

# BUDGET WEEK

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET  
Majority Caucus • Jim Nussle, *Chairman*

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Volume 2, No. 17

Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation  
scheduled for the House floor

10 June 2002

Week of 10 June 2002

## SUSPENSION CALENDAR

1) ***Expressing the Sense of the House of Representatives That Improving Health Through Fitness and Reduction of Obesity Should be a Priority*** (H. Res. 438).   
This resolution has no budgetary impact.

2) ***Expressing the Sense of the House of Representatives to Honor the Life and Achievements of 19th Century Italian-American Inventor Antonio Meucci, and His Work in the Invention of the Telephone*** (H.Res. 269).   
This resolution has no budgetary impact.

3) ***Commemorating the Dedication and Sacrifices of the Men and Women of the United States Who were Killed or Disabled While Serving as Law Enforcement Officers*** (H.Res. 406).   
This resolution has no budgetary impact.

4) ***Herbert Arlene Post Office Building Designation Act*** (H.R. 3738).   
This bill has no budgetary impact.

5) ***Rev. Leon Sullivan Post Office Building Designation Act*** (H.R. 3739).   
This bill has no budgetary impact.

6) ***William V. Cibotti Post Office Building Designation Act*** (H.R. 3740).   
This bill has no budgetary impact.

7) ***Expressing the Sense of the Congress Concerning the 2002 World Cup and Co-Hosts Republic of Korea and Japan*** (H.Con.Res. 394).   
This resolution has no budgetary impact.

8) ***Expressing the Sense of Congress Regarding North Korean Refugees Who are Detained in China and Returned to North Korea Where They Face Torture, Imprisonment, and Execution*** (H.Con.Res. 213).   
This resolution has no budgetary impact.

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**PLEASE NOTE:** This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to express support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. **Note:** Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the House Committee on the Budget. It has not been approved by the full committee and may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

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9) **Public Buildings, Property, and Works Amendments Act** (H.R. 2068). 

This bill enacts title 40 of the United States Code into positive law to be titled "Public Buildings, Property, and Works." The bill does not increase direct spending – spending not subject to annual appropriations – or reduce revenues.

10) **Mychal Judge Police and Fire Chaplains Public Safety Officers' Benefit Act of 2002** (H.R. 3297). 

For incidents occurring on or after 11 September 2001, this bill makes fire and police chaplains eligible for the benefits available to public safety officers who have died or who have been permanently disabled as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty. With regard to all public safety officers, this bill expands the list of eligible recipients. The Congressional Budget Office [CBO] estimates that this bill will increase direct spending by \$2 million in 2002 and \$500,000 annually in subsequent years. The bill exceeds the appropriate budgetary allocations to the Committee on the Judiciary, and would thereby violate section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act. In addition, this bill provides new entitlement authority that first becomes effective in the current fiscal year, and thereby would violate section 401(b) of the Congressional Budget Act.

Please note: Although this bill clearly violates the Congressional Budget Act, other measures related to 11 September 2001 have been designated emergencies, thereby effectively exempting them from Budget Act requirements. The Budget Committee will not oppose this bill.

11) **To Give the Consent of Congress to an Agreement or Compact Between Utah and Nevada Regarding a Change in the Boundaries of Those States, and for Other Purposes** (H.R. 2054). 

This bill would give congressional consent to a boundary change between Utah and Nevada that would enable the city of Wendover, UT, to be located within the boundaries of Nevada. This bill has no budgetary impact.

12) **Consumer Product Protection Act of 2002** (H.R. 262). 

This bill makes it a Federal crime to intentionally tamper with a consumer product by placing writing on or inside the packaging of the product. Fines resulting from convictions pursuant to this bill will increase revenue by a negligible amount. This revenue would be deposited in the Criminal Victim's Fund and be spent in subsequent years.

#### LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

**Bill:** **Tax Limitation Constitutional Amendment** (H.J.Res. 96) 

**Committee:** Judiciary

**Summary:** This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment that requires the approval of two-thirds of the Members of the House or Senate present and voting for the final adoption of any legislation amending the internal revenue laws of the United States. Legislation that increased revenue by only a *de minimis* amount would be exempted from this "super-majority" requirement. As a proposed Constitutional amendment, this resolution, to become effective, would require the approval of two-thirds of the House, two-thirds of the Senate, and three-fourths of the States. If the amendment were thus approved and ratified, it would be more difficult for future Congresses to pass legislation increasing revenue through changes to the Internal Revenue Code.

**Cost:** None

**Budget Act:** This resolution does not violate the Congressional Budget Act.

**Bill:** **To Make the Marriage Penalty Relief Provisions of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 Permanent** (H.R. 4019) 

**Committee:** Ways and Means

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**Summary:** This bill is intended to make permanent the tax relief related to the marriage penalty included in last year's Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act [EGTRRA] of 2001. Sunset provisions were included in that bill to meet Senate requirements. Specifically, under the Congressional Budget Act, a reconciliation bill in the Senate may not lose revenue after the period provided for in the budget resolution. Last year's budget resolution covered 10 years. Hence, the conference committee on the tax bill was at that time forced to include provisions repealing the various tax cuts at the end of the 10-year period.

**Revenue Effect:** Estimates prepared by the Joint Committee on Taxation indicate no revenue effects will occur in the first 5 years.

**Budget Act:** Though the bill has outyear implications, no revenue or spending effects will occur in the 5-year period covered by the budget resolution currently in force. Hence, the measure will not violate provisions of the Congressional Budget Act.

## ON THE HORIZON

### ***Mental Health Parity***

A majority of House members are cosponsoring the Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act of 2002 (H.R. 4066). This bill would prohibit group health plans and group health insurers that provide both mental health benefits and medical and surgical benefits from imposing treatment limitations or financial requirements for coverage of mental health benefits different from those used for medical and surgical benefits. CBO has scored the Senate version of the bill (S. 543) as reducing Federal revenue (compared with baseline projections) by \$2.2 billion from 2003 through 2007, and by \$5.4 billion over the 2003-2012 period.

House conferees rejected a Senate amendment (S. 543) to the fiscal year 2002 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill that would have renewed and expanded the Mental Health Parity Act, enacted in 1996 and currently reauthorized through 31 December 2003. The House-passed budget resolution (H.Con.Res. 353) assumed \$28 billion in revenue reductions over the 5-year period it covers. This legislation would not cause revenue to be lower than the level provided for in the resolution, but also must be viewed in context with other tax related revenue reductions.