



The Daily Whip

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TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2006

| House Meets At... | Last Vote Predicted At... |
|---|---------------------------|
| 9:00 a.m.: Morning Hour 10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Unlimited "One Minutes" | 9:30 – 10:30 p.m. |

*(178th Calendar Day of the Year – 53rd Voting Day of the Year – 38 Voting Days until Target Adjournment)***FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY**

[H.Res.891](#) - Rule providing for consideration of [H.R. 4973](#) – Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act of 2006 (Rules). The Rules Committee has recommended a restrictive rule that provides one hour of general debate, provides one motion to recommit and makes in order 16 amendments.

[H.Res.890](#) - Rule providing for consideration of [H.R. 5672](#) – Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Rules). The Rules Committee has recommended an open Rule that provides one hour of general debate and one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule also includes a provision that tables the rule reported by the Rules Committee on June 20th that would have provided for the consideration of [H.R. 9](#) the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization. Unfortunately, Republicans in the Rules Committee blocked consideration of an important amendment offered by Reps. Obey, Hoyer and Mollohan to increase the minimum wage to \$7.25 over two years.

Suspensions (3 bills):

- 1) **[H.R. 42](#)** – Freedom to Display the American Flag Act of 2005 (*Rep. Bartlett – Financial Services*)
- 2) **[H.R. 5341](#)** – Seasoned Customer CTR Exemption Act of 2006 (*Rep. Bachus – Financial Services*)
- 3) **[H.Res. 854](#)** – Recognizing National Homeownership Month and the importance of homeownership in the United States (*Rep. Gary Miller – Financial Services*)

[H.R. 4973](#) – Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act of 2006 (Rep. Baker – Financial Services) (Subject to a Rule). This bill increases the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) borrowing authority to cover Katrina-related claims to \$25 billion from the current \$20.775 billion; increases maximum coverage limits for residences and contents from \$250,000/\$100,000 to \$335,000/\$135,000 and for businesses and churches from \$500,000 to \$670,000 (to reflect inflation since 1994, when the previous coverage levels were established). [H.R. 4973](#) also provides for actuarially-priced additional living expense coverage (for temporary housing after a flood); allows the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to offer actuarially-priced business interruption coverage (provides protection against the loss of profits and continuing fixed expenses resulting from an interruption in commercial activities due to the occurrence of a flood) as well as finished basements and replacement cost of contents; and requires notice of availability of flood insurance and escrow for flood insurance in RESPA good faith estimates. This bill also requires FEMA to gradually phase-out subsidies on vacation homes, second homes, and nonresidential properties, which FEMA estimates will save \$335 million annually; increases fines levied for non-enforcement of the Federal mandatory purchase requirement of insurance from \$350 to \$2,000; and directs FEMA to develop more sophisticated and updated flood maps, maintain an inventory of levees in the United States, and move more quickly to update flood elevation standards and flood maps in the areas affected by last year's hurricanes. This bill was ordered to be reported from the Financial Services Committee on March 16th by voice vote.

Under the Rule, the following 16 amendments are debatable for 10 minutes each:

- **Oxley Amendment.** Manager's amendment.
- **Burton/Stark Amendment.** To require notice of any floodplain map changes by certified mail to the CEO of any affected community (so they could inform their residents); allows a 30-day window for appeal of changes; requires notice of any map changes by first class mail to any affected residents; provides reimbursement of surveying; engineering, and other costs to any property owners who successfully appeal their inclusion in the floodplain.
- **Garrett Amendment.** To require any purchaser of a pre-FIRM primary residential home to pay phased-in actuarial flood insurance prices using the same phase-in structure that non-residential and non-primary homes are subject to in the bill.
- **Taylor (MS) Amendment.** To require the Inspector General of DHS to conduct an investigation of the Hurricane Katrina damage claims adjusted by the insurance companies that contract with the NFIP under the Write Your Own program to determine whether, and to



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what extent, the companies improperly assigned damages to flooding covered by NFIP that should have been paid by the windstorm coverage provided by the insurance companies.

- **Jackson Lee Amendment.** To add an item for the GAO to consider in its study on the status of the National Flood Insurance Program on the extent that eligibility standards were inconsistent and resulted in disparities in pre-FIRM coverage.
- **Pickering Amendment.** To allow individuals who purchase a home with cash to immediately purchase flood insurance (such purchaser is currently subject to a 30-day waiting period).
- **Matsui Amendment.** To require the Emerging Weather Forecasting Technologies, to ensure that, when practical, FEMA utilizes emerging weather forecasting technologies in updating its flood maps.
- **Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX) Amendment.** To establish a program to educate the communities about the update to the flood insurance program rate map.
- **Matsui/Hinojosa/Gene Green Amendment.** To direct FEMA/GAO to conduct a study on potential methods, practices and incentives that would increase the degree to which low-income property owners living in high-risk locations participate in the national flood insurance program.
- **Ruppersberger Amendment.** To require the FEMA Director to issue regulations and revise materials that are provided to policy holders using "plain language" and "easy to understand terms and concepts."
- **Jindal Amendment.** To add "demolish and rebuild" as an eligible activity available under the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program.
- **Jo Ann Davis Amendment #6.** To add a new section requiring sampling methods for quality assurance.
- **Jo Ann Davis Amendment #7.** To extend the deadline for filing proof of loss.
- **Rohrabacher Amendment.** To add a new section regarding rates for property affected by Federally funded flood control projects.
- **Pearce Amendment.** To strike the phase-in of actuarial rates for nonresidential properties and non-primary residences.
- **Candice Miller Amendment.** To instruct the Director of the National Flood Insurance Program, upon the completion of the study by the International Joint Committee of the Upper Great Lakes, to request the Army Corps of Engineers to complete a new flood map for the region to help the NFIP develop 100 year and 500 year flood plains. It also prohibits flood evaluations in the upper Great Lakes to be increased until the aforementioned is completed.

H.R. 5672 – Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Rep. Wolf – Appropriations) (Subject to a Rule). This bill provides \$60.19 billion including: \$22.35 billion for the Department of Justice (\$6.04 billion for the FBI; \$1.75 billion for the DEA; \$5.07 billion for the Federal Prison System; \$1.1 billion for state and local law enforcement; and \$1.66 billion for US District Attorneys); \$5.96 billion for the Department of Commerce (\$3.38 billion for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; \$1.77 billion for the Patent and Trademark Office; \$884 million for the Census Bureau); \$9.78 billion for the Department of State (\$4.5 billion for Diplomatic and Consular Programs; \$1.15 billion for Contributions to International Organizations; \$1.13 billion for Contributions to International Peacekeeping); \$16.7 billion for the NASA; \$6.02 billion for the National Science Foundation; \$881 million for the SEC; \$643 million for the SBA; \$323 million for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; \$211 million for the FTC; and \$314 million for the Legal Services Corporation.

Postponed Suspension Votes (2 bills):

- 1) **H.R. 889** – Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 – Conference Report (*Rep. Young {AK} – Transportation and Infrastructure*)
- 2) **H.R. 4843** – Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006 (*Rep. Miller {FL} – Veterans Affairs*)

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule: on Wednesday, the House will convene at 10:00 a.m. for legislative business and will continue consideration of **H.R. 5672 – Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY07 (Rep. Wolf – Appropriations) (Subject to a Rule).**

Daily Quote...

"The suggestion that the House Republican leadership is intent on getting it "right" [on immigration reform] is nonsense. The additional hearings are designed to torpedo the bipartisan legislation crafted in the Senate and to pander to hardliners before the November elections. By whipping up a public frenzy over what opponents deride as 'amnesty,' House Republicans hope to win votes in the fall as well as force Senate negotiators to accept the mean-spirited House approach."

- *The Atlanta Journal Constitution*, in an editorial this morning