



## Legislative Bulletin.....March 14, 2005

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H.R. 584—Department of the Interior Volunteer Recruitment Act

### **REVISED Summary of the Bill Under Consideration Today:**

**Total Number of New Government Programs:** 1

**Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations:** Approximately \$45.8 million over five years\*

**Effect on Revenue:** Unknown\*\*

**Total Change in Mandatory Spending:** Unknown\*\*\*

**Total New State & Local Government Mandates:** 1

**Total New Private Sector Mandates:** 0

**Number of Bills Without Committee Reports:** 12 of 12

**Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority:** 0 (none of today's bills have been reported by a committee)

*\*This does not include the cost of H.R. 486.*

*\*\*H.R. 1134 would stop the IRS from collecting certain taxes, which would likely affect revenues.*

*\*\*\*A CBO cost estimate of the TANF extension is not available.*

### **H.R. 584—Department of the Interior Volunteer Recruitment Act (Pombo)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. The House passed an identical bill, H.R. 4170, last year by voice vote. The Senate never considered the bill on the floor.

**Summary:** H.R. 584 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to recruit and use volunteers (subject to certain restrictions) in the programs of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the United States Geological Survey, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Office of the Secretary.

Volunteers could not be used in law enforcement work, in regulatory and enforcement work, in the policy-making process, or to displace any employee.

The Secretary could provide for services and costs incidental to the use of volunteers, including transportation, supplies, uniforms, lodging, subsistence (without regard to place of residence), recruiting, training, supervision, and awards (including nominal cash awards). A volunteer would not be considered to be a federal employee.

**Additional Background:** The Department of the Interior is already authorized to use volunteers in the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management.

**Committee Action:** On February 2, 2005, the bill was referred to the Resources Committee, which took no official action on the bill.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** Although a cost estimate for H.R. 584 is unavailable, CBO estimated last year that H.R. 4170 would authorize appropriations of close to \$500,000 a year.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** It would increase the number of volunteers working with the federal government and authorize minimal funds for the costs associated with these volunteers.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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