

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

House Meets At...	Votes Predicted At...
10:00 a.m. For Legislative Business	Last Vote: 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Fifteen "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.R. 1483 - Celebrating America's Heritage Act (Rep. Regula-Natural Resources)**: Pursuant to the rule, debate on the bill will be managed by Natural Resources Committee Chair Rep. Nick Rahall, and will proceed as follows:
 - One hour of debate on the bill.
 - Possible debate and vote on a Republican motion to recommit the bill.
 - Vote on final passage of the bill. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on final passage.**
- **H. Res. 764-Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 505 – Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2007 (Rep. Hastings-Rules)**: The structured rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. The rule makes in order only the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report if offered by Rep. Flake or his designee. Provides one motion to recommit H.R. 505 with or without instructions. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rep. Alcee Hastings, and consideration will proceed as follows:
 - 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. 505 – Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2007(Rep. Abercrombie-Natural Resources):** Pursuant to the rule, debate on the bill will be managed by Natural Resources Committee Chair Rep. Nick Rahall, or his designee, and will proceed as follows:
 - One hour of debate on the bill.
 - Possible debate and vote on an amendment to the bill.
 - Possible debate and vote on a Republican motion to recommit the bill.
 - Vote on final passage of the bill. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on final passage.**

Bill Summary and Key Issues

H.R. 1483 - Celebrating America's Heritage Act

Authorizes Funding for Nine Existing National Heritage Areas. H.R. 1483 would authorize additional funding for nine national heritage areas (NHAs): America's Agricultural Heritage Partnership (Silos and Smokestacks) (IA), Augusta Canal (GA), Essex (MA), Hudson River Valley (NY), Coal (WV), Ohio and Erie Canal (OH), Rivers of Steel (PA), South Carolina (SC), and Tennessee Civil War (TN), and requires the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the long-term viability of each of these existing national heritage areas.

Establishes Six New Heritage Areas. The bill, as amended, would establish six new national heritage areas: Journey through Hallowed Ground NHA (VA, WV, MD and PA); Niagara Falls NHA (NY), Muscle Shoals NHA (AL), Freedom's Way NHA (MA and NH), Abraham Lincoln NHA (AZ); and Santa Cruz Valley NHA (AZ). Each of these proposed national heritage areas have been studied and meet the standards set forth for suitability and feasibility of such areas. Supporters of each area include residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and local and state governments who are all involved in the planning. Each proposed national heritage area has also identified a potential management entity and developed a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public.

Authorizes Study of Potential New Heritage Area and Make technical corrections to Six Existing NHA's. H.R. 1483 would require a study of Virginia's Northern Neck as a possible national heritage area; make technical changes to the management language governing the Ohio and Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor, National Coal Heritage Area, and Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor (NY); add counties to the South Carolina and Rivers of Steel NHAs; and temporarily extend the authorization of the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route.

H.R. 505 – Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2007

Process for Reorganization. H.R. 505 provides a process for the reorganization of a single Native Hawaiian governing entity and reaffirms the special political and legal relationship between the United States and Native Hawaiians. The bill establishes a process to form a Native Hawaiian governing entity that could negotiate with the state and federal government on behalf of the indigenous people of Hawaii. Since the annexation of the Territory of Hawaii, Native Hawaiians, Hawaii's indigenous peoples, have been treated by Congress in a manner similar to American Indians and Alaska Natives. This legislation codifies the Federal relationship with Native Hawaiians, as expressed in over 160 laws.

Establishes Office for Native Hawaiian Relations and Interagency Coordinating Group. H.R. 505 establishes the U.S. Office for Native Hawaiian Relations within the Office of the Secretary of the Interior. The Office for Native Hawaiian Relations would effectuate and coordinate the relationship between the Native Hawaiian governing entity and the United States through the Secretary, and with all other Federal agencies. Furthermore, the Office for Native Hawaiian Relations would consult with the Native Hawaiian governing entity and with the Interagency Coordinating Group, (established by this legislation) to coordinate federal programs and policies that affect Native Hawaiians, their resources and their lands.

Establishes Native Hawaiian Relations Commission and Affirms of Existing Law & Sovereign Immunity. This legislation establishes a Commission to prepare and maintain a roll of the adult members of the Native Hawaiian community. H.R. 505 clearly states that civil and criminal jurisdiction currently held by the federal and state governments will remain with the federal and state governments, unless further legislation is enacted.

No Gaming. H.R. 505 makes it clear that the Native Hawaiian Governing entity will not be authorized to conduct gaming under the authority of federal law. Moreover, all forms of gaming are criminally prohibited under the laws of the State of Hawaii.

No eligibility for BIA programs. H.R. 505 makes it clear that Native Hawaiians are not eligible for Indian programs or services and thus do not compete with program funding for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Anticipated Amendment to H.R. 505

Flake (AZ): Amendment states that nothing in the Act shall relieve any sovereign entity, including a Native Hawaiian governing entity, from complying with the equal protection clause of the 14th amendment to the United States Constitution.
(10 Minutes)

Quote of the Day

“Life is not a static thing. The only people who do not change their minds are... those in cemeteries” -Everett M. Dirksen

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