



Legislative Bulletin.....December 2, 2013

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**H.R. 3547 – The Space Launch Liability Indemnification Extension Act
(Smith, R-TX)**

Order of Business: The legislation is scheduled to be considered on December 2, 2013, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary: [H.R.3547](#) extends for one year current liability risk-sharing provisions, which gives the Office of Commercial Space Transportation at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) authority to indemnify commercial space launch services companies from certain levels of liability from third party claims. This authority is currently set to expire on December 31, 2013.

Additional Information: The liability indemnification provision was originally enacted in 1988 and was most recently extended for one year as part of H.R. 6586, which became [P.L. 112-273](#). Under the risk-sharing liability framework detailed in [Section 50915\(f\) of title 51](#), the FAA has the authority to pay third-party claims in excess of a private space launch company’s required insurance coverage (a minimum of \$500 million¹). To date no federal payments have been issued under this authority.

Committee Action: H.R. 3547 was introduced and referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology on November 20, 2013. No further action was taken by the Committee.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: A report from CBO was unavailable at time of press.

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

¹ <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/51/50914>

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

Does the Bill Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: The legislation contains no earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

Constitutional Authority: According to the sponsor, “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.” The Constitutional Authority Statement can be found [here](#).

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H.R. 3588 – Community Fire Safety Act of 2013 (Johnson, R-OH)

Order of Business: The legislation is scheduled to be considered on December 2, 2013, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary: H.R. 3588 amends the Safe Drinking Water Act and allows “fire hydrants” to be exempt from an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determination on the regulation of lead in drinking water.

When evaluating the sources of lead in water distribution systems, the legislation directs the EPA to consult with the National Drinking Water Advisory Council on potential changes to the regulations pertaining to lead under the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.). The EPA shall also be required to request the Council to consider sources of lead throughout drinking water distribution systems, including through components used to reroute drinking water during distribution system repairs.

Additional Information: According to the Committee, the current law could ban the installation of non-compliant hydrants after January 4, 2014, leaving towns and cities no option to replace hydrants in the event of an emergency. The bill recognizes that hydrants are not intended to be a major source of drinking water and addresses this public safety risk by ensuring that legal hydrants will be readily available for installation and replacement.

Committee Action: H.R. 3588 was introduced on November 21, 2013, and was referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which took no action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: A report from CBO is unavailable.

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.

Does the Bill Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: The legislation contains no earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

Constitutional Authority: According the sponsor, “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution.” Rep. Johnson’s statement in the Congressional Record can be [viewed here](#).

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H.R. __ - To extend the Undetectable Firearms Act of 1988 for 10 years (Coble, R-NC)

Order of Business: The legislation is scheduled to be considered on December 3, 2013, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary: [This legislation](#) extends the Undetectable Firearms Act of 1988 ([P.L. 100-649](#)) for ten more years. The law is currently set to expire on December 9, 2013.

Additional Information: The Undetectable Firearms Act of 1988, also known as the “plastic gun” legislation, prohibits the manufacture, importation, possession, transfer, or receipt of firearms that are undetectable by metal detectors and imaging devices at security checkpoints. The regulated components of “firearms” do not include removable grips, stocks, and magazines under current law. The original legislation had a 10-year sunset provision and has since been extended for an additional five years in 1998 and another 10 years in 2003.

Outside Groups:

This legislation is opposed by the following groups:

- Gun Owners of America
- National Association for Gun Rights.

**This list is not exhaustive and does not represent an endorsement by the RSC.*

Committee Action: No Committee action was taken for this legislation.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: A report from CBO was unavailable at time of press.

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.

Does the Bill Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: The legislation contains no earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

Constitutional Authority: No Constitutional Authority Statement was available at time of press.

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