

Thursday, July 12, 2007

House Meets At...	Votes Predicted At...
10:00 a.m. For Legislative Business	Last Vote: 10:00 p.m.
Ten "One-minutes" Per Side	

**Any anticipated Member absences for votes this week should be reported to the Office of the Majority Whip at 226-3210.**

### Floor Schedule and Procedure

- **H. Res. 533-Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2956-Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act (Rep. Slaughter-Rules):**  
The closed rule provides for four hours of debate, with three hours equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services and one hour equally divided and controlled by the Committee on Foreign Affairs. The rule provides one motion to recommit. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rules Committee Chair Rep. Louise Slaughter and consideration will proceed in the following order:
  - One hour of debate on the rule.
  - Possible vote on a Democratic motion to move the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on the motion.**
  - Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on adoption of the rule.**
- **H.R. 2956-Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act (Rep. Skelton-Armed Services/Foreign Affairs):** Pursuant to the rule debate on the bill will be managed by Armed Services Committee Chair Rep. Ike Skelton, or his designee, for three hours and Foreign Affairs Committee Chair Rep. Tom Lantos, or his designee, for one hour, and will proceed in the following order:
  - Four hours of general debate on the bill.
  - Possible debate and vote on a Republican motion to recommit the bill.
  - Vote on passage of the bill. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on final passage.**

- **H Res. 534-Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1851-Section 8 Voucher Reform Act of 2007 (Rep. Castor-Rules)**: The structured rule. provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and shall be considered as read. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rep. Kathy Castor and consideration will proceed in the following order:
  - One hour of debate on the rule.
  - Possible vote on a Democratic motion to move the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on the motion.**
  - Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on adoption of the rule.**
- **H.R. 1851-Section 8 Voucher Reform Act of 2007(Rep. Waters-Financial Services)**: Pursuant to the rule, debate on the bill will be managed by Financial Services Committee Chair Rep. Barney Frank, or his designee, and will proceed in the following order:
  - One hour of debate on the bill.
  - Debate and votes on amendments to the bill.
  - Possible debate and vote on a Republican motion to recommit the bill.
  - Vote on passage of the bill. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on final passage.**

## **Bill Summary and Key Issues**

### **H.R. 2956, the Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act**

Chairman Skelton's bill provides for the safe, responsible, and accountable redeployment of our troops from Iraq. This bill is consistent with the advice of military and foreign policy experts, ensures the safety of our men and women in uniform, and conforms to the will of the American people. The bill includes the following provisions:

- **Redeployment Must Begin within 120 Days of Enactment.** The bill would require the Secretary of Defense to begin the redeployment of troops from Iraq within 120 days of the date of enactment and to complete the "reduction and transition to a limited presence" by April 1, 2008.
- **Safe and Orderly Redeployment Must Emphasize Troop Protection.** The bill would require that the redeployment be conducted in a safe and orderly manner with maximum attention to ensuring the safety of our troops during the redeployment.
- **Comprehensive Iraq Strategy Required.** The bill would require the President to prepare and submit to Congress a comprehensive strategy for Iraq by January 1, 2008. The report would include:

- A discussion of U.S. national security interests in Iraq, the broader Middle East region, and the diplomatic, political, economic, and military components of a comprehensive strategy to maintain and advance such interests as the Armed Forces are redeployed from Iraq.
  - A justification of the minimum force levels required to protect U.S. national security interests in Iraq after April 1, 2008, including (a) a description of the specific missions of the Armed Forces to be undertaken, (b) the projected number of Armed Forces necessary to carry out the missions, (c) the projected annual cost of the missions and (d) the expected duration of the missions.
  - As part of the justification, the President would be required, at a minimum, to address whether it is necessary for the Armed Forces to carry out the following missions: (a) protecting U.S. diplomatic facilities and U.S. citizens, including members of the Armed Forces who are engaged in carrying out other missions, (b) serving in roles consistent with customary diplomatic positions, (c) engaging in actions to disrupt and eliminate al-Qaeda and its affiliated organizations in Iraq, and (d) training and equipping members of the Iraqi Security Forces.
  - Finally, the President would be required to lay out specific diplomatic initiatives to engage U.S. allies and others in the region to bring stability to Iraq.
- **Regular Strategy and Progress Updates Required.** The bill would require the President to transmit to Congress an update to the comprehensive strategy for Iraq not later than July 1, 2008 and every 90 days thereafter, including a description of the number of Armed Forces deployed to Iraq and the missions for which such Armed Forces are deployed.
  - **Openness and Transparency Required for Strategy.** The bill would further require that the comprehensive strategy and any updates thereof be transmitted to Congress in unclassified form, although the bill does permit the inclusion of a classified annex to the reports.

#### **H.R. 1851 - SECTION 8 VOUCHER REFORM ACT OF 2007**

- **Reliable Section 8 Voucher Funding Formula.** H.R. 1851 authorizes the Section 8 low-income housing voucher program through FY 2012, and alters calculations of income, tenant rent, and public housing authority (PHA) funding. H.R. 1851 establishes a new reliable funding allocation formula for the renewal of Section 8 vouchers. H.R. 1851 includes provisions for reallocating unused funds and permitting public housing authorities (PHA) to borrow against future appropriations. These provisions will create a more efficient funding allocation by shifting resources from agencies not using all their funds to agencies that can use them to serve more families.
- **Simplified Rent and Recertification Procedures.** H.R. 1851 reforms the rules used to establish rents, while maintaining the essential and longstanding statutory provisions that keep rents affordable for lower

income families. The bill simplifies the income calculation process by streamlining deductions, permitting families on fixed incomes to self-certify their income for up to three years, and permitting PHAs to use tenants' prior-year income to calculate current year income.

- **Streamlined Inspection Process.** H.R. 1851 makes minor changes to inspection requirements to ease administrative burdens and encourage occupancy, while at the same time maintaining the essential tenant protections that tenants should not move into unsafe units and that such units should be maintained at levels that meet federal Housing Quality Standards (HQS).
- **Self-Sufficiency Incentives.** H.R. 1851 includes a number of provisions designed to create incentives for families to obtain employment, increase earned income, pursue higher education, and save for retirement. The bill increases flexibility to use vouchers for homeownership and amends voucher targeting rules to increase voucher opportunities for lower income working families in rural areas.
- **Portability.** H.R. 1851 reforms the financing of “portability” moves, so that families can more easily exercise their right to move with a voucher and agencies can save burdensome paperwork and avoid cash-flow problems.
- **Housing Innovation Program.** H.R. 1851 expands the number of public housing agencies that can participate in the Housing Innovation Program [renamed from "Moving to Work"], which lets agencies experiment with development, financing, and work incentive proposals, while also adding substantial tenant protections to the program

### **Anticipated Amendments to H.R. 1851:**

**Waters (CA): Manager's Amendment.** The amendment includes increased rent structure flexibility while maintaining affordability requirements, an increase up to 12.5% in first year permitted housing agency voucher reserves, provisions spelling out HUD responsibilities with respect to access to HUD programs for persons with Limited English Proficiency, modifications to voucher inspection requirements, and changes to the Housing Innovation Program. (10 minutes)

**Velázquez (NY):** The amendment requires that public housing agencies selected for participation in the Housing Innovation Program must comply with voucher and public housing domestic violence provisions from the Violence Against Women Act. (10 minutes)

**Miller, Gary (CA)/Chabot (OH):** The amendment will impose a 7-year time limit on participation in the Section 8 program. The amendment excludes the elderly and disabled from this requirement. In addition, the amendment provides for a hardship exception. (10 minutes)

**Markey (MA)/Pryce (OH):** The first part of the amendment would make certain low-income tenants of the Heritage Apartments in Malden, Massachusetts eligible for enhanced housing vouchers after prepayment of a HUD mortgage and subsequent ownership transfer of the property without HUD restrictions that may jeopardize the housing affordability. The second part of the amendment would allow for the transfer of Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

contracts in Columbus, Ohio in the University District and in Cincinnati, Ohio in the Over-the-Rhine Community. (10 minutes)

**Chabot (OH):** The amendment would strike the authorization of appropriations for the creation of 20,000 new vouchers each year for years FY 2008 through FY 2012. (10 minutes)

**Hensarling (TX)/Chabot (OH):** The amendment requires that all adults in a household receiving Section 8 tenant assistance for more than 7 consecutive years must perform 20 hours per week of approved "work activities." Exemptions are provided for senior citizens, the disabled, those already exempt from TANF work requirements, and those who cannot access child care. (10 minutes)

"The clash of ideas is the sound of freedom."  
– Lady Bird Johnson 12/22/1912–7/11/2007

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