



The Daily Whip

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2005

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

**** DEMOCRATS ARE URGED TO SIGN THE MARSHALL DISCHARGE PETITION (No. 2) TO ELIMINATE THE DISABLED VETERANS TAX (CONCURRENT RECEIPT). THIS DISCHARGE PETITION WOULD FORCE ACTION ON H.R. 303 -- A BILL TO PROVIDE FULL RETIREMENT PAY AND DISABILITY PAY TO DISABLED MILITARY RETIREES.**

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

Suspensions (1 bill):

1) H.R. 2566 - Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2005 (*Sponsored by Rep. Young (AK) / Transportation and Infrastructure Committee*). To extend the highway, transit, and highway safety programs through June 30, 2005.

H.R. 1815 – National Defense Authorization Act for FY06 (Rep. Hunter/Armed Services) (Subject to a Rule). This bill authorizes \$441.6 billion for the Department of Defense and the national security programs of the Department of Energy. This bill allocates \$79.1 billion for procurement; \$69.46 billion for research and development; \$124.34 billion for operation and maintenance; \$22.23 billion for programs such as drug interdiction, defense health and chemical agents and munitions destruction; \$3.16 billion for the revolving management fund; \$108.82 billion for military personnel; \$8.01 billion for military construction; \$4.2 billion for family housing; and \$17.02 billion for atomic energy defense activities. The bill also authorizes \$49.1 billion in supplemental FY06 funding to support operations in Iraq and Afghanistan: \$3.37 billion for procurement; \$30.18 billion for operation and maintenance; \$1.7 billion for Defense Working Capital Funds; \$1 billion for the Iraqi Freedom Fund; \$2.5 billion for classified programs; and \$9.39 billion for military personnel. This bill was reported out of the Armed Services Committee by a 61-1 vote.

In addition, HR 1815 provides \$7.9 billion for missile defense (\$2.1 billion less than the current level); provides a 3.1% pay raise for the military; imposes new statutory restrictions on women serving in combat; speeds up the end of the Disabled Veterans' Tax for about 29,000 retirees -- those with 60- to 90-percent disability ratings who are unable to work as a result of their disability; and makes the recently increased death benefit for our service members applicable to combat and non-combat related deaths.

The Rules Committee has recommended a Rule that provides one hour of general debate and one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The Rule makes in order 29 amendments with all but six of these amendments debatable for 10 minutes:

- **Hunter Amendment.** To amend 5 USC 2108(1) to extend veteran's preference to individuals who served on active duty in the armed forces for a period of more than 180 consecutive days between 9/11/01 and the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom and who were discharged under honorable conditions. It also modifies section 574, relating to ground combat and other exclusion policies that impact the assignment of women in the Armed Forces.
- **Ortiz Amendment.** Regarding a sustainment plan for the existing MHC-51 class mine countermeasures ships.
- **Kaptur Amendment.** Regarding a study on the use of bio-diesel and ethanol fuels by the Armed Forces and Defense Agencies.
- **Stark Amendment.** Regarding a GAO report on criminal violations in military recruiting practices.
- **Strickland Amendment.** Regarding information concerning the availability of mental health services for those in the armed forces who are separating from active duty.
- **Stearns Amendment.** Regarding a Sense of Congress on colleges or universities that deny equal access to ROTC programs or military recruiters.
- **Simmons Amendment #53.** To eliminate the age-60 requirement for space-available travel by National Guard and Reserve retirees.
- **Slaughter Amendment.** To authorize \$25 million annually for training and resources for the DoD to better respond to incidences of sexual assault.
- **Reichert Amendment.** Regarding a GAO study on the difficulties faced by our National Guard and Reserve Personnel in gaining re-employment once returning from duty.
- **Filner Amendment.** Regarding a DoD study on the feasibility to allow veterans with a service connected disability rating of 50 percent or higher access to space-available travel.
- **Menendez Amendment.** To require the GAO to prepare a report on compensation and benefits for reserve component members.
- **Davis (CA)/Harman Amendment (30 minutes).** To lift the current ban on privately funded abortions at U.S. military facilities overseas.



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- **DeLauro Amendment.** Regarding a requirement that the DoD revise its mental health evaluations for pre- and post-deployment of service members to combat theaters.
- **Bishop (GA) Amendment.** To require a study of effectiveness of self administered pre- and post- deployment exams, within 120 days of enactment.
- **Manzullo Amendment.** To codify the content requirements of the Buy American Act as stated in Defense Federal Acquisition Regulations Supplement (Part 225).
- **Andrews Amendment.** Regarding a requirement for DoD contracts with all defense contractors prohibiting them from requiring licenses and fees from businesses that manufacture, distribute, or sell models and model kits.
- **Blunt/Kirk Amendment.** To require DoD to establish the employment of National Guard and Reserve Personnel as an evaluation factor in the awarding of defense contracts.
- **Simmons Amendment #52.** To encourage the DoD to buy Lithium-Ion cells and batteries, and associated manufacturing technologies that are made in America.
- **Hoekstra Amendment.** To clarify the source of funding for the rapid acquisition of intelligence capabilities.
- **Goode Amendment (30 minutes).** To authorize the Secretary of Defense to assign members of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps to assist the Department of Homeland Security in the performance of border protection functions.
- **Crowley Amendment.** To add a Sense of Congress on the diversity of the men and women of our Armed Services killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.
- **Matheson Amendment.** To prohibit DoD from destroying historical radioactive fallout records. Directs the Department to identify, preserve, and publish information contained in these records.
- **Hostettler Amendment (20 minutes).** To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to admit Afghan and Iraqi nationals who serve U.S. forces as interpreters for at least 12 months and have a recommendation of the first General or Flag officer in the chain of command.
- **Davis, Jo Ann Amendment (30 minutes).** To clarify federal law regarding support for youth organizations (including the Boy Scouts of America) by the federal government. Specifically, the Department of Defense would have to provide a minimum level of support that it provided in the previous four fiscal years. The support is defined as holding meetings, camping events, or other activities on defense property and hosting any official event of the youth organization.
- **Israel Amendment.** To make permanent the pilot "Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation (SMART) Defense Education Program."
- **Woolsey Amendment (30 minutes).** Regarding a Sense of Congress that the President should develop a plan for the withdrawal of U.S. military forces from Iraq, and submit this plan to the congressional defense committees.
- **Weldon (PA) Amendment.** To express the sense of Congress that the United States should cooperate with Russia on missile defense.
- **Spratt Amendment.** To add war-related reporting requirements for tracking costs, military personnel force levels, reconstitution requirements, and military construction projects associated with operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and enhanced security operations at home.
- **Bradley Amendment (60 minutes).** To postpone the BRAC recommendations until one year after the last of these actions occurs: the recommendations of the Review of Overseas Military Facility Structure are implemented by the Secretary of Defense, a substantial number of American troops return from Iraq, the House and Senate Armed Services Committees receive the quadrennial defense review, the National Maritime Security Strategy is implemented, and the Homeland Defense and Civil Support directive is implemented.

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 consider **H.R. 2528 – Military Quality of Life Appropriations Act for FY06** (*Rep. Walsh/ Appropriations*) (*Subject to a Rule*).

Daily Quote...

"It took our country 204 years to borrow the first \$1 trillion. We are now borrowing a \$1 trillion every 20 months. And the majority party doesn't seem to care and says so regularly. I never dreamed I would live long enough to see my party have a golden opportunity to again become, sincerely, the party of fiscal responsibility. The federal debt will soon exceed \$8 trillion. We no longer owe this to ourselves, but now to foreign interests. The Japanese own more than \$800 billion, the People's Republic of China more than \$250 billion and all our foreign debt is exploding. We cannot continue to export more than \$600 billion of American jobs every year without the market making a severe correction."

- Former Rep. Charles Stenholm (D-TX), in Roll Call this morning