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S. 611 — Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act (Sen. Wicker, R-MS)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on November 30, 2015 suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[S. 611](#) would authorize \$15 million from 2016 to 2020 for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s technical assistance program for small and rural communities to assist in complying with regulations promulgated by the [Safe Drinking Water Act](#).

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing S. 611 would cost \$67 million over the next five years, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply to S. 611 because it would not affect direct spending or revenues.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

There are no substantive concerns regarding this bill.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

S. 611 would authorize \$15 million annually from 2016 to 2020 for the EPA's technical assistance program to small public water systems, equal to the existing expired authorization. In FY15, the program received appropriations of \$13 million. The EPA Administrator would be authorized to provide grants or cooperative agreements to nonprofit organizations that provide to small public water systems onsite technical assistance, and training with implementing source water protection and monitoring plans, rules, regulations, and water security enhancements.

According to the findings of the bill, the technical assistance and compliance training ensure that federal regulations do not overwhelm the resources of small and rural communities; and provide small and rural communities lacking technical resources with the necessary skills to improve and protect water resources.

The bill would additionally express a sense of Congress that to assist small and rural communities most effectively, the EPA Administrator should prioritize the types of technical assistance that are most beneficial to those communities, based on input from those communities. The House report (H. Rept. 114-346) and Senate report (S. Rept.114-47) accompanying S. 611 can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

S. 611 was introduced on February 19, 2015 and was referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. On June 9, 2015, the bill passed in the Senate by unanimous consent without an amendment, and was reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on November 19, 2015.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

Senate rules do not require the inclusion of a constitutional authority statement

H.R. 3490 — Strengthening State and Local Cyber Crime Fighting Act (Rep. Ratcliffe, R-TX)

CONTACT: [Jennifer Weinhart](#), 202-226-0706

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on November 30, under a suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 3490](#) would amend the [Homeland Security Act of 2002](#) to create a National Computer Forensics Institute within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in order to provide for the dissemination of homeland security information pertaining to the prevention and investigation of cyber or electronic crime.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that enacting H.R. 3490 would not have a significant impact on DHS spending.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No. The institute is already functioning with federal funding in Alabama. The formal authorization would not expand current activities or expenditures.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

This legislation would authorize a National Computer Forensic Institute within DHS, operated by the United States Secret Service, to provide education and training on investigation methods, device forensic examinations, methods for obtaining digital data, training on how to admit digital data into court, and on network intrusion cases.

H.R. 3490 would require the Institute to: (1) educate state, local, and tribal law enforcement, judges, and prosecutors on current cyber threats, investigation methods for cyber crime and on mobile devices, and prosecutorial and judicial challenges; (2) train state, local, and tribal law enforcement to conduct cyber crime investigations, forensic examinations, and to respond to network intrusion incidents; and (3) train state, local, and tribal law enforcement officers, judges, and prosecutors on how to obtain, process, store, and admit digital evidence in court. The Institute would be required to ensure that when possible, timely and actionable information pertaining to cyber and electronic crime is shared with state, local and tribal law enforcement, judges, and prosecutors.

H.R. 3490 would also provide the Institute with special equipment, including computer hardware, software, manuals, and other tools necessary for investigations and mobile device forensic examinations, and would authorize the institute to provide the equipment to state, local, and tribal authorities.

This legislation would also create the Electronic Crime Task Force (ECTF) and would require the Institute to facilitate its expansion by providing task force officers from State, local and tribal prosecutors, law

enforcement officers, and judges who have been appropriately trained, in addition to academics and private sector stakeholders.

This legislation would not provide for any additional authorized funding.

Cyber crime is an increasingly dangerous threat to the United States with the nation having faced both large-scale attacks from foreign nations, to less sophisticated crimes that also have a cyber element. Though the United States and China recently came to an [agreement](#) regarding cyber crime, there are still a growing number of threats facing the nation.

According to the [Committee Report](#), H.R. 3490 stems from a program developed by the state of Alabama in 2007, after the state approached the federal government to create a facility to train their local law enforcement, judges, and prosecutors on legal issues pertaining to cyber crime. Under this agreement, the federal government provided a facility and the Secret Service provided training. The Institute created in Alabama has trained officers and legal professionals from every state, providing them with the tools they need to train others within their agencies in areas pertaining to cyber crime.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 3490 was introduced on September 11, 2015 and was referred to the House Committees on Homeland Security and the Judiciary. It was reported by the Judiciary Committee by voice vote on September 30, 2015.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

H.R. 3279 — Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act (Rep. Collins, R-GA)

CONTACT: [Jennifer Weinhart](#), 202-226-0706

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on November 30 under a suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 3279](#) would amend the [Equal Access to Justice Act](#) and the federal judicial code to require the Chairman of the United States Administrative Conference to report to Congress on an annual basis on the fees and expenses awarded to prevailing parties in certain administrative proceedings and civil action court cases to which the United States is a party to a suit.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that enacting H.R. 3279 would cost \$1 million in FY2016 and less than \$500 thousand each year following.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

This legislation would require annual reports to describe the amount and nature of awards issued, including the claim in controversy and any other relevant information that Congress could use to evaluate the scope and impact of the awards. It would also require the reports to be made available online.

H.R. 3279 would direct the Chairman of the Administrative Conference to establish and maintain an online database containing information pertaining to awards, including the agency involved, the names of parties receiving awards, award amounts, and the basis for finding the position of the agencies concerned were not substantially justified.

This legislation would direct the head of every agency, including the Attorney General, to provide all information requested to the Chairman, so that he may comply with the requirements of this legislation. The disclosure of fees would not affect any other information that is subject to nondisclosure agreements under any settlement.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 3279 was introduced on July 29, 2015, and was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, where it was reported by voice vote on October 27, 2015.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution.

H.R.1755 – To amend title 36, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the congressional charter of the Disabled American Veterans (Rep. Miller, R-FL)

CONTACT: [Jennifer Weinhart](#), 202-226-0706

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on November 30, under a suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 1755](#) would make improvements to the Congressional Charter of the Disabled American Veterans, (DAV) clarifying that the corporation is organized exclusively for charitable purposes, which includes public education about the needs of, and sacrifices made by, disabled veterans, and the education of disabled veterans about the benefits and resources available to them.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that enacting H.R. 1755 would classify the DAV as a public charity, which may result in an increase in tax-deductible donations, though this change would likely have a negligible effect on federal revenues.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

Following World War I, a great number of disabled veterans returned from the frontlines and found themselves disadvantaged and in great need of government support. In 1932, the [Disabled American Veterans](#) of the World War was [chartered](#) by Congress to meet this need.

In addition to charter improvements clarifying the charitable nature of the Disabled American Veterans, H.R. 1755 would require any assets remaining upon dissolution or final liquidation of the corporation to be transferred to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the care of disabled veterans.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 1755 was introduced on April 13, 2015 and was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, where it was reported by voice vote on September 17, 2015.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution. A specific enumerating clause was not provided.

H.R. 2288 — To remove the use restrictions on certain land transferred to Rockingham County, Virginia, and for other purposes (Rep. Goodlatte, R-VA)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on November 30, 2015 suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 2288](#) would strike and remove certain restrictions in the deed for a parcel of land that was conveyed by the National Park Service (NPS) to Rockingham County, Virginia.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing the bill would have no effect on the federal budget. Because enacting H.R. 2288 would not affect direct spending or revenues, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

There are no substantive concerns regarding this bill.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 2288 would remove restrictions stipulating that approximately 1-acre portion of the land conveyed to Rockingham County, Virginia could only be used for a public park and a child care center. The House report (H. Rept. 114-286) accompanying H.R. 2288 can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 2288 was introduced on May 13, 2015 and was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. The bill was then ordered to be reported, amended, on October 6, 2015.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the bill's sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: The Property Clause of Article IV, Section 3--The Congress shall have the Power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulation respecting the Territory or other Property belong to the United States."

H.R. 1541 — PRISM Act (Rep. Grijalva, D-AZ)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on November 30, 2015 suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 1541](#), the “Preservation Research at Institutions Serving Minorities Act” would expand existing eligibility for [a grant program](#) under the [National Historic Preservation Act](#), encouraging student involvement in historic preservation.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

There are no substantive concerns regarding this bill.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 1541 would expand a [grant program](#) encouraging student involvement in historic and cultural preservation projects to include Hispanic-serving institutions and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions, in addition to the current law authorization for students enrolled at historically black colleges and universities, tribal colleges and universities, and non-tribal colleges with high Native American or Native Hawaiian enrolment. The House report (H. Rept. 114-275) accompanying H.R. 1541 can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 1541 was introduced on March 23, 2015 and was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. On September 30, 2015, the bill was reported and amended by the committee.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the bill’s sponsor: “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: U.S. Constitution, Article I, Sections 1 and 8.”

H.R. 2212 — To take certain Federal lands located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, and for other purposes (Rep. LaMalfa, R-CA)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on November 30, 2015 suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 2212](#) would require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust approximately 301 acres of federal land in California for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing the bill would have no significant effect on the federal budget. Enacting H.R. 2212 would not increase on-budget deficits or net direct spending by more than \$5 billion in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2026.

CONSERVATIVE:

There are no substantive concerns regarding this bill.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 2212 would require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust approximately 301 acres of federal land in California under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria. The bill would additionally prohibit certain gaming activities on the specified land. The House report (H. Rept. 114-314) accompanying H.R. 2212 can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 2212 was introduced on May 1, 2015 and was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. The bill was then ordered to be reported, and amended on October 27, 2015.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the bill's sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, as this legislation regulates commerce with foreign nations, between the states, and with Indian Tribes."

H.R. 2270 — Billy Frank Jr. Tell Your Story Act (Rep. Heck, D-WA)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on November 30, 2015 suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 2270](#) would designate the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, located in the state of Washington, as the “Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge”.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing the legislation would cost less than \$500,000 over the over the 2016-2020 period, any such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting H.R. 2270 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CONSERVATIVE:

There are no substantive concerns regarding this bill.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 2270 would designate the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge as the “[Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge](#)” and would the Department of the Interior to establish the Medicine Creek Treaty National Memorial within the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge to commemorate the location of the signing of the [Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854](#) between the United States Government and leaders of the Muckleshoot, Nisqually, Puyallup, and Squaxin Island Indian Tribes. The House report (H. Rept. 114-335) accompanying H.R. 2270 can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 2270 was introduced on May 12, 2015 and was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. The bill was then ordered to be reported and amended on November 16, 2015.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the bill’s sponsor: “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2: “The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States.”

S. 1170 – Breast Cancer Research Stamp Reauthorization Act (Sen. Feinstein, D-CA)

CONTACT: [Brittan Specht](#), 202-226-9143

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on November 30 under a suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[S. 1170](#) would extend the authority of the U.S. Postal Service to issue special rate postage stamps with a surcharge of not less than 15% more than the value of a first-class stamp with proceeds in excess of costs being paid 70% to the National Institutes of Health and 30% to the Department of Defense.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) would have no net effect on federal spending.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

S. 1170 would continue the authority of the U.S. Postal Service to issue special-rate stamps to allow individuals to voluntarily donate to breast cancer research through paying a postage surcharge. Proceeds from the sale of the stamps in excess of costs would be directed to the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense, and the bill includes language requiring these agencies to use funds received for breast cancer research.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

S. 1170 was introduced on April 30, 2015, and was referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs, where it was reported on July 29, 2015. The Senate passed the bill by unanimous consent on September 22, 2015. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Armed Services Committee. None of the House committees has acted on the bill

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

Measures originating in the Senate do not require Constitutional Authority Statements.

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