



The Daily Whip

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2006

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

**** IMPORTANT VOTES INCLUDING THE BUDGET ARE EXPECTED THIS WEEK. ATTENDANCE IS CRITICAL. PLEASE NOTIFY THE WHIP'S OFFICE IF YOUR MEMBER WILL NOT BE VOTING.**

(130th Calendar Day of the Year – 29th Voting Day of the Year – 64 Voting Days until Target Adjournment)

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

Suspensions (2 bills):

- 1) [H.R. 5143](#) - H-Prize Act of 2006 (*Rep. Inglis - Science*)
- 2) [H.Res. 802](#) - Encouraging all eligible Medicare beneficiaries who have not yet elected enroll in the new Medicare Part D benefit to review the available options and to determine whether enrollment in a Medicare prescription drug plan best meets their current and future needs for prescription drug coverage (*Rep. Johnson (CT) - Energy and Commerce*)

[H.Res. 805](#) – Rule providing for consideration of [H.R. 4297](#) - Tax Reconciliation Conference Report (*Rules*). The Rules Committee has recommended a closed rule that provides one hour of general debate.

[H.Res. 806](#) – Rule providing for consideration of [H.R. 5122](#) - National Defense Authorization Act for FY07 (*Rules*). The Rules Committee has recommended the first of two rules for consideration of H.R.5122 which provides one hour of general debate and makes in order eight amendments. All but one of these amendments are debatable for 10 minutes each.

[H.R. 5122](#) - National Defense Authorization Act for FY07 (*Rep. Hunter-Armed Services*). This bill authorizes \$512.9 billion for the Department of Defense and the national security programs of the Department of Energy and includes \$50 billion for continuing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan in FY07. The bill is \$2.7 billion over the President's request and allocates \$85.87 billion for procurement; \$74.08 billion for research and development; \$129.77 billion for operation and maintenance; \$22.37 billion for programs such as drug interdiction, defense health and chemical agents and munitions destruction; \$109.82 billion for military personnel; \$13.02 billion for military construction; \$4.05 billion for family housing; and \$16.48 billion for atomic energy. Major provisions in H.R.5122 include : providing a 2.7% pay raise for the military (the President proposed 2.2%); extending TRICARE to almost all reservists; blocking the Administration's proposal to increase TRICARE fees for military retirees under 65; increasing the Army end-strength by 30,000, the Marines by 5,000, and the Army National Guard by 17,100; and retroactively increasing from \$10,000 to \$100,00 the death gratuity for civilian personnel to provide the same death gratuity for civilian personnel killed in support of a military operation as for uniformed personnel. The \$50 billion authorized in FY07 for continuing combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan includes funding for up-armored Humvees, tactical wheeled vehicle recapitalization and modernization ("up-armoring") programs, night vision devices and IED jammers, small-arms and ammunition procurement programs, food, fuel, spare parts, maintenance, transportation, and base expenses. This bill was reported out of the Armed Services Committee on May 3rd on a 60-1 vote.

The eight amendments made in order by the rule are:

- **Hunter Manager's Amendment.** To add several provisions including to: add \$4million for Call for Fire Trainer/Joint fires and Effects Trainer with an offset of \$4 million from Joint Tactical Radio System; add \$6 million to the Air Force Science Engineering Lab Data Integration with and offset of \$6 million from Information and Communications Technology PE 062301E; add an exception for the Non-Line of Sight Cannon System from the requirement in section 346 subsection (c); and strike and replace Section 662 requiring the Secretary of Defense to conduct a pilot project for disabled persons accessible golf carts at military golf courses.
- **Andrews Amendment.** To require the Defense Secretary to perform an epidemiological study to determine whether any human populations have been affected by military munitions ocean disposal sites.
- **Davis (CA)/Harman/Loretta Sanchez Amendment (20 minutes).** To lift the current ban on privately funded abortions at U.S. military facilities overseas.
- **Jackson-Lee Amendment.** To clarify the factors that must be taken into consideration when recalling a reservist to service to include the frequency of assignment over the duration of a reservist's career.
- **Tanner Amendment.** To express a Sense of Congress that the Army should continue to evaluate and consider the potential benefits of converting to six-month deployments for members of the Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserves in connection with service in



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Iraq and Afghanistan, including potential impacts on the reduced deployment periods on soldier morale, recruiting and retention, readiness, and military operations. It also requires the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to Congress containing: 1) The results of any studies conducted on soldiers and families regarding reduced deployment periods in Iraq and Afghanistan; 2) The Army's potential plans for the implementation of such reduced deployment periods; and 3) A discussion of the potential benefits and drawbacks associated with implementation of such reduced deployment times.

- **Franks Amendment.** To authorize \$1 million for the make Peace Through Health Care Initiative.
- **Simmons/Tom Davis Amendment.** To prevent DoD from revoking expired security clearances from defense contractors until an investigation moratorium and backlog is eliminated. The amendment does not change the security clearance investigation process or prevent the department from revoking security clearances for national security purposes.
- **Gutknecht/Kline/Peterson (MN)/Ramstad/Oberstar /McCollum/Kennedy (MN)/Sabo Amendment.** To add a Sense of Congress that the Secretary of the Army should promptly correct the pay inequity in its assignment incentive pay system. Depending on method of call to active duty, some Guardsmen and Reservists serving in the same unit in Iraq and Afghanistan will be eligible for assignment incentive pay (\$1,000 extra per month) after reaching 730 days on active duty, while others will not. The Army must submit to Congress within 30 days after enactment a report specifying how many soldiers, both active and reserve, were affected by this pay disparity and proposed remedies or courses of action to correct the inequity.

H.R. 4297 – Tax Reconciliation Conference Report (Rep. Thomas –Ways & Means). This conference report is the second half of the 2005 GOP Budget agreement that cut \$39 billion from student loans, Medicaid, child support enforcement and other important safety-net programs. The tax conference report will cost \$70 billion over 5 years and continues years of Republican fiscal irresponsibility which has driven the national debt to more than \$8 trillion and the cost of interest on the debt to an average of more than \$300 billion a year during the next decade.

- **Republicans prioritize tax cuts for the wealthiest taxpayers while continuing to shift additional tax burden onto middle-class working families.** Even though it does not expire for two years, the GOP has designed the entire tax package around an extension of the capital gains and dividend tax cut from 2008 to 2010. The conference report includes only one year of AMT relief for middle income families, and would also extend the increased Section 179 small business expensing provisions and several other business extenders. Finally, the true long-term cost of the conference report would be masked by over a dozen revenue raisers and budget gimmicks, led by the elimination of income caps on Roth IRA conversions that occur in 2010, that raise revenue in 2011-2012 but cost much more in the following decade.
- **Popular Bipartisan Tax “extenders” dropped and left for a Second Tax Bill.** Provisions such as a second year of AMT relief, extension of the R&D tax credit, the Welfare to Work tax credit, deduction of state and local sales taxes, and deductions for teacher's classroom expenses, among others, are left to a 2nd bill, also not paid for, that may total nearly \$100 billion. This 2nd bill would not have reconciliation protection, would be open to amendment, with no guarantee of passage. It is also possible that the 2nd package would be added to the pension conference report, the House version of which cost \$86 billion, putting the potential combined cost of all three measures at nearly \$250 billion.

Democrats are urged to VOTE NO on [H.R. 4297](#) .

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. The House will complete consideration of [H.R. 5122 - National Defense Authorization Act](#); and may consider [H.Con.Res. 376 – Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for FY07](#).

Daily Quote...

"There's only one thing that you can call the political climate right now surrounding the White House and the Republican Party, and that is meltdown."

- Former Republican Congressman Joe Scarborough, *MSNBC*, 5/8/06