

Thursday, May 15, 2008

House Meets At...	Votes Predicted At...
10:00 a.m. Legislative Business	Last Vote: 4:00 p.m.
Five "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

- **H. Res. 1197-Rule providing for Consideration of the Senate Amendment to H.R. 2642 –Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Rep. Slaughter-Rules):** The rule provides for consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 2642. The rule makes in order a motion by the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations that the House concur in the Senate amendment with each of the three amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying the resolution. The rule provides two hours of debate on the motion equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule provides that the Chair shall divide the question among each of the three House amendments. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rules Committee Chair Rep. Louise Slaughter, and consideration will proceed as follows:
  - One hour of debate on the rule.
  - Possible vote on a Democratic Motion ordering the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes.**
  - Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes.**
- **Senate Amendment to H.R. 2642 –Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Rep. Obey-Appropriations):** Pursuant to the rule, debate on the bill will be managed by Appropriations Committee Chair Rep. David Obey, or his designee, and will proceed as follows:
  - Two hours of debate.
  - Three votes on adoption of the amendments to the Senate amendments.

- **Possible Postponed Suspension Votes (6 Bills):**
  - 1) **H.R. 5872** - Boy Scouts of America Centennial Commemorative Coin Act (Rep. Sessions - Financial Services)
  - 2) **H.R. 5614** - Original Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle Ultra-High Relief Bullion Coin Act (Rep. Castle – Financial Services)
  - 3) **H.R. 406** - Alice Paul Women’s Suffrage Congressional Gold Medal Act (Rep. Baca – Financial Services)
  - 4) **H.R. 2894** - Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemorative Coin Act (Rep. Ruppersberger – Financial Services)
  - 5) **H.R. 5916** - Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Reform Act of 2008 as amended (Rep. Berman – Foreign Affairs)
  - 6) **H.R. 5834** - North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2008 as amended (Rep. Ros- Lehtinen – Foreign Affairs)

## **Bill Summary and Key Issues**

### **Emergency Supplemental: Iraq, Afghanistan, Veterans, and Workers**

The House of Representatives will consider the emergency supplemental bill to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and pressing domestic needs. Under consideration are \$183.9 billion in outstanding requests from the President. The Democratic proposal totals \$183.7 billion, just under the President’s request for appropriated dollars.

As Congress considers the most recent war request, it is important that we also meet our obligations to those who bravely serve and address the economic insecurity of those at home. Thus, the proposal also includes 2 new initiatives not requested by the President:

- 1.) an expanded GI Bill to provide improved education benefits for veterans, and
- 2.) a 13 week extension of unemployment benefits for those workers who are unable to find a job in today’s rough economy.

The proposal will be taken up as 3 amendments.

- **Amendment #1:** \$162.5 billion for the Department of Defense, funding the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan through the summer of 2009.
- **Amendment #2:** Iraq Policy Restrictions.
- **Amendment #3:** Expanded GI Bill, Unemployment Insurance Extension, and other critical needs.

## **SUMMARY**

**Amendment #1: Department of Defense Funding:** \$96.6 billion, \$3.4 billion below the President’s request for FY 2008 and \$65.9 billion, \$142 million below the President’s request, for FY 2009. Totalling \$162.5 billion, this accounts for almost 90% of the discretionary spending in the bill.

### **Amendment #2: Iraq Policy**

- **Out in 18 months:** Requires that troops begin redeployment from Iraq within 30 days with a goal of completing withdrawal of combat troops by December of 2009.
- **Treaties with Iraq:** Requires that any agreement between the United States and the Government of Iraq committing U.S. forces be specifically authorized by Congress.
- **Iraqis Pay for Iraq Reconstruction:** Requires that U.S. reconstruction aid for Iraq be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Iraqi Government.
- **Fair Fuel Costs:** Requires the President to reach an agreement with Iraq to subsidize fuel costs for U.S. Armed Forces operating in Iraq so that our military pays what Iraqis pay.
- **Meeting Pentagon Guidelines:** Requires that troops meet the Pentagon's definition of "combat ready" before they are deployed to Iraq; Prohibits troops from being deployed longer than Pentagon guidelines recommend; and Requires that troops spend adequate time at home between deployments.
- **Clean Up Contracting in Iraq:** Expands current law to make all contractors working in war zones subject to prosecution for offenses that would otherwise be in violation of U.S. law; extends the statute of limitations for fraud cases during wartime; and amends the federal criminal code to prohibit profiteering and fraud involving contractors overseas.
- **No Permanent Bases in Iraq:** Prohibits the establishment of permanent bases in Iraq.
- **Prohibits Torture:** Prohibits interrogation techniques not authorized in the Army Field Manual.

### **Amendment #3:**

**Expanded GI Benefits for Veterans Education:** Expands the education benefits veterans receive under the GI bill to restore the promise of a full, four-year college education, and make the veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan part of an American economic recovery, just like the veterans of World War II were. This provision is fully offset.

**Extended Unemployment Compensation:** Extends unemployment benefits for workers who have exhausted their benefits by up to 13 weeks in every state as well as an additional 13 weeks in states with high unemployment. The number of Americans looking for work has grown by 800,000 over the last year, and the number of American jobs has declined by 260,000 since the beginning of 2008.

**Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008 (H.R. 5613):** Places a moratorium on seven Medicaid regulations that would cut services to seniors, families, and those with disabilities as well as cut payments to safety net providers. These costs are fully offset.

**International Affairs:** \$9.9 billion, \$496 million above the President's request for the State Department, USAID and International Food Assistance (PL480).

- **Food Aid & Disaster Assistance:** \$1.865 billion, \$745 million above the President's request, for international food and disaster assistance. This includes \$500 million above the President's request for PL480 Food Assistance and \$245 million above the President's request for development assistance and disaster assistance programs meant to alleviate world hunger.

- **Refugee Assistance:** \$675 million, \$454 million above the President's request, to address the refugee crisis in Iraq and elsewhere.
- **Merida:** \$461.5 million, \$88.5 million below the President's request for the initiative to provide counter narcotics and law enforcement assistance in Mexico (\$400 million) and Central America (\$61.5 million).

**Military Construction:** \$4.6 billion for military construction, \$2.2 billion over the President's request, including \$939 million for BRAC, over \$210 million for the military child care centers that the President announced in the State of the Union but never funded, and \$992 million for military hospitals to prevent the types of problems that faced Walter Reed.

**Louisiana Levees:** \$5.8 billion for much needed efforts to strengthen New Orleans levees in FY 2009, as requested by the President.

**Bureau of Prisons:** \$178 million urgently needed to meet rising incarceration costs and growing inmate population. The administration would have paid for these costs with cuts to state and local law enforcement funding.

**Census:** \$210 million to address decennial census cost overruns. The administration requested these funds but would have paid for them by cutting items ranging from important scientific research to economic development programs.

**Cleaning up Contracting (H.R. 3928 & H.R. 5712):** Increases accountability and transparency in federal contracting by requiring companies that receive more than 80 percent of their revenue from the federal government to disclose the names and salaries of their top officers, and requires federal contractors to report violations of federal criminal law and over-payments on contracts over \$5 million.

### **The Cost of Expanding the GI Bill v. The Cost of the Wars**

Cost of Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001:	\$871 Billion
10 Year Cost of the Expansion of the GI Bill:	\$52 Billion
6% the cost of the wars or 5 months in Iraq	

2 Year Cost of Iraq and Afghanistan:	\$162.5 Billion
2 Year Cost of the Expansion of the GI Bill:	\$716 Million
0.4% the cost of the wars or 2 days in Iraq	

### Emergency Supplemental – Appropriations Breakdown

	Bush Request	House Bill
	<i>(numbers in millions)</i>	
<b>Amendment #1</b>		
Department of Defense 2008	\$100,054	\$96,622
Department of Defense 2009	\$66,063	\$65,921
<b>Subtotal Amendment #1</b>	<b>\$166,117</b>	<b>\$162,543</b>
<b>Amendment #3</b>		
Foreign Aid	\$9,423	\$9,919
<i>State Department/USAID FY08</i>	\$5,074	\$5,074
<i>State Department/USAID FY09</i>	\$3,605	\$3,600
<i>PL480 Food Aid FY08</i>	\$350	\$850
<i>PL480 Food Aid FY09</i>	\$395	\$395
Department of Justice	\$186	\$230
Military Construction	\$2,438	\$4,642
Veterans Education Benefits – Administrative Costs	0	\$120
Louisiana Levees (FY09)	\$5,761	\$5,761
Program Shortfalls	0	\$498
<i>Bureau of Prisons</i>	0	\$178
<i>Census Cost Overruns</i>	0	\$210
<i>Increased UI Claims</i>	0	\$110
Automatic Death Benefit – Mrs. Lantos	0	\$0.169
<b>Subtotal Amendment #3</b>	<b>\$17,758</b>	<b>\$21,170</b>
<b>TOTAL COST FOR APPROPRIATIONS ITEMS</b>	<b>\$183,876</b>	<b>\$183,712</b>

## Estimates for GI Benefits and Unemployment Extension

	<b>2 Year Estimate</b>	<b>10 Year Estimate</b>
Expanded GI Benefits	\$716 million	\$51.6 billion
Unemployment Extension	\$15.6 billion	\$11.1 billion

### **Quote of the Day**

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”

-John Fitzgerald Kennedy

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