Commerce to the National Federation of Independent Business and the Associated General Contractors of America. Also supporting the legislation are the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and AMVETS. The United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce, and the National Defense Industrial Association also support this bill.

Anticipated Amendments To H.R. 3867

Velázquez (NY): This amendment would establish that those veterans who are severely disabled shall be given special consideration as agencies implement contracting regulations. It would also set forth certain standards for business integrity that are required for participation in federal contracting programs. Additionally, the amendment would clarify the implementation of the women's procurement program. (10 minutes)

Akin (MO): The amendment would require that the Administrator of the Small Business Administration (SBA) conduct a study to determine what changes would be required to provide greater Federal contracting assistance to participants in the program created by section 8(a) of the Small Business Act that have less equity in their business concerns than other participants in the program. The study would be reported no later than six months after the date of enactment of this Act and the Administrator would report the details of the study to the Senate Small Business Committee and the House Small Business Committee. (10 minutes)

Welch (VT)/Braley (IA): The amendment would require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to carry out a study on the effectiveness of the HUBZone program in reaching rural areas. (10 minutes)

Mica (FL): This amendment would clarify that the small business set-aside provisions of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644) should apply to federal contracts not excluding Federal Supply Schedule and Multiple Award Schedule holders. (10 minutes)

Mica (FL): The amendment would state that it is the sense of the House that small business set-asides should not be excluded from any acquisitions under the GSA's Federal Supply Schedule. (10 minutes)

Moran, James (VA): The amendment would require that the Administrator of the Small Business Administration conduct a study to determine, with respect to small business contracts, whether incumbent Federal contractors are submitting frivolous protests to extend the length of current contracts before protest decisions are resolved. The Administrator also would develop recommendations to discourage frivolous protests. (10 minutes)

Baird (WA): This amendment would direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to examine the lists of groups the members of which are presumed to be socially disadvantaged under the Small Disadvantaged Business program under section 8(a) of the Small Business Act and to consider whether the list should be updated to include additional groups. (10 minutes)

Brown-Waite (FL): The amendment would create a liaison within the Small Business Administration whose duty, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security for US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, is to ensure that section 2(i) of the Small Business Act, regarding

assistance to individuals not lawfully within the United States, is carried out. (10 minutes)

Gillibrand (NY): The amendment provides that any employer found, based on a determination by the Department of Homeland Security or the Attorney General to have engaged in a pattern or practice of hiring, recruiting or referring for a fee, for employment in the United States an alien knowing the person is an unauthorized alien shall be subject to debarment from the receipt of future Federal contracts. (10 minutes)

Lampson (TX): The amendment would prohibit the use of any funds for first-class or business-class airline travel by agency employees when carrying out the provisions of HR 3867. The amendment includes exceptions provided by the Code of Federal Regulations 301-10.122 to 10.124, as applicable to federal agency employees. (10 minutes)

Quote of the Day

“If you think you can win, you can win. Faith is necessary to victory.”
-William Hazlitt

The Office of the House Majority Whip | H-329 The Capitol |
Washington, DC 20515 | p. (202)226-3210 | f. (202)226-1115