



Legislative Bulletin.....November 8, 2005

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Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$0

Effect on Revenue: \$0

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 4

Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 0

**H.Res. 38—Expressing support for the accession of Israel to the
Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)—as
introduced (Ros-Lehtinen)**

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, November 8th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 38 would resolve a sense of the House that:

- “Israel shares the commitment to democratic government and the market economy that is the foundation of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);
- “Israel meets the OECD’s membership requirements and has been an active participant as a non-member country in various OECD activities, such as adherence to the OECD Declaration on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises; and
- “the United States Government should support and advocate the accession of Israel to the OECD, including through coordination of efforts with Mexico, Great Britain, and other countries supportive of Israel's membership in the OECD.

Additional Background: The OECD is a convention of 30 countries (http://www.oecd.org/document/58/0,2340,en_2649_201185_1889402_1_1_1_1,00.html) that share a commitment to democracy and a market economy. For more information on what the OECD does, visit this webpage: http://www.oecd.org/about/0,2337,en_2649_201185_1_1_1_1_1,00.html

Israel has been trying to join the OECD since 2000, when, according to the resolution, “it met the OECD’s membership requirements relating to industrial and per-capita product criteria.” Although Israel has been invited to participate in several OECD committees, it has not been invited to become a full OECD member yet. The resolution cites various international rankings, showing Israel as a leading capitalist economy.

For more information on the OECD, visit this website: www.oecd.org

Committee Action: On January 6, 2005, the resolution was referred to the International Relations Committee, which took no official action until its mark-up on September 15, 2005. The Committee ordered the resolution reported to the full House by unanimous consent.

Administration Position: Sources at the International Relations Committee indicate that the State Department is supportive of this resolution.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

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

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H.R. 1953—San Francisco Old Mint Commemorative Coin Act—as *introduced (Pelosi)*

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, November 8th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1953 would direct the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue not more than 100,000 \$5 gold coins and 500,000 \$1 silver coins, emblematic of the San Francisco Old Mint Building, its importance to California and U.S. history, and its role in rebuilding San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake and fire. The coins would be legal tender and would have to include the words: “Liberty,” “In God We Trust,” “United States of America,” and “E Pluribus Unum.” The coins could only be minted during calendar-year 2006.

The price of the coins would have to reflect:

- the face value of the coins;
- a surcharge (\$35 for the \$5 coin; \$10 for the \$1 coin); and
- the cost of designing and issuing the coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

All surcharges received by the Secretary from these coin sales would have to be transferred to the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society (subject to auditing), for purposes of rehabilitating the Historic Old Mint in San Francisco as a city museum and an American Coin and Gold Rush Museum.

Additional Background: As the resolution indicates, the San Francisco Mint was established by an Act of Congress on July 3, 1852, to convert miners’ gold from the California gold rush into coins. The San Francisco Old Mint Building, also known as the “Granite Lady,” survived the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire, making it the only financial institution that was able to operate immediately after the earthquake as the treasury for disaster relief funds for the city of San Francisco. This new coin would be the first commemorative coin to honor a U.S. mint.

For more background on the San Francisco Mint, please visit this webpage:

http://www.usmint.gov/about_the_mint/mint_facilities/index.cfm?flash=yes&action=SF_facilities

Committee Action: On April 28, 2005, the bill was referred to the Financial Services Committee, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: Although no CBO cost estimate is available, coin-minting bills usually yield a net gain of funds for the federal government. This legislation would specifically require the cost of the coins for sale to cover the cost of designing and issuing the coins

(including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

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

Constitutional Authority: Although a committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable, Article I, Section 8, Clause 5 of the U.S. Constitution grants Congress the authority to “coin Money [and] regulate the Value thereof.”

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S. 1894 – Fair Access Foster Care Act of 2005 (Sen. Inhofe)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, November 8th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S. 1894 removes the word “nonprofit” from current foster care payment statutes.

Additional Information: Since 1992, IV-E funds (foster care) from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) have gone to partially fund both for-profit and nonprofit therapeutic foster care providers. It has been recognized that due to “a technicality,” for-profit agencies are not eligible to receive these funds from HHS. According to the sponsor, the bill seeks to remove the word “non-profit” from the Social Security code in each necessary section to allow IV-E funding to continue to flow to both for-profit and nonprofit agencies.

Committee Action: The bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent on October 19, 2005. On October 20, 2005, the bill was sent to the House of Representatives and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

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

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H.Res. 302 — Recognizing and commending the continuing dedication and commitment of employers of the members of the National Guard and the other reserve components who have been mobilized during the Global War on Terrorism and in defense of the United States — *as introduced* (Pombo)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, November 8th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 302 resolves the sense of the House of Representatives that:

- “the employers of members of the National Guard and the other reserve components deserve our sincere recognition and gratitude for their sacrifice and strong support of the goals and struggles of the United States during the Global War on Terrorism;
- “those distinguished employers of the members of the National Guard and the other reserve components who have gone above and beyond the obligations and requirements of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act deserve our commendation; and
- “the Department of Defense should continue to develop long-term strategies to maintain a high level of support between employers of members of the National Guard and the other reserve components by:
 - “continuing to build and maintain the Civilian Employment Information Program database;
 - “continuing to work with employers to build a more predictable system for the mobilization and demobilization of members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces; and
 - “encouraging officials of the Department to actively seek opportunities to address employer groups on future mobilization plans and future roles of the reserve components of the Armed Forces.”

Additional Information: According to the resolution, since September 11, 2001, more than 433,000 members of the National Guard and the other reserve components have been mobilized for active duty in the Global War on Terrorism. The Civilian Employment Information Program, a database recently implemented by the Department of Defense to track where the 1,100,000 National Guardsmen and the other reserve components are employed, is designed to enable the Department of Defense to improve communication with the employer community and target support and render assistance to employers of reserve component personnel identified for mobilization. The resolution states, “the Civilian Employment Information Program will give the Department of Defense information upon which it can make more informed decisions about mobilizing certain individuals based on their civilian employment. ...The employer community recognizes that the missions and duties of our troops both abroad and in securing the homeland will be necessary for years to come.

Committee Action: On May 26, 2005, the resolution was introduced and referred to the House Committees on Education and Workforce and Armed Services, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

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

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H.R. 3770 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 205 West Washington Street in Knox, Indiana, as the “Grant W. Green Post Office Building” — *as introduced* (Chocola)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, November 8th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3770 designates the U.S. Postal Service facility located at 205 West Washington Street in Knox, Indiana, as the “Grant W. Green Post Office Building.”

Additional Information: According to the sponsor’s office, Grant Green was the longest-serving postal employee in Knox history. He worked as a postal carrier in Knox, Indiana from 1920 to 1970. He died on December 29, 1990, and was buried on his 50th wedding anniversary, December 31, 1990.

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a postal facility renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

Committee Action: The bill was introduced September 14, 2005, and referred to the House Committee on Government Reform, which considered the bill and reported it by unanimous consent to the full House on October 20th.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

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

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post Roads.

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H.R. 3825 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 770 Trumbull Drive in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the “Clayton J. Smith Memorial Post Office Building” — *as introduced* (Murphy)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, November 8th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3825 designates the U.S. Postal Service facility located at located at 770 Trumbull Drive in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the “Clayton J. Smith Memorial Post Office Building”

Additional Information: According to news reports, Clayton J. Smith, was a postal worker who was killed by a stray bullet that was fired from the gun of a nine-year old boy, while serving on duty in Crafton, Pennsylvania. Smith was shot in the back on June 23, 2003, while he was taking a break and sorting mail in the parking lot of a suburban Pittsburgh shopping center. The nine-year old boy later told postal inspectors that the gun fell from a closet shelf as his younger sister searched for a doll. He took the gun, pointed it out the window and tried to shoot at a large oak tree, authorities said. The boy was not charged; investigators ruled the shooting was unintentional because the boy could not see Smith. But the mother of the boy was convicted of illegally owning a gun (she was a convicted felon) and lying to federal authorities investigating the death. Source: <http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/278-03152005-462991.html>

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a postal facility renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

Committee Action: The bill was introduced September 19, 2005, and referred to the House Committee on Government Reform, which considered the bill and reported it by unanimous consent to the full House on October 20th.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

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

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post Roads.

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H.R. 4053 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 545 North Rimsdale Avenue in Covina, California, as the “Lillian Kinkella Keil Post Office” — *as introduced* (Solis)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, November 8th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 4053 designates the U.S. Postal Service facility located at located at 545 North Rimsdale Avenue in Covina, California, as the “Lillian Kinkella Keil Post Office.”

Additional Information: Captain Lillian Kinkella Keil was the most decorated female veteran in U.S. military history. According to the sponsor’s office, Capt. Keil, known to many as an “Airborne Florence Nightingale,” was a flight nurse for the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and the Korean War. She flew 425 combat evacuation missions, including many in Normandy during the D-Day invasion, where she helped evacuate thousands of wounded U.S. troops from the battlefield. Keil was awarded 19 medals and ribbons for her service. She died of cancer in June of this year at the age of 88.

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a postal facility renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

Committee Action: The bill was introduced October 7, 2005, and referred to the House Committee on Government Reform, which considered the bill and reported it by unanimous consent to the full House on October 20th.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

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

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post Roads.

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