



Legislative Bulletin.....July 16, 2014

Contents:

Amendments to H.R. 5016 – Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2015
(Crenshaw, R-FL) – Part III

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The Committee Report can be found [here](#), and the text of the legislation can be found [here](#).

1. **[Fleming \(R-LA\)](#)**: Would prohibit funds to implement guidance issued by the Treasury ([FIN-2014-G001](#)) that “clarifies how financial institutions can provide services to marijuana related businesses.” Some view this guidance as facilitating the business activities of marijuana dispensaries. However, under [federal law](#), marijuana is illegal. Treasury [responded to questions](#) from Senators Feinstein and Grassley on this guidance. For additional information, please see the [Dear Colleague](#) from the amendment sponsor.
2. **[Gosar \(R-AZ\)](#)**: Prohibits bonuses for senior IRS employees. Despite recent scandals, the IRS [has again begun providing employee](#) bonuses to the tune of \$63 million, after the previous IRS Administrator felt it was inappropriate to award bonuses. This includes \$1 million in bonuses [for employees who failed to pay their own taxes](#). For more information, please see the [Dear Colleague](#) from the amendment sponsor.
3. **[Grayson \(D-FL\)](#)**: Would prohibit funds made available under this bill to pay federal employees at the [base General Schedule annual rate](#) of Grade 1, Steps 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6; or Grade 2 Step 1 or 2 or the [base General Schedule hourly rate](#) of Grade 1, Steps 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6; or Grade 2, Step 1 or 2.

This amendment is meant to prohibit paying federal employees less than \$21,315 per year or \$10.21 per hour. However, all domestic federal employees receive [locality pay](#) that is higher than the base wage rate. The likely practical effect of this amendment would be that many federal workers at these pay rates would lose their jobs and become unemployed.

4. [Heck \(D-WA\)](#): Would prohibit funds to penalize a financial institution that provides services to a business involved in marijuana in 34 states that have legalized or decriminalized the drug. Under [federal law](#), marijuana is illegal.
5. [DeSantis \(R-FL\)](#): Would prohibit the IRS from maintaining an electronic messaging system that does not comply with the law requiring safeguards against loss of records ([44 USC 3105](#)). It was [recently revealed](#) that Lois Lerner may have used instant messaging to avoid Congressional oversight.
6. [DeSantis \(R-FL\)](#): Would prohibit funds for the IRS to hold or attend conferences. The IRS [has a history](#) of wasting money on conferences.
7. [Blackburn \(R-TN\)](#): Would reduce the discretionary funding in the bill by one percent, across the board. This would cut the bill by about \$228 million, according to the amendment sponsor.
8. [Blackburn \(R-TN\)](#): Would prohibit funds from the Treasury's [Hardest Hit Fund](#) to be used to bail out pension funds of state or local governments. It has [been reported](#) that the Administration is considering using [\\$100 million from this fund](#) to bail out Detroit. The [American Conservative Union](#) and the [National Taxpayers Union](#) support this amendment.
9. [Blackburn \(R-TN\)](#): Would prohibit the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) from preempting state laws regarding the regulation of municipal broadband in twenty states specified in the amendment. The Chairman of the FCC has stated in Congressional testimony that he [intends to preempt state laws](#) regarding municipal broadband. Rep. Blackburn and 59 Members [wrote to the FCC](#) on this issue in June, but have yet to receive a response from the FCC. The [Business Coalition for Fair Competition](#) and the [National Taxpayers Union](#) support this amendment.
10. [Blackburn \(R-TN\)](#): Would prohibit funds to implement the Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) [Voluntary Remedial Actions and Guidelines for Voluntary Recall Notices](#) proposed rule. This proposed regulation would replace current voluntary recall system that according to the amendment sponsor has been successful. It has been [reported](#) that the new system would be legally binding and subject to litigation.
11. [Massie \(R-KY\)](#): Would prohibit the District of Columbia from enforcing certain D.C. laws specified in the amendment text that restrict its citizens' access to firearms. The [NRA](#) has background information on some of the restrictions placed on D.C. residents.

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