



Legislative Bulletin.....Thursday, March 15, 2001

Contents:

H.R. 327 – Small Business Paperwork Relief Act

H.R. 327—Small Business Paperwork Relief Act (Burton)

Order of Business: The bill will be considered under an open rule with the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the Congressional Record used as the base text.

Summary: The bill seeks to reduce the paperwork burden on small businesses by:

1. Directing the Office of Management and Budget to publish annually a list of applicable paperwork requirements for small businesses;
2. Requiring agencies to establish a single point of contact to act as a liaison between the agency and small businesses;
3. Requiring agencies to make further efforts to reduce paperwork for businesses with fewer than 25 employees;
4. Establishing a multi-agency task force to study the feasibility of streamlining and consolidating requirements for collecting and reporting information within and across agencies to a single contact within a federal agency in a single format or using an electronic reporting system.

A similar bill, H.R. 391, passed the House on February 11, 1999 by a vote of 274-151 (Roll Call #20). However, the provision in that bill waiving civil fines and penalties for first-time violations of paperwork requirements has been dropped from this year's version. That provision generated some opposition among Democrats and a few Republicans.

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO has previously estimated that the bill would result in only negligible costs to federal agencies.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: The bill creates new reporting requirements for federal agencies and a new task force, all of which are designed, however, to reduce the paperwork burden on small businesses that is generated by federal laws and regulations.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee previously cited Article I, Section 8, but failed to cite a specific power.

Administration Views: While the Administration has stated that it supports passage of the bill, it has expressed concerns about the resources that will be needed by the OMB in order to complete the annual registry of paperwork requirements.

Staff Contact: Neil Bradley, x6-9717

The views expressed in Legislative Bulletin may not reflect the views of all Members of the Republican Study Committee.