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Floor Information
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(majoritywhip.gov)

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(rules.house.gov)

Bill Text and Background for the Week of May 21, 2007

H.R. 1427–Federal Housing Finance Reform Act of 2007 H.R. 1100- Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site Boundary Revision Act of 2007

H.R. 2316 – Honest Leadership and Open Government Act

H.R. 2317 - Lobbying Transparency Act of 2007

H.R. 2206 - Concur in the Senate Amendment with Amendments

Bills Under Suspension:

H.R. 2272- To invest in innovation through research and development, and to improve the competitiveness of the United States

H.R. 1525- Internet Spyware (I-SPY) Prevention Act of 2007

H.R. 1615- Securing Aircraft Cockpits Against Lasers Act of 2007

S. 214- Preserving United States Attorney Independence Act of 2007

H.R. 2264- To amend the Sherman Act to make oil-producing and exporting cartels illegal
H.R. 1252 - Federal Price Gauging Prevention Act

S. 1104- A bill to increase the number of Iraqi and Afghani translators and interpreters who may be admitted to the United States as special immigrants

H.R. 67- Veterans Outreach Improvement Act of 2007

H.R. 612- Returning Servicemember VA Healthcare Insurance Act of 2007

H.R. 2199– Traumatic Brain Injury Health Enhancement and Long-Term Support Act of 2007

H.R. 2239- Early Access to Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Benefits Act

H.R. 1427 – FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE REFORM ACT OF 2007 (Rep. Frank – Financial Services)
(Complete Consideration)

Bill Text: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)
[Bill Summary and Status](#)

Rule: [H.RES.404](#)

Committee: [Committee on Financial Services](#)

Committee Staff Contact: Lawranne Stewart, Gail Lastor, Scott Olson

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

- **Federal Housing Finance Agency.** H.R. 1427 establishes the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA or Agency) as an independent agency to oversee the safe and sound operations as well as the mission functions of the housing government sponsored enterprises (GSEs)--Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the 12 Federal Home Loan Banks (collectively, the regulated entities). The Agency assumes the supervisory duties of the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight (OFHEO), the Federal Housing Finance Board (Finance Board), and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) (with respect to mission oversight of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac).
- **Director & Deputy Director.** A Director appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate for a five-year term heads the FHFA. The Director will appoint three deputy directors: a Deputy Director of the Division of Enterprise Regulation; a Deputy Director of Federal Home Loan Bank Regulation; and a Deputy Director for Housing. Among other things, this supervisory structure recognizes the unique nature of, and differences between, the Federal Home Loan Banks and the enterprises.
- **Federal Housing Enterprise Board.** An oversight board (called the Federal Housing Enterprise Board) is created to advise the Director with respect to overall strategies and policies in carrying out the duties of the Director. The Enterprise Board will consist of the Director of the Agency, the Secretaries of Treasury and HUD, and two additional appointed directors. Funding for the Agency is to be provided by an annual assessment by the Agency on the regulated entities for the FHFA's reasonable costs and expenses. Congressional appropriations approval is not required.
- **Office of Minority & Women Inclusion.** The bill requires each GSE to establish an office of minority and women inclusion to implement standards for inclusion of minorities and women in all business activities and contracts.
- **Corrective Actions.** The measure allows the FHFA to establish a capital classification system for the GSEs similar to those used by banking and credit union regulators. It also specifies the actions that the agency could take if the enterprises fall into one of the lower categories. Under the measure, there would be four categories — adequately capitalized, undercapitalized, significantly undercapitalized and critically undercapitalized. The agency would be permitted to take action to correct financial undercapitalized and significantly undercapitalized GSEs, and place a GSE in conservatorship or receivership if it became critically undercapitalized.
- **Enforcement Powers.** The legislation strengthens the existing enforcement powers of the current regulators. The Agency is vested with cease-and-desist powers, if the Director has reasonable cause to believe that the regulated entity or an affiliated party is engaged in an unsafe or unsound practice or other violation of law. The Agency is empowered to issue civil money penalties and has the authority to remove management.

- Federal Home Loan Bank Operations. H.R. 1427 improves the operations of the Federal Home Loan Bank System by permitting the formation of joint offices by two or more Banks, specifying that joint offices are subject to supervision and oversight to the same extent as are the Banks, requiring sharing of information among the Banks, and raising the total asset eligibility cap for community financial institution members that use advances for additional lending activities.
- Affordable Housing Goals. The measure requires the GSEs to meet goals established by the Federal Housing Finance Agency for single and multi-family home purchasers in low-income or very-low income areas (which would be redefined at 50% AMI). The goals would be based on Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data by using three-year averages to determine the market, and would be set annually, but could be set for a multi-year period. It requires the GSEs to serve underserved markets, such as manufactured housing, affordable housing preservation, and rural areas.
- Affordable Housing Fund. The bill creates an affordable housing fund to be managed by the FHFA, from 2007 through 2011, by requiring Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to contribute 1.2% of their total outstanding mortgages. Of that contribution, 75% of the funds would be used for the affordable housing fund, and 25% would be allocated to the federal government to keep the bill deficit neutral. In the first year of the funds operation, 75% of the funds would go to Louisiana and 25% would go to Mississippi.

Amendments: Action Completed by House:

- H.AMDT.203 – Rep. Bachus Amendment numbered 12 printed in the Congressional Record to strike section 139 pertaining to affordable housing fund. **Failed by Recorded Vote: 148 - 269** (Roll No. 378).
- H.AMDT.204 – Rep. Kanjorski Amendment numbered 22(1) printed in the Congressional Record to clarify recommendations on criteria for the Federal Housing Enterprise Board when appointing individuals as directors. **Agreed to by Voice Vote.**
- H.AMDT.205 – Rep. Hensarling Amendment numbered 29 printed in the Congressional Record to provide that the director shall temporarily suspend allocations if it is determined that allocations are contributing to an increase in the cost or mortgages to homebuyers. **Failed by Recorded Vote: 164 - 253** (Roll No. 379).
- H.AMDT.206 – Rep. Hinojosa Amendment numbered 21 printed in the Congressional Record to permit the director, at the request of a State, to waive the requirement that homebuyers attend in-person financial management counseling before receiving affordable housing grants, and allows the homebuyers to receive the counseling through alternate forms such as online, or over the phone. **Agreed to by Voice Vote.**
- H.AMDT.207 – Rep. Neugebauer Amendment numbered 4 printed in the Congressional Record to clarify that potential risks should be posed to the enterprises with respect to the nature of portfolio holdings. **Agreed to by Voice Vote.**
- H.AMDT.208 – Rep. Frank Amendment comprised of the following amendments offered en bloc: Amendments nos. 2, as modified, 3, 6, 7, 11, 20, and 31 printed in the Congressional Record. **Agreed to by Voice Vote.**
- H.AMDT.209 – Rep. McHenry Amendment numbered 14 printed in the Congressional Record to add a new subsection on determination and suspension of allocations. **Failed by Recorded Vote: 176 - 240** (Roll No. 380).

- H.AMDT.210 – Rep. Kanjorski Amendment numbered 15 printed in the Congressional Record to clarify the director's authority to determine the appropriate size of the board of directors of the Federal National Mortgage Association between 7 and 15 members. **Failed by Recorded Vote: 154 - 263** (Roll No. 381).
- H.AMDT.211 – Rep. Roskam Amendment numbered 27 printed in the Congressional Record to add a new paragraph limiting contributions to affordable housing fund when the government has an on-budget and an off-budget surplus. **Failed by Recorded Vote: 173 - 245** (Roll No. 382).
- H.AMDT.212 – Rep. Blumenauer Amendment numbered 26 printed in the Congressional Record to add a new section providing for consideration of location and energy efficiency in enterprise underwriting guidelines. **Withdrawn.**
- H.AMDT.213 – Rep. Garrett Amendment numbered 17 printed in the Congressional Record to insert new language requiring GSEs to limit their retained portfolios to mortgages and mortgage backed securities that exclusively support affordable housing, and particularly mortgages extended to households having incomes below the median income for the area in which the property subject to the mortgage is located. **Failed by Recorded Vote: 92 - 322** (Roll No. 383).
- H.AMDT.214 – Rep. Al Green Amendment numbered 5 printed in the Congressional Record to redistribute affordable housing grants for use in disaster areas that were allotted to Louisiana and Mississippi to include both Alabama and Texas in addition to Louisiana and Mississippi. **Withdrawn.**
- H.AMDT.219 – Rep. Doolittle Amendment numbered 25 printed in the Congressional Record to make economically disadvantaged counties that receive payments under the Secure Rural Roads and Community Self-Determination Act eligible to receive Affordable Housing fund grants. Mr. Frank raised a point of order against the Doolittle Amendment. Mr. Frank stated that the provisions of the Doolittle Amendment exceed the scope of the bill and as such, the Amendment is not germane. The Chair sustained the point of order.
- H.AMDT.220 – Rep. Hensarling Amendment numbered 32 printed in the Congressional Record to strike the High Cost Area increases in Section 133 to the Conforming Loan Limit. **Withdrawn.**
- H.AMDT.221 – Rep. Miller Amendment numbered 33 printed in the Congressional Record. **Withdrawn.**
- H.AMDT.224 – Rep. Garrett Amendment designated as the second amendment numbered 22 printed in the Congressional Record to prohibit GSE's from treating the costs of making allocations to the affordable housing funds as either regular business expenses or redirecting the costs through increased fees, decreased premiums, or any other manner. **Agreed to by Voice Vote.**

Amendments: Debate Completed and Votes Ordered:

- [H.AMDT.215](#) – Rep. Feeney Amendment numbered 16 printed in the Congressional Record to strike low-income housing grants from the affordable housing fund and to insert housing assistance provisions for the areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; strike language outlining affordable housing grant formulas for Indian tribal members and directs funds to be allocated "based on the formula used for the Continuum of Care competition of the Department of Housing and Urban Development"; and insert language requiring that affordable housing grants after 2007 be reserved only for rental housing voucher assistance in

accordance with the Housing act of 1937. 5/17/2007 House amendment offered.

- [H.AMDT.216](#) – Rep. Price Amendment numbered 8 printed in the Congressional Record to prevent illegal immigrants from owning or renting housing built by funds from the affordable housing fund by requiring adult occupants of that housing to establish their legal residency using secure forms of identification. 5/17/2007 House amendment offered. Requires that grant recipients show 1 of 4 forms of identification to prove they are in the United States legally: a passport, which most Americans do not have; an ID card from the Department of Homeland Security, which most Americans do not have; a social security card accompanied by a Federal- or State-issued photo identification card; or a driver's license from a state compliant with the REAL ID Act.
- [H.AMDT.217](#) – Rep. Sessions Amendment numbered 10 printed in the Congressional Record to require the Director of the new GSE Regulator to provide information to mortgage originators about any added mortgage costs to consumers associated with the new Housing Fund; in turn, originators would have to furnish this written information to homebuyers at or before closing to qualify their mortgages for purchase, service, holding, lending on the security of or selling by the GSE's. The amendment provides that all of the costs associated with the new regulatory requirement created would be paid for with funds from the new Housing Fund. 5/17/2007 House amendment offered.
- [H.AMDT.218](#) – Rep. Brady Amendment numbered 34 printed in the Congressional Record to redistribute the affordable housing grants for use in disaster areas from a ratio of 75% for Louisiana and 25% for Mississippi to create 10% for Texas by taking 5% each from the allotment for Louisiana and Mississippi. 5/17/2007 House amendment offered.
- [H.AMDT.222](#) – Rep. Price Amendment numbered 9 printed in the Congressional Record to require that the director of a GSE study and certify to Congress that its contributions to the affordable housing fund would not contribute to its financial instability or impair its safety and soundness. 5/17/2007 House amendment offered.
- [H.AMDT.223](#) – Rep. Doolittle Amendment numbered 19 printed in the Congressional Record to prohibit all three mortgage lending government-sponsored enterprises (GSE's) from obtaining primary residential mortgages being granted to any person who does not have a valid Social Security number. 5/17/2007 House amendment offered.
- [H.AMDT.225](#) – Rep. Hensarling Amendment numbered 30 printed in the Congressional Record to strike the Affordable Housing Trust Fund budgetary placeholder language in the bill. 5/17/2007 House amendment offered.
- [H.AMDT.226](#) – Rep. Neugebauer Amendment numbered 1 printed in the Congressional Record to set a cap on the amount of funds available in the Affordable Housing Fund. 5/18/2007 House amendment offered.

Committee Information:

[Committee Summary of H.R. 1427 \(as first introduced\)](#)

House Report 110-142:

[HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)



Full Committee Mark-up:

[H.R. 1515, to amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; H.R. 1427, Federal Housing Finance Reform Act of 2007; H.R. 1675, Preservation Approval Process Improvement Act of 2007; H.R. 1676, Native American Home Ownership Opportunity Act of 2007](#), March 28, 2007

[National Journal Report](#)

[Click Here to View Archived Webcast](#)

Summary of Votes:

- [Rep. Frank Amendment](#), No. 1 - Manager's Amendment. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Amendment by Mr. Bachus](#), No. 2 – Amendment that would strike section 128 of the bill, which would direct a percentage of Fannie Mae's and Freddie Mac's investment portfolios to an affordable housing fund. **Rejected 15-31: R 15-4; D 0-27.** ([FC-27](#))
- [Amendment by Mr. Bachus](#), No. 4– Amendment that would transfer the affordable housing fund to affordable housing programs run by the 12 Federal Home Loan Banks (FHLBs). **Rejected 16-36: R 16-8; D 0-28.** ([FC-28](#))
- [Amendment by Mrs. Biggert](#), No. 8– Amendment that would transfer administration of the affordable housing fund and administration of grants under the fund from the states, as provided in the bill, to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). **Rejected 20-35: R 20-6; D 0-29.** ([FC-29](#))
- [Amendment by Mr. Hensarling](#), No. 11– Amendment that would eliminate a provision of the bill that would increase the government-sponsored enterprises' loan limits in high cost areas up to the local median price. **Rejected 10-51: R 10-18; D 0-33.** ([FC-30](#))
- [Amendment by Ms. Waters](#), No. 12 – Amendment that would require government-sponsored enterprises to establish offices of minority and women inclusion or to designate an office responsible for such matters. It also would require each enterprise to develop procedures to ensure the inclusion of minorities and women and minority- and women-owned businesses in all business activities. **Adopted 34-27: R 1-27; D 33-0.** ([FC-31](#))
- [Amendment by Mr. Frank](#), No. 14– Amendment that would authorize affordable housing funds created under the bill to be transferred later to an Affordable Housing Trust Fund that may be enacted into law in the future. **Adopted 35-26: R 1-26; D 34-0.** ([FC-32](#))
- [Amendment by Mr. McHenry](#), No. 17– Amendment that would make Habitat for Humanity the only entity eligible for grants under the affordable housing fund. **Rejected 13-50: R 13-16; D 0-34.** ([FC-33](#))
- [Amendment by Mr. Garrett](#), No. 22– Amendment that would limit the enterprises' portfolios to mortgages and mortgage-backed securities that exclusively support affordable housing, especially mortgages for households with incomes below the median income for the area in which the property is located. **Rejected 15-48: R 15-15; D 0-33.** ([FC-34](#))
- [Amendment by Mr. Neugebauer](#), No. 25– Amendment that would cap the affordable housing fund at the lesser of 1.2 basis points of the average total mortgage portfolio for the prior year or \$520 million or a lesser amount determined by the director (of the to-be-established regulator) if the director determines that a higher amount poses a safety and soundness concern. **Rejected 30-35: R 30-2; D 0-33.** ([FC-35](#))

- [Amendment by Mr. Price](#), No. 27– Amendment that would require a minimum of 50 percent of a regulated entity's portfolio holdings to support affordable housing. **Rejected 15-50: R 15-17; D 0-33.** ([FC-36](#))
- **Vote to Report:** Favorably reported to the House of Representatives, as amended, by **Recorded Vote of 45-19: R 13-19; D 32-0.** ([FC-37](#))
- [Full List of Amendments](#)

CRS Reports:

[RS21724](#): GSE Regulatory Reform: Frequently Asked Questions
[RL32795](#): Government-Sponsored Enterprises GSEs : Reform Legislation in the 109th Congress
[RL32815](#): Federal Home Loan Bank System: Policy Issues
[RS21567](#): Accounting and Management Problems at Freddie Mac
[RS21949](#): Accounting Problems at Fannie Mae
[RL33940](#): H.R. 1427 and S. 1100: Reforming the Regulation of Government-Sponsored Enterprises
[RL33879](#): Housing Issues in the 110th Congress

CBO Report:

[CBO Cost Estimate](#): Ordered Reported by the House Committee on Financial Services

GAO Reports:

(TBA)

Full Committee Hearing:

[Legislative Proposals on GSE Reform](#) March 15, 2007

[Click Here to Watch Archived Webcast of this Hearing](#)

Available Member Statements:

[Congresswoman Capito](#)
[Congresswoman Pryce](#)
[Congressman Gillmor](#)
[Congresswoman Waters](#)

Witness Testimony:

Panel One: [The Honorable Robert Steel](#), Under Secretary for Domestic Finance, U.S. Department of the Treasury • [The Honorable James B. Lockhart III](#), Director, Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight; [L. Carter Cornick](#), General Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Panel Two: [The Honorable John Dalton](#), President, Housing Policy Council, Financial Services Roundtable • [Mr. Richard F. Syron](#), Chairman and- Chief Executive Officer, Freddie Mac • [Mr. Daniel H. Mudd](#), President and Chief Executive Officer, Fannie Mae • [Mr. Gerald M. Howard](#), Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Home Builders

Panel Three: [Ms. Judith A. Kennedy](#), President and Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders • [Mr. Allen J. Fishbein](#), Director of Housing and Credit Policy, Consumer Federation of America • [Ms. Sheila Crowley](#), President, National Low Income Housing Coalition • [Mr. Thomas Gleason](#), Board Member, National Council of State Housing Agencies • [Mr. Michael Flynn](#), Director of Government Affairs, Reason Foundation

Documents Submitted for the Record: [Consumer Mortgage Coalition](#)

Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance and Government Sponsored Enterprises Hearing:

[Legislative Proposals on GSE Reform](#), March 12, 2007

[Click Here To Watch Archived Webcast of this Hearing](#)

Available Member Statements: [Chairman Kanjorski](#), [Congressman Bachus](#)

Witness Testimony:

[Mr. John R. Price](#), President and Chief Executive Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh;

[Mr. Thomas M. Stevens](#), Immediate Past President, National Association of Realtors;

[Mr. John M. Robbins](#), CMB, Chairman, Mortgage Bankers Association;

[Mr. Arthur R. Connelly](#), Chairman, South Shore Savings Bank;

[Mr. R. Michael Stewart Menzies](#), Sr., President/Chief Executive Officer, Easton Bank and Trust Company;

[Ms. Karen Shaw Petrou](#), Managing Partner, Federal Financial Analytics, Inc;

[Mr. Scott Stern](#), Chief Executive Officer, Lenders One, Chairman, National Alliance of Independent Mortgage Bankers

Organization Statements:

[National Federation of Federal Credit Unions](#) letter for the Record;

[American Bankers Association](#) letter for the Record;

[Asian Real Estate Association of America](#) letter for the Record;

[National League of Cities](#) letter for the Record

[Consumer Mortgage Coalition](#)

Administration Position:

The administration supports passage of the bill. It opposes, however, specific provisions in the measure. [Statement of Administration Position](#)

Fact Sheets & Talking Points:

Talking Points, HR 1427, Office of the Speaker

Fact Sheet, HR 1427, Office of the Speaker

Press Releases & News Articles:

[Pelosi Statement on Federal Housing Finance Reform Act](#), May 17, 2007

[Financial Services Committee Passes GSE Reform Bill](#), March 29, 2007

[Bipartisan GSE Reform and Oversight Legislation Introduced](#), March 9, 2007

[Rep. Maloney's "Kiddie Mac" Legislation Headed for Vote on House Floor](#), April 3, 2007

[House Financial Services Committee Passes Lynch Amendment to Benefit Massachusetts Residents](#), March 30, 2007

Other Resources:

[Cosponsors of H.R. 1427](#)

Legislative History:

Attempts to adopt GSE reform legislation were made in both the 108th and 109th Congresses, but were unsuccessful. In the 109th Congress, the House Financial Services Committee approved H.R. 1461, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, by a vote of 65 to 5. The legislation subsequently passed the House by a vote of 331 to 90. On October 31, 2005, H.R. 1461 was received in the Senate, read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. While the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs approved a GSE regulatory reform bill S. 190, the legislation never came up for consideration on the Senate floor. As a result, H.R. 1461 died at the end of the 109th Congress.

H.R. 1100 — CARL SANDBURG HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY REVISION ACT OF 2007 (*Rep. Shuler-Natural Resources*) (*Subject to a Rule*)

Bill Text: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

[Bill Summary and Status](#)

Rules Committee Meeting: [Rule, Committee Report, and Roll Call Votes](#), [Summary of Amendments Submitted](#), [Amendment Process](#)

Committee: [Committee on Natural Resources](#)

Committee Staff Contact: 5-6065

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site. The 264-acre Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site preserves the farm where the two-time Pulitzer Prize winning author and his family lived for the last 22 years of his life (1945-1967). Carl Sandburg was one of America's most versatile and recognized writers whose stories, histories, songs and poems captured and recorded America's traditions, struggles, and dreams. The historic site is near Flat Rock, in western North Carolina, and was established as a unit of the National Park System in 1968.

National Park Service Recommendation. H.R. 1100 carries out a National Park Service recommendation to expand the historic site's boundary by up to 115 acres to allow construction of a visitor center and parking lot as well as to protect the pastoral views from Sandburg's estate. This recommendation was developed through a 4-year planning process that involved extensive community input. H.R. 1100 authorizes the Secretary to acquire the land from willing sellers only. All of the affected landowners have agreed to have their parcels included in the proposal to expand the historic site.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS TO BE MADE IN ORDER

- [Bishop, Rob \(UT\)](#) - The amendment delays the acquisition of any new land for the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site until after deferred maintenance has been completed at the site. – 10 minutes
- [Bishop, Rob \(UT\)](#) - The amendment reduces the total amount of acreage which can be acquired for the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site from 115 acres to five (for use as a visitor center and parking lot). – 10 minutes
- [Heller \(NV\)](#) - The amendment eliminates the use of appropriated funds to acquire 110 acres of land for the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, but still allows the land to be acquired by donation, purchase with donated funds or by exchange with other lands. – 10 minutes

Committee Documents:

Committee Summary of HR 1100

HR 1100 Markup Summary

House Reports 110-157:

[HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

Full Committee Mark-up:

[Full Committee Markup](#), May 2, 2007

Summary of Votes:

- Rep. Bishop Five-Acre Limit Amendment – Would have reduced the boundary addition from 115 to 5 acres. **Rejected by Voice Vote.**
- Rep. Heller Amendment to Require that Land be Donated or Purchased – Would have eliminated the option to use appropriated funds to acquire 110 acres of the boundary addition. **Rejected by Voice Vote.**
- **Vote to Report:** Reported favorably to the full House, as Amended, by **Voice Vote.**

Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Mark-up:

[Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands: Markup of H.R. 359, H.R. 713, H.R. 986, H.R. 1080, H.R. 1100, and H. Con. Res. ___](#), April 19, 2007 revise the boundary of the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site in the State of North Carolina, and for other purposes. “Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site Boundary Revision Act of 2007.”

Summary of Votes:

- Rep. Shuler Substitute Amendment – Made technical changes to the bill to incorporate a map of the boundary additions and bring the legislation into conformance with recent legislation authorizing boundary expansions. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
 - Rep. Bishop Amendment to Mr. Shuler’s Amendment – Would have reduced the boundary addition from 115 acres to 5 acres. **Rejected 7-8: D 0-8, R 7-0.**
- **Vote to Report:** Ordered Bill Reported Favorably to Full Committee, as Amended, by a **Voice Vote.**

CBO Report:

[Cost Estimate:](#) As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources

CRS Report:

(TBA)

GAO Reports:

(TBA)

Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Hearing:

[Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands: Legislative Hearing on H.R. 554, H.R. 986, H.R. 1100, and H.R. 1285](#), April 17, 2007

Opening Statement: [Chairman Raul Grijalva](#)

Witness Testimony:

[Sue Masica](#), Chief of Staff, National Park Service

[Frederick Norbury](#), Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service

[Chuck McGrady](#), Henderson County (NC) Commissioner

Organization Statements:

(TBA)

Statement of Administration Policy:

(TBA)

Fact Sheets & Talking Points:

(TBA)

Press Releases & News Articles:
(TBA)

Other Resources:
[Cosponsors of HR 1100](#)

Legislative History:
Related Bill: S.488

H.R. 2316 – TO PROVIDE MORE RIGOROUS REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO DISCLOSURE AND ENFORCEMENT OF LOBBYING LAWS AND REGULATIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES*(Rep. Conyers – Judiciary) (Subject to a Rule)*

Bill Text: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)
[Bill Summary and Status](#)

Rules Committee Meeting: [Rule, Committee Report, and roll call votes](#) H.RES. 437, [Report No. 110-167](#), [Amendment Process](#)

Committee: [Committee on the Judiciary](#)

Committee Staff Contact: Judiciary: 5-3951

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

Closing the Revolving Door:

- Retains current 1 year ban on lobbying
- Requires Members and senior staff to notify the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct within three days of engaging in any agreements or negotiations with regard to future employment or salary. The Members' notification will be publicly disclosed.
- Requires Members and senior staff to excuse him/herself during negotiations regarding future employment from any matter in which there is a conflict of interest or an appearance of a conflict
- **Ending the K Street Project**– Prohibits Members and senior staff from influencing employment decisions or practices of private entities for partisan political gain. Violators of this provision will be fined or imprisoned for a term of up to 15 years.
- Full Public Disclosure of Lobbying. The Bill expands and strengthens lobbying disclosure requirements.
 - Mandates quarterly, rather than semiannual, disclosure of lobbying report
 - Covers more lobbyists by reducing the contribution thresholds from \$5000 to \$2500 in income from lobbying activities and from \$20,000 to \$10,000 in total lobbying expenses.
 - Reduction of the contribution threshold of any organization other than client that contributes to lobbying activities to \$5000 (\$10,000 under current law)
 - Increases disclosure of lobbyist's contributions to lawmakers and entities controlled by lawmakers, including contributions to Members' charities, to pay the cost of events or entities honoring members, contributions intended to pay the cost of a meeting or a retreat, and contributions disclosed under FECA relating to reports by conduits
 - Requires the House Clerk to provide public Internet access to lobbying reports within 48 hours of electronic filing
 - Requires that lobbyist/employing firm provide a certification on disclosure report that they did not violate House/Senate gift ban rules
 - Makes it a violation of the LDA for a lobbyist to provide a gift or travel to a Member/officer or employee of Congress with knowledge that the gift or travel is in violation of House/Senate rules

- Requires the disclosure of lobbying activities by certain coalitions. (Exempts all 501(c) organizations)
- Requires lobbyists to disclose past Executive and Congressional employment
- Requires electronic filing of lobbying reports
- Establishes a public database of lobbyist disclosure information
- Enforcement of Lobbying Restrictions. HR 2316 increases civil penalties for violation of the Lobby Disclosure Act from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and adds criminal penalty of up to 5 years for knowing and corrupt failure to comply
- Increased Disclosure. HR 2316 requires Members to prohibit their staff from having any official contact with the Member's spouse who is a registered lobbyist or is employed or retained by such an individual and establishes a public database of Member Travel and Personal Financial Disclosure Forms

Anticipated Amendments to H.R. 2316

1. Conyers (MI) - Manager's Amendment. This amendment would make technical corrections to the text of the bill. In addition, it would permit Members to omit personally identifiable information not required to be disclosed on the reports posted on the Internet by the Clerk.– 10 minutes
2. Dreier (CA) - The amendment adds language passed by the House as part of H.R. 4975 in the 109th Congress amending the post-employment restrictions contained in section 207(e) of title 18, United States Code. The amendment would direct the Clerk, in consultation with the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, to inform a Member, officer, or employee who is subject to the post-employment restrictions on lobbying contacts contained in that section of the beginning and ending dates of the restriction. The Clerk must also inform each office of the House to which the restriction applies of the restriction. The amendment also adds a new provision directing the Clerk to place the information on its public Internet site in a format that is searchable, sortable, and downloadable. – 10 minutes
3. Abercrombie (HI) - This amendment places a one-year ban on flag and general officers of the Armed Services from receiving compensation from any company that does greater than \$50 million in business with the Department of Defense. This ban will take place 120 days from the enactment of the legislation. – 10 minutes
4. Castle (DE)/Platts (PA): Castle (DE) - Amendment states that it is the sense of Congress that the use of a family relationship by a lobbyist who is an immediate family member of a Member of Congress to gain special advantages over other lobbyists is inappropriate. – 10 minutes
5. Cardoza (CA) - This amendment gives judges the discretion to increase the sentence for public officials convicted of bribery, fraud, extortion or theft of public funds greater than \$10,000. If a public official was convicted of one of the enumerated crimes, a sentencing judge would have the discretion to double the length of a sentence (up to two years) for those public officials. Public officials are defined as Federal, State, or local elected officials; Presidential appointees; or a State or local official appointed by an elected state or local official. – 10 minutes

House Report 110-161, Part I:
[HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

Full Committee Mark-up:

[Markup of: H.R. 2317, H.R. 2316, H.R. 2264, S. 1104](#), May 17, 2007

[National Journal Report on HR 2316](#)

[National Journal Report on HR 2317](#)

[Transcript of Mark-up](#), [Webcast of Mark-up](#)

Summary of Votes on Amendments to HR 2316:

- [Rep. Conyers Manager's Amendment](#). **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. King Downloadable Information Amendment](#) – Requires the Clerk of the House to provide disclosure filings on the Internet on a system that can be readily searched and downloaded. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Cannon Restrictions on Contractors Amendment](#) – Adds restrictions on lobbying by lawyers who are hired on a contract basis by the House leadership, committees or caucuses. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Gohmert Criminal Charges Amendment](#) – Would have struck criminal penalties from the enforcement section but raised the civil penalties up to \$100,000 for a first offense with the fourth offense assessed at \$1 million. **Rejected by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Issa 527 Groups Amendment](#) – Extends disclosure requirements to certain organizations covered under section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. King Ethics in Government Act Amendment](#) – Would have required Members to reveal in their personal finance disclosure filings their exact financial worth, instead of the present rule of wide ranges of income and worth. **Ruled Non-Germane.**
- [Rep. Gohmert Redact Personal Information Amendment](#) – Would have permitted Members to redact personal information prior to reports being posted on a public website. **Withdrawn.**
- [Rep. Issa Gift Prohibitions Amendment](#) – Would have extended the gift bans to prohibit state, local and territorial governments and public colleges and universities from bestowing gifts on lawmakers. **Withdrawn.**
 - [Rep. Keller Amendment to Amendment](#) – Would have exempted public institutions of higher education from proposed gift ban. **Not Offered.**
- [Rep. Meehan Grassroots Organizations Amendment](#) – Would have strengthened the disclosure rules to include lobbyists who use "grassroots" communications campaigns to round up public support for or against an issue. **Rejected by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Meehan Party Conventions Amendment](#) – Would have prohibited parties throwing parties for lawmakers during national political conventions. **Rejected 5-27: D 2-12, R 1-15.**
- [Rep. Steve Chabot Office of Government Ethics](#) – Would have extended the Office of Government Ethics through 2011. **Rejected 17-18: D 0-18, R 17-0.**
- [Rep. Jackson-Lee First Amendment](#) – States that nothing in the bill should prohibit free speech or expression permitted by the Constitution's First Amendment. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

- [Rep. Conyers Recusal Public Disclosure Amendment](#) – Requires Members to file a statement of disclosure with the clerk for public disclosure if the Member is recusing him/herself from a matter because of a conflict of interest. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- **Vote to Report:** Reported favorably to the full House, as amended, by **Voice Vote.**

CRS Reports:

[RL33798](#): Lobbying Disclosure: Themes, Issues, and Legislative Consideration, 110th Congress, February 7, 2007

[RL33852](#): Ethics, Lobbying, and Related Procedural Reforms Proposed in S. 1, 110th Congress, January 30, 2007

CBO Report:

[CBO Cost Estimate](#): Ordered Reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on HR 2316

GAO Reports:

(TBA)

Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties Hearing:

[Hearing on S.1, the Senate Approach to Lobbying Reform](#), March 1, 2007

[Video Webcast](#)

[Hearing PDF \(Serial No. 110-4\)](#)

Opening Statement: [Chairman Nadler](#)

Witness Testimony:

[Sarah Dufendach](#), Chief of Legislative Affairs Common Cause

[Kenneth A. Gross](#), Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

[Thomas E. Mann](#), The Brookings Institution

[Bradley A. Smith](#), Professor of Law Capital University Law School

Organization Statements:

(TBA)

Administration Position:

(TBA)

Fact Sheets & Talking Points:

(TBA)

Press Releases & News Articles:

Fact Sheet on Lobbying Reform, Office of the Speaker

Q and A on Lobbying Reform, Office of the Speaker

[Pelosi Statement on Judiciary Committee Passage of Strong Lobbying Reform Bill](#), May 17, 2007

Other Resources:

[Cosponsors of H.R. 2316](#)

Legislative History:

Last year, the House and Senate passed legislation on lobbying reform, but no conference agreement was reached.

H.R. 2317 - TO AMEND THE LOBBYING DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1995 TO REQUIRE REGISTERED LOBBYISTS TO FILE QUARTERLY REPORTS ON CONTRIBUTIONS BUNDLED FOR CERTAIN RECIPIENTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES *(Rep. Van Hollen– Judiciary)*

Bill Text: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

[Bill Summary and Status](#)

Rules Committee Meeting: [Rule, Committee Report, and roll call votes](#), [Report No. 110-167](#),

Committee: [Committee on the Judiciary](#)

Committee Staff Contact: Judiciary: 5-3951

- Requires a “registered lobbyist” who “bundles” two or more contributions totaling more than \$5,000 a quarter (\$40,000 an election cycle) made to a candidate or PAC to file quarterly reports with the House and Senate Clerks.
- A “bundled contribution” is limited only to contributions (1) which the lobbyist physically receives and forwards to the candidate or PAC, or (2) is credited to the lobbyist through a specific tracking system (such systems are typically in place in presidential campaigns, which code and track checks to trace them, such as the Bush “Pioneer” system).
- In order to insure that a registered lobbyist does not inadvertently disclose bundled contributions involving a candidate or PAC, the legislation requires the lobbyist to send the candidate or PAC a proposed statement first. This allows the candidate or PAC to correct any errors or misimpressions.
- Does not include the vague and undefined provisions of Senate bill, which would have applied to any “arranged” contribution by a lobbyist.

Anticipated Amendments to H.R. 2316

1. [Conyers \(MI\)](#) - Manager's Amendment. This amendment would make technical corrections to the text of the bill. In addition, it would permit Members to omit personally identifiable information not required to be disclosed on the reports posted on the Internet by the Clerk.– 10 minutes
2. [Dreier \(CA\)](#) - The amendment adds language passed by the House as part of H.R. 4975 in the 109th Congress amending the post-employment restrictions contained in section 207(e) of title 18, United States Code. The amendment would direct the Clerk, in consultation with the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, to inform a Member, officer, or employee who is subject to the post-employment restrictions on lobbying contacts contained in that section of the beginning and ending dates of the restriction. The Clerk must also inform each office of the House to which the restriction applies of the restriction. The amendment also adds a new provision directing the Clerk to place the information on its public Internet site in a format that is searchable, sortable, and downloadable. – 10 minutes
3. [Abercrombie \(HI\)](#) - This amendment places a one-year ban on flag and general officers of the Armed Services from receiving compensation from any company that does greater than \$50 million in business with the Department of Defense. This ban will take place 120 days from the enactment of the legislation. – 10 minutes
4. [Castle \(DE\)/Platts \(PA\)](#): Castle (DE) - Amendment states that it is the sense of Congress that the use of a family relationship by a lobbyist who is an immediate family member of a Member of Congress to gain special advantages over other lobbyists is inappropriate. – 10 minutes

5. [Cardoza \(CA\)](#) - This amendment gives judges the discretion to increase the sentence for public officials convicted of bribery, fraud, extortion or theft of public funds greater than \$10,000. If a public official was convicted of one of the enumerated crimes, a sentencing judge would have the discretion to double the length of a sentence (up to two years) for those public officials. Public officials are defined as Federal, State, or local elected officials; Presidential appointees; or a State or local official appointed by an elected state or local official. – 10 minutes

House Report 110-162:

[HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

Full Committee Mark-up:

[Markup of: H.R. 2317, H.R. 2316, H.R. 2264, S. 1104](#), May 17, 2007

[National Journal Report on HR 2317](#)

[Transcript of Mark-up](#), [Webcast of Mark-up](#)

- **Vote to Report:** Reported favorably to the full House, as amended, by **Voice Vote**.

CRS Reports:

[RL33798](#): Lobbying Disclosure: Themes, Issues, and Legislative Consideration, 110th Congress, February 7, 2007

[RL33852](#): Ethics, Lobbying, and Related Procedural Reforms Proposed in S. 1, 110th Congress, January 30, 2007

CBO Report:

[CBO Cost Estimate](#): Ordered Reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on HR 2317

GAO Reports:

(TBA)

Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties Hearing:

[Hearing on S.1, the Senate Approach to Lobbying Reform](#), March 1, 2007

[Video Webcast](#)

[Hearing PDF \(Serial No. 110-4\)](#)

Opening Statement: [Chairman Nadler](#)

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[Sarah Dufendach](#), Chief of Legislative Affairs Common Cause

[Kenneth A. Gross](#), Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

[Thomas E. Mann](#), The Brookings Institution

[Bradley A. Smith](#), Professor of Law Capital University Law School

Organization Statements:

(TBA)

Administration Position:

(TBA)

Fact Sheets & Talking Points:

(TBA)

Press Releases & News Articles:

[Pelosi Statement on Judiciary Committee Passage of Strong Lobbying Reform Bill](#), May 17, 2007

Other Resources:

[Cosponsors of H.R. 2317](#)



Legislative History:

Last year, the House and Senate passed legislation on lobbying reform, but no conference agreement was reached.

H.R. 2206 — CONCUR IN THE SENATE AMENDMENT WITH AMENDMENTS *(Rep. Obey – Appropriations) (Subject to a Rule)*

Bill Text: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

[Bill Summary and Status](#)

Rules Committee Meeting: [H.RES.438](#), [Rule](#), [Committee Report](#), and [Roll Call Votes](#), [Senate Amendment to H.R. 2206](#), [Text of H.R. 2451 as referred to in Section 4 of the Rules Committee report](#)

Committee: Committee on Appropriations

Committee Staff Contact: 5-2771

Legislation at a Glance:

The House and Senate legislative agreement provides \$119.995 billion primarily for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, for improving the health care for returning soldiers and veterans, for continued Hurricane Katrina recovery for the Gulf Coast, to fill major gaps in homeland security, and to provide emergency drought relief for farmers. the health care for returning soldiers and veterans, for continued Hurricane Katrina recovery for the Gulf Coast, to fill major gaps in homeland security, and to provide emergency drought relief for farmers.

Overall, the agreement provides:

- \$99.5 billion for the Defense Department, primarily for continued military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The legislation includes a \$1 billion increase for the National Guard and Reserve equipment and \$1.1 billion for military housing. The supplemental legislation provides \$3 billion (\$1.2 billion more than the President's request) for the purchase of Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles (MRAP) -- vehicles designed to withstand roadside bombs.
- \$4.8 billion to ensure that troops and veterans receive the health care that they have earned with their service.
- \$6.4 billion to rebuild the Gulf Coast and help the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
- Emergency funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) totals more than \$650 million.
- Homeland security investments total more than \$1 billion, including funds for port security and mass transit security, for explosives detection equipment at airports, and for several initiatives in the 9/11 bill that recently passed the Senate.
- \$3 billion is provided to help relieve the enormous pressure on farmers and ranchers as a result of severe drought and agricultural disasters.
- \$460 million for humanitarian food assistance to help fight starvation and malnutrition in some of the most desperate places on earth.

Summary of Amendments Made in Order:

Today, the House will consider two amendments to the emergency supplemental bill passed in the Senate. The two votes on these two amendments then send this bill back to the Senate (there will not be a separate vote on final passage).

Amendment #1

- Funding and other items not requested by the President including funding for: Defense Health, Veterans Health, Base Realignment and Closure, Homeland Security, Gulf Coast recovery, and the State Children's Health Insurance Program
- An increase in the minimum wage
- Small business tax cuts

Amendment #2

- The Warner language on Iraq, including benchmarks for success
- Funding requested by the President for: the Department of Defense, State, and foreign operations, and Gulf Coast recovery.

CRS Report:

[RL33837](#), Congressional Authority to Limit U.S. Military Operations in Iraq
[RL33900](#), FY2007 Supplemental Appropriations for Defense, Foreign Affairs, and Other Purposes
[RL31339](#), Iraq: Post-Saddam Governance and Security

Statement of Administration Policy:

(TBA)

Fact Sheets & Talking Points:

A summary table of the funding levels in Amendment #1 and Amendment #2, House and Senate Appropriations Committees

A 19-page summary of the bill these amendments would produce if both passed, House and Senate Appropriations Committee

Democratic-Led Congress Will Keep Fighting To Change Course in Iraq, Office of the Speaker

Press Releases & News Articles:

Statement by House Appropriations Committee David Obey

[Pelosi Remarks After Bipartisan Meeting With White House Officials on Iraq](#)

BILLS UNDER SUSPENSION

[H.R. 2272- TO INVEST IN INNOVATION THROUGH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND TO IMPROVE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE UNITED STATES](#) (Rep. Gordon – Science and technology)

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

HR 2272 incorporates the provisions of five bills previously passed by the House authorizing funds for several federal science agencies. Specifically, H.R. 2272 is made up of the following five bills: H.R. 1068, Amending High-Performance Computing Act, passed by voice vote on March 12, 2007; H.R. 362, 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act, passed by a bipartisan vote of 389 to 22 on April 24, 2007; H.R. 363, Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act, passed by a bipartisan vote of 380 to 45 on April 24, 2007; H.R. 1867, National Science Foundation Authorization, passed by a bipartisan vote of 399 to 17 on May 2, 2007; H.R. 1868, Technology Innovation Act, passed by a

[H.R. 1525- INTERNET SPYWARE \(I-SPY\) PREVENTION ACT OF 2007](#) (Rep. Lofgren – Judiciary)

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

- HR 1525 creates criminal offenses and penalties for certain types of computer spyware activity, including intentionally accessing a protected computer without authorization or exceeding authorized access by causing a computer program or code to be copied onto a computer.
- The bill sets penalties of fines and sentences of up to two years for violators that intentionally obtain or transmit personal information — including bank or credit card account information — with the intent to defraud, or intentionally impair a computer's security. Anyone who uses such a computer program as part of another criminal offense would be subject to fines or sentences of up to five years. The measure pre-empts states from creating civil remedies based on violations of the bill.
- The measure authorizes \$10 million in each of fiscal years 2008 through 2011 for the Justice Department to conduct prosecutions needed to discourage the use of spyware and the practice of "phishing" — capturing a user's password or personal data using spyware.
- The measure also expresses the sense of Congress that the Justice Department should use the bill's provisions, and all other available tools, to prosecute vigorously those who use spyware to commit crimes and those that conduct phishing scams.

[National Journal Report, Full Committee Mark-up](#)
[National Journal Report, Subcommittee Mark-up](#)
[Cosponsors of HR 1525](#)

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

- H.R. 1615 amends title 18 of the United States Code to provide for the imposition of criminal penalties for any individual who knowingly aims a laser pointer at an aircraft within the special aircraft jurisdiction of the United States, or at its flight path—a practice that, particularly at the critical stages of take-off and landing, creates a serious threat to public safety and aviation security. The penalties include fines and imprisonment of up to 5 years.
- The bill provides exceptions for the following: Individuals involved in authorized research or flight tests conducted by aircraft manufacturers, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) or other FAA-approved researchers; Personnel involved in Defense Department research, development, operations, testing and training; and Individuals using laser-signaling devices to send an emergency-distress signal to search and rescue aircraft.
- The measure also permits the Justice Department, in consultation with the Transportation Department, to provide other exceptions, if written notification is given to Congress 90 days before the regulations become final.

[National Journal Report, Full Committee Mark-up](#)
[National Journal Report, Subcommittee Mark-up](#)
[Cosponsors of HR 1615](#)

House Report:

[HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

Related Information:

Full Committee, [Markup of: H.R. 1700, the "COPS Improvement Act of 2007;" H.R. 916, the "John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act of 2007;" H.R. 1525, the "Internet Spyware \(I-SPY\) Prevention Act of 2007;" and H.R. 1615, the "Securing Aircraft Cockpits Against Lasers Act"](#)

Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, [Markup of: H.R. 1525, the "Internet Spyware \(I-SPY\) Prevention Act of 2007" and H.R. 1615, the "Securing Aircraft Cockpits Against Lasers Act of 2007"](#)

Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, [Hearing on H.R. 1525, the "Internet Spyware \(I-SPY\) Prevention Act of 2007" and H.R. 1615, the "Securing Aircraft Cockpits Against Lasers Act"](#)

[House Judiciary Committee Sends Four Crime Bills to the House Floor](#)

S. 214- PRESERVING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY INDEPENDENCE ACT OF 2007 (Sen. Feinstein – Judiciary)

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

- S. 214 amends the federal judicial code to: (1) allow a person appointed as U.S. attorney to serve until the qualification of a U.S. attorney for such district appointed by the President, or the expiration of 120 days after appointment by the Attorney General, whichever is earlier; and (2) provide that, if an appointment so expires, the district court for such district may appoint a U.S. attorney to serve until the vacancy is filled.
- The bill repeals current law, which allows the attorney general to appoint interim U.S. attorneys to fill vacancies for an indefinite period before the Senate must confirm a replacement. The new interim attorney rules would take effect immediately upon enactment and applies to any person serving as a U.S. attorney on the day before the enactment of this Act who was appointed by the Attorney General under current law.
- [RL33889](#): U.S. Attorneys Who Have Served Less than Full Four-year Terms, 1981-2006

S. 1104- A BILL TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF IRAQI AND AFGHANI TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS WHO MAY BE ADMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES AS SPECIAL IMMIGRANTS (Sen. Lugar – Judiciary)

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

- S.1104 amends the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 to authorize special immigrant status Afghan or Iraqi translators or interpreters working with the U.S. Armed Forces or federal agencies in Afghanistan and Iraq. (Currently, such status is authorized for Afghan and Iraqi translators working with U.S. Armed Forces in Afghanistan and Iraq.)
- This bill expands the number of translators eligible for admittance into the United States from 50 to 500 per year for the next two years. The Bill also authorizes an adjustment to permanent resident status.

H.R. 2264- TO AMEND THE SHERMAN ACT TO MAKE OIL-PRODUCING AND EXPORTING CARTELS ILLEGAL (Rep. Conyers – Judiciary)

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

- Seeks to prohibit foreign countries from collectively manipulating energy prices or supplies, and permits the federal government to sue foreign countries for any such actions that directly affect the United States.
- The measure makes it illegal for any foreign state, or agent of a foreign state, to act collectively with other foreign states or individuals to limit the production or distribution of oil, natural gas, or petroleum products; to set prices of oil, gas, or petroleum products; or to take other actions that have a "direct, substantial, and reasonably foreseeable effect on the market, supply, price, or
- The bill permits the federal government to file antitrust lawsuits in federal district courts against foreign countries for cooperatively limiting supplies or setting prices for oil or natural gas. It prohibits federal courts from refusing to hear such cases because of the "act of state" doctrine, which generally assumes that the actions of a foreign government within its own borders are not subject to rulings of courts in another country.

- Further, it states that foreign countries that collude to limit supplies or manipulate prices would not be immune from such lawsuits under the doctrine of "sovereign immunity." Sovereign immunity is a concept that generally prohibits lawsuits against a sovereign state unless the state consents to them.

[Cosponsors of HR 2264](#)

Related Information:

[Markup of: H.R. 2317, H.R. 2316, H.R. 2264, S. 1104](#), May 17, 2007

[National Journal Report, Full Committee Mark-up](#)

[Transcript of Mark-up, Webcast of Mark-up](#)

[Judiciary Committee Task Force on Antitrust Hearing on "Prices at the Pump: Market Failure and the Oil Industry"](#), May 16, 2007

[05/16/2007-Antitrust Task Force Examines Rising Gas Prices Conyers' NOPEC bill to Address Oil Cartels](#)

[05/09/2007-Conyers Announces Judiciary Task Force Hearing on Rising Oil Prices and Problems in the Oil Industry](#)

Administration Statement:

The Administration opposes House passage of H.R. 2264, [Administration Statement](#)

H.R. 1252 - FEDERAL PRICE GOUGING PREVENTION ACT (*Rep. Stupak – Energy and Commerce*)

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

- Prohibits the wholesale or retail sale of gasoline or other petroleum distillates at prices that are unconscionably excessive or take unfair advantage of consumers. Applies during an "Energy Emergency" declared by the President for geographic areas in the United States for renewable 30-day periods. Factors to be considered in determining whether a violation has occurred include comparing the price charged by a seller during the Energy Emergency to both the average price charged by that seller during the 30-day period prior to the Emergency and the price charged by competing sellers in the same area and during the same period. Further factors include considering any additional costs or risks incurred by the seller; local, regional, national or international market conditions; and whether the seller increased the quantities of gasoline or other petroleum distillates available during the Energy Emergency. Also prohibits the reporting of false pricing information to Federal agencies.
- Provides for civil penalties. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) may enforce the bill as an unfair or deceptive trade practice under the FTC Act and seek civil penalties of up to three times the amount of profits or \$3 million for charging unconscionable prices, and up to \$1 million for providing false information. The FTC is required to give priority to actions against firms with annual sales of gasoline or other petroleum distillates of \$500 million or more.
- In addition to any penalty applicable under section 3, any person who violates section 2—(1) if a corporation, shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, not to exceed \$150,000,000; and (2) if an individual, shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, not to exceed \$2,000,000, or imprisoned for not more than 10 years, or both.
- Permits State Attorneys General to enforce the bill against retail sellers by bringing an action in U.S. district courts after first providing notice to the FTC.
- Provides that any civil fines or penalties collected shall be applied to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance program administered by Department of Health and Human Services.

- Provides that nothing in the bill preempts other authority of the FTC or the States to take action against the pricing prohibited by this bill.

Fact Sheets & Talking Points on Gas Bills:

Summary of H.R. 1252

Energy Bills Fact Sheet, as of May 23, 2007

Alternative Energy state by state May 2007

Charts on Energy, 05-09-07

fact sheet gas price & energy hearings, Office of the Speaker

Price Gouging Bill and the Impact of Rising Gasoline Costs, Office of the Speaker

state-by-state table on gas prices

Questions & Answers on Gas Prices and Energy

Energy Bills Fact Sheet, Office of the Speaker

Talking points gas prices & energy independence, Office of the Speaker

[Web-site Detailing House Action on rising gas prices](#), Office of the Speaker

H.R. 67 - VETERANS OUTREACH IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007 *(Rep. McIntyre – Veterans' Affairs)*

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

- The Veterans Outreach Improvement Act of 2007 directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish, maintain, and modify as necessary procedures for ensuring the effective coordination of outreach activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs between and among the Office of the Secretary, the Office of Public Affairs, the Veterans Health Administration, the Veterans Benefits Administration, and the National Cemetery Administration.
- HR 67 directs the Secretary to ensure that state and local outreach assistance is provided in locations that: (1) have relatively large concentrations of veterans; or (2) are experiencing growth in veteran populations. The Bill authorizes the Secretary to make grants to state veteran's agencies for state and local outreach services.

[Cosponsors of HR 67](#)

[Related House Committee Documents](#)

H.R. 612 - RETURNING SERVICEMEMBER VA HEALTHCARE INSURANCE ACT OF 2007 *(Rep. Filner – Veterans' Affairs)*

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

HR 612 extends from two years to five years following discharge or release the eligibility period for veterans who served in combat during or after the Persian Gulf War to receive hospital care, medical services, or nursing home care provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, notwithstanding a lack of evidence to conclude that their condition is attributable to such service.

[National Journal Report, Full Committee Mark-up](#)

Related Bill: [S.383](#)

[Cosponsors of HR 612](#)

H.R. 1470 - CHIROPRACTIC CARE AVAILABLE TO ALL VETERANS ACT (Rep. Filner – Veterans' Affairs)

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

- HR 1470 amends the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001 to require a program under which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs provides chiropractic care and services to veterans through Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and clinics to be carried out at: (1) no fewer than 75 medical centers by December 31, 2009; and (2) all medical centers by December 31, 2011.

[National Journal Report, Full Committee Mark-up](#)

[National Journal Report, Subcommittee Mark-up](#)

Related Bills: [H.R.1471](#), [H.R.1554](#)

[Cosponsors of HR 1470](#)

H.R. 2199 – TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY HEALTH ENHANCEMENT AND LONG-TERM SUPPORT ACT OF 2007 (Rep. Michaud – Veterans' Affairs)

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

- H.R. 2199 requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a screening program to detect traumatic brain injuries in veterans and to submit a report to the House and Senate Veterans Affairs committees on the prevalence of traumatic brain injury symptoms and provide recommendations for improving care.
- H.R. 2199 requires the Secretary to establish centers across the nation for traumatic brain injury research, education and clinical activities and authorizes \$10 million in FY08 and \$20 million annually for FY09-FY11 for the establishment of the centers.
- The bill also establishes other centers and services for treating brain injuries. The bill sets aside \$7.5 million for FY08 and each subsequent fiscal year for a pilot program using mobile Vet Centers to deliver mental health services to veterans.
- The bill also requires the Secretary to establish a long-term care program for post-traumatic brain injury treatment at four poly-trauma VA sites across the country. The bill also requires the establishment of an advisory committee for treating rural veterans. Rep. Ciro Rodriguez, D-Texas, said he hoped to see more money and expertise go to underserved and rural areas.

[National Journal Report, Full Committee Mark-up](#)

[National Journal Report, Subcommittee Mark-up](#)

[Cosponsors of HR 2199](#)

H.R. 2239 - EARLY ACCESS TO VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS ACT (Rep. Boozman – Veterans' Affairs)

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

HR 2239 extends eligibility for rehabilitation benefits from the Veterans' Affairs Department to current members of the armed forces who are hospitalized or are receiving outpatient medical care, have a disability of at least 10% incurred or aggravated while on active duty, and who are likely to be discharged from the service due to that disability.

[Cosponsors of HR 2239](#)