



The Daily Whip

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2005

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Unlimited "One Minutes"	7:00 p.m.

*** THE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE TAX RECONCILIATION ACT WILL BE VOTED ON TOMORROW. MEMBERS ARE ADVISED THAT A CLOSE VOTE IS EXPECTED ON THIS BILL AND ATTENDANCE IS CRITICAL. PLEASE CALL THE WHIP'S OFFICE IF A MEMBER ANTICIPATES NOT BEING IN ATTENDANCE.**

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

**** Members are urged to sign the Slaughter Discharge Petition (#4)** that would force consideration of H.R. 3764 to establish a National Independent Inquiry Commission on Disaster Preparedness and Response to examine and evaluate the Federal Government's response to Hurricane Katrina.

**** Members are urged to sign the Waxman Discharge Petition (#5)** that would force consideration of H.R. 3838 to establish an Independent Commission to Prevent Fraud and Abuse in Response to Hurricane Katrina.

H.Res. 583 – Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4340 – United States - Bahrain Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (*Rep. Hastings (WA) - Rules*). The Rules Committee has recommended a closed rule that provides 2 hours of debate and waives all points of order against consideration of the bill.

Suspensions (11 bills):

- 1) **H.Con.Res. 196** – Honoring the pilots of United States commercial air carriers who volunteer to participate in the Federal flight deck officer program (*Rep. Mica – Homeland Security*)
- 2) **H.R. 1721** - To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize programs to improve the quality of coastal recreation waters, and for other purposes (*Rep. Bishop (NY) - Transportation and Infrastructure*)
- 3) **H.R. 3963** - To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to extend the authorization of appropriations for Long Island Sound (*Rep. Simmons - Transportation and Infrastructure*)
- 4) **H.R. 4311** - To amend section 105(b)(3) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App) (*Rep. Sensenbrenner - Judiciary*)
- 5) **H.R. 1400** - Securing Aircraft Cockpits Against Lasers Act of 2005 (*Rep. Keller - Judiciary*)
- 6) **H.Res. 196** - Recognizing the anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment and encouraging the American people to educate and instill pride and purpose into their communities and to observe the anniversary annually with appropriate programs and activities (*Rep. Lee - Judiciary*)
- 7) **S. 467** – Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act of 2005 (*Sen. Dodd - Financial Services*)
- 8) **H.R. 4096** - Stealth Tax Relief Act of 2005 (*Rep. Reynolds - Ways and Means*)
- 9) **H.R. 4388** - Tax Revision Act of 2005 (*Rep. Thomas - Ways and Means*)
- 10) **H.R. 4440** – Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005 (*Rep. McCrery – Ways and Means*)
- 11) **H.R. 327** – To allow binding arbitration clauses to be included in all contracts affecting land within the Gila River Indian Community Reservation (*Rep. Grijalva – Resources*)

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Motion to go to Conference on H.R. 3010 – Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act for FY06 (*Regula – Appropriations*). **Democratic Motion to Instruct.**

H.R. 4340 – United States - Bahrain Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (*Rep. Blunt – Ways & Means*) (Subject to a Rule). This bill implements a trade agreement that was signed in September 2004 between the US and Bahrain. Two-way trade between the US and Bahrain was nearly \$900 million in 2003. HR4340 would eliminate tariffs on bilateral trade on all consumer and industrial products. For agricultural products, 98% of US exports to Bahrain would be immediately duty free with 10-year phase-outs for the remaining items; and textile and apparel trade would be duty free immediately if the product contains either US or Bahraini yarn.

Additional items in the agreement include:

- **Services.** The agreement provides access to service markets including: audiovisual, express delivery, telecommunications, computer and related services, distribution, healthcare, services incidental to mining, construction, architecture and engineering.
- **Intellectual property rights.** The agreement requires each government to criminalize end-user piracy, providing strong deterrence against piracy and counterfeiting. Each government commits to having and maintaining authority to seize, forfeit, and destroy counterfeit and pirated goods and the equipment used to produce them.
- **Labor.** The agreement requires that each government ensures that its laws provide for labor standards consistent with internationally recognized labor rights. The agreement includes a cooperative mechanism to promote respect for the principles embodied in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, and compliance with ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor.

HR4340 was reported out of the Ways and Means Committee on a voice vote.

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule: on Thursday, the House will meet at 10:00 a.m. for legislative business and will consider **H.R. 4297 - Tax Reconciliation Act (*Rep. Thomas – Ways & Means*) (Subject to a Rule)**. In addition, the House may go to **Conference and Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2863 – Dept. of Defense Appropriations Act for FY06 (*Young {FL} – Appropriations*)** and **H.R. 1815 – National Defense Authorization Act for FY06 (*Rep. Hunter - Armed Services*)**; and may also consider the **Conference Report on H.R. 3199 – USA PATRIOT and Terrorism Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2005 (*Rep. Sensenbrenner – Judiciary*)**.

Daily Quote...

"Since the budget surpluses that ended in 2001, the nation's cumulative deficits through the last fiscal year total \$1.3 trillion - thanks largely to President Bush's historic tax cuts disproportionately benefiting the well-off....More than three-quarters of the benefits of both [Tax Reconciliation] bills would go to those making more than \$100,000 a year, according to the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center. But the House [Tax Reconciliation] bill heavily favors the very rich - with 40 percent of the benefits going to those making more than \$1 million a year vs. just 8 percent of the Senate [Tax Reconciliation] bill's benefits. Moreover, with the AMT projected to fall on about 19 million taxpayers next year (up from about 3.5 million this year), the Senate's temporary fix would help more taxpayers making less than \$100,000 a year."

- An editorial in *The Baltimore Sun*, today