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# H.R. 2061 — North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017 (Rep. Ros-Lehtinen, R-FL)

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

## FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on September 25, 2017, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 vote for passage.

### TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 2061](#) would reauthorize the [North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004](#), and authorize the appropriation of \$10 million each year over the 2018-2022 period for programs to improve access to information in North Korea, promote democracy and respect for human rights in that country, and provide humanitarian assistance to North Korean refugees.

### COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 2061 would cost, on net, \$9 million over the 2018-2022 period, assuming appropriation actions consistent with the legislation.

### CONSERVATIVE 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:

H.R. 2061 would express a sense of Congress that the United States should continue to seek cooperation from all foreign governments to allow the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees access to process North Korean refugees overseas for resettlement and to allow United States officials access to process refugees for resettlement in the United States; the Secretary of State, through persistent diplomacy by senior officials, including United States ambassadors to Asia-Pacific countries, and in close cooperation with United States ally South Korea, should make every effort to promote the protection of North Korean refugees and defectors; and because North Koreans fleeing into China face a well-founded fear of persecution upon their forcible repatriation, the United States should urge China to immediately halt the forcible repatriation of North Koreans.

The bill would further express an additional sense of Congress that as specified in section 3(3) of the [North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2008](#) (Public Law 110-346; 22 U.S.C. 7801 note), that “the Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues should be a full-time position within the Department of State in order to properly promote and coordinate North Korean human rights and humanitarian issues, and to participate in policy planning and implementation with respect to refugee issues”.

H.R. 2061 would reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 through 2022 and authorize \$3,000,000 to be appropriated to increase the availability of information inside North

Korea by increasing the availability of sources of information not controlled by the Government of North Korea, including sources such as radios capable of receiving broadcasting from outside North Korea, USB drives, micro SD cards, audio players, video players, cell phones, wi-fi, wireless internet, webpages, internet, wireless telecommunications, and other electronic media that share information. The bill would further require reports to be submitted to Congress through 2022 from the Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights, on Humanitarian Assistance to North Koreans, as well as other reporting requirements outlined in the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004.

The President, acting through the Secretary of State, would be authorized to distribute or provide grants to distribute information receiving devices, electronically readable devices, and other informational sources into North Korea. The Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) would be authorized to broadcast American, Korean, and other popular music, television, movies, and popular cultural references as part of its programming, and would be required to broadcast to North Korea in the Korean language information on rights, laws, and freedoms afforded through the North Korean Constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and any other applicable treaties or international agreements to which North Korea is bound.

H.R. 2061 would repeal duplicative authorizations in the [North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016](#).

[The bill](#) would also require two reports from the BBG and Department of State on the status of current United States broadcasting to North Korea, and a description of any ongoing or planned efforts of the Department of State with respect to resuming the repatriation from North Korea of members of the United States Armed Forces missing or unaccounted for during the Korean War, respectively.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

H.R. 2061 was introduced on April 6, 2017, and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. On [July 27, 2017](#), the bill was ordered to be reported in the nature of a substitute (amended) by voice vote.

**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 the following: Article I, Section 8." No specific enumerating clause was listed.

# S. 1141 — Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017 (Sen. Shaheen, D-NH)

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

## FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on September 25, 2017, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 vote for passage.

### TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[S. 1141](#) would require the President to develop a strategy to promote the participation of women abroad in mediation and negotiation processes seeking to prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict.

### COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that any additional efforts and the required reports in the bill would in total cost less than \$500,000 over the 2018-2022 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting S. 1141 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting S. 1141 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

### CONSERVATIVE 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. 1141 would express a sense of Congress that: the meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention and conflict resolution processes helps to promote more inclusive and democratic societies and is critical to the long-term stability of countries and regions; the political participation, and leadership of women in fragile environments, particularly during democratic transitions, is critical to sustaining lasting democratic institutions; and the United States should be a global leader in promoting the meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention, management, and resolution, and post-conflict relief and recovery efforts.

S. 1141 would express a statement of policy of the United States to promote the meaningful participation of women in all aspects of overseas conflict prevention, management, and resolution, and post-conflict relief and recovery efforts, reinforced through diplomatic efforts and programs that integrate the perspectives and interests of affected women into conflict-prevention activities and strategies; and encourage partner governments to adopt plans to improve the meaningful participation of women in peace and security processes and decision-making institutions.

The bill would require the President to develop a single government-wide strategy, to be known as the Women, Peace, and Security Strategy, that provides a detailed description of how the United States intends to fulfill specified policy objectives. The strategy would: support and be aligned with plans developed by other countries to improve the meaningful participation of women in peace and

security processes, conflict prevention, peace building, transitional processes, and decision-making institutions; and include specific and measurable goals, benchmarks, performance metrics, timetables, and monitoring and evaluation plans to ensure the accountability and effectiveness of all policies and initiatives carried out under the strategy.

The Secretary of State, in conjunction with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) would be required to ensure that all appropriate personnel responsible for or deploying to countries or regions considered to be at risk of violent conflict obtain training in conflict prevention, mitigation, and resolution, protecting civilians from violence, exploitation, and trafficking in persons, international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

The Secretary of Defense would also be required to ensure that relevant personnel receive training in conflict prevention, peace processes, mitigation, resolution, and security initiatives that specifically addresses the importance of meaningful participation by women, gender considerations and meaningful participation by women, and effective strategies and best practices for ensuring meaningful participation by women.

The Secretary of State and the USAID Administrator would be authorized to establish guidelines or take other steps to ensure overseas United States personnel of the Department of State or USAID consult with appropriate stakeholders, including local women, youth, ethnic, and religious minorities, and other politically under-represented or marginalized populations, regarding United States efforts to prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

S. 1141 was introduced on May 16, 2017, and was referred to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. On August 3, 2017, the bill passed the Senate without amendment by voice vote. On August 4, 2017, the bill was received in the House.

**ADMINISTRATION POSITION:**

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:**

Statements of constitutional authority are not required for Senate bills.

# H. Res. 311 — Recognizing that for 50 years the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has worked toward stability, prosperity, and peace in Southeast Asia (Rep. Castro, D-TX)

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

## FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on September 25, 2017, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 vote for passage.

### TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H. Res. 311](#) would express the sense of the House of Representatives supporting and affirming the elevation of the United States-[ASEAN](#) relationship to a strategic partnership, and reaffirming the United States commitment to promoting a rules-based order in the Asia-Pacific and economic growth, peace, human rights and stability in Southeast Asia.

### COST:

No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available.

### CONSERVATIVE 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:

H. Res. 311 would express the sense of the House of Representatives supporting and affirming the elevation of the United States-ASEAN relationship to a strategic partnership. The resolution would: recognize the value of ASEAN working with economic, political, and security partners to both strengthen existing initiatives and to develop new initiatives that address mutual strategic concerns; encourage the enhancement of economic engagement between the United States and ASEAN through the elimination of trade barriers; support cooperation with ASEAN to implement practical counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism measures, including efforts to counter homegrown radicalization and stem foreign fighter travel; support efforts by ASEAN member states and other regional states, including the People's Republic of China, to address maritime and territorial disputes in a constructive manner and to pursue claims, through diplomacy and the use of legitimate regional and international arbitration mechanisms, consistent with international law, including through the adoption of a code of conduct in the South China Sea to further promote peace and stability in the region; urge all parties to maritime and territorial disputes in the Asia-Pacific region to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would undermine stability or escalate disputes through the use of coercion, intimidation, or military force, and refrain from efforts to militarize uninhabited islands, reefs, shoals, and other features; and reaffirm the commitment of the United States to continue joint efforts with ASEAN to halt human smuggling and trafficking in persons and urges

ASEAN to make increased efforts to create and strengthen regional mechanisms to provide assistance and support to refugees and migrants.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

H. Res. 311 was introduced on May 3, 2017, and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. On [July 27, 2017](#), the bill was ordered to be reported in the nature of a substitute (amended) by voice vote.

**ADMINISTRATION POSITION:**

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:**

No constitutional authority statement is available.

# H.R. 2519 – The American Legion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act (Rep. Walz, D-MN)

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

## FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on September 25, 2017, under a suspension of the rules, which require a 2/3 majority for passage.

## TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 2519](#) would require the Department of the Treasury to mint and issue commemorative coins in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Legion. Surcharges resulting from the sale of the coins would be paid to the American Legion to pay for costs pertaining to promoting the importance of caring for those serving or have served in the armed forces and for maintaining patriotic values, assistance for at risk children, and promoting strong families.

## COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is not available.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

## CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

Some conservatives may believe that the minting power should not be used to raise funds for specific private causes or organizations.

- **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:

The American Legion was founded in Paris, France in 1919 by members of the American Expeditionary Force following World War I. The Legion, concerned about the welfare of their fellow soldiers returning from war, quickly grew to be the largest veterans' service organization in the United States.

This legislation would authorize the Treasury Department to mint not more than 50,000 \$5 gold coins, not more than 400,000 \$1 silver coins, and not more than 750,000 half-dollar clad coins. The Secretary would be required to ensure that minting and issuing the coins would not result in a net cost to the U.S. government.

## COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 2519 was introduced on May 18, 2017, and was referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

**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 the following: Clause 5 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution.

# H.R. 1235 - Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act (Rep. Neal, D-MA)

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

## FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on September 25, 2017, under a suspension of the rules, which require a 2/3 majority for passage.

## TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 1235](#) would require the Department of the Treasury to mint and issue commemorative coins in honor of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Surcharges resulting from the sale of the coins would fund an endowment for educational programming and increased operations.

## COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is not available.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

## CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

Some conservatives may believe that the minting power should not be used to raise funds for specific private causes or organizations.

- **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:

On December 21, 1891, James Naismith first introduced the game of basketball to his PE class in Springfield Massachusetts. The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, named in his honor, was established in 1959, to honor the game at all levels all around the world.

This legislation would authorize the Treasury Department to mint not more than 50,000 \$5 gold coins, not more than 400,000 \$1 silver coins, and not more than 750,000 half-dollar clad coins. The Treasury Department would hold a competition to determine the design of the coins.

## COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 1235 was introduced on February 27, 2017, and was referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

## 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 the following: Article 1, Section 8. "The Congress shall have the power . . . to coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures."

# H.R. \_\_\_\_ — Disaster Tax Relief and Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2017 (Rep. Brady, R-TX)

CONTACT: [Noelani Bonifacio](#), [Amanda Lincoln](#) and [Jennifer Weinhart](#), 202-226-9719,

## FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered September 25, 2017, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

### TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. \\_\\_\\_\\_](#) would extend the authorization for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as well as the taxes and expenditure authority for the Airport and Airways Trust Fund through March 31, 2018. The bill would also extend certain expiring health care programs. The bill would also amend the [Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973](#) to clarify that flood insurance that has been obtained through private firms satisfies the requirement that homeowners possess flood insurance for properties in flood zones that are backed by a federal financing guarantee. Finally, the bill would provide targeted tax relief for victims of recent hurricanes.

### COST:

No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

The bill would exempt the budgetary effects of the tax provisions from the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act and the PAYGO rule in the Senate by designating that title of the bill as an emergency requirement.

### CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

Some conservatives may be concerned that this bill extends the Essential Air Service (EAS) program. This program heavily subsidizes flights to and from rural areas—often at a cost of several hundred dollars per passenger. The [RSC Budget](#) recommended eliminating the EAS.

- **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:

### Title I and Title II – Federal Aviation Programs and Aviation Revenue Provisions

The authorization for the FAA and other aviation programs is currently set to expire on September 30, 2017. This bill would extend the authorization through March 31, 2018, for:

- The Airport Improvement Program;
- Federal Aviation Administration Operations;
- Air Navigation Facilities and Equipment;
- Research, Engineering, and Development;

- The Essential Air Service;
- Revenue sources for the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, including ticket and fuel taxes; and
- Expenditure authority from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund.

### **Title III – Expiring Health Care Programs**

Title III would extend certain expiring health care programs, offset by tapping the Medicare improvement Fund (MIF). Specifically, Title III would extend the [Special Diabetes Program for Indians](#) and the [Teaching Health Care Graduate Medical Education \(GME\) program](#) created for the first quarter of FY 2018. Additionally, it would extend the [Medicare IVIG Access Demonstration Project](#) through 2020. The Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce Committees use the MIF as a “parking spot” to bank savings to offset future spending. If the MIF is not spent by Congress, the funds become available to the HHS Secretary after FY 2021 and may be used to make improvements to the Medicare fee-for-service program.

### **Title IV- Private Flood Insurance**

Title IV contains similar language to H.R. 1422, which was reported by the House Committee on Financial Services. The report accompanying H.R. 1422 can be found [here](#). Similar language, H.R. 2901, was also passed by the House in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress by a vote of [419-0](#). The RSC legislative bulletin for H.R. 2901 can be found [here](#).

Presently, the flood insurance market is highly concentrated, with roughly 5 million property owners relying on the U.S. government’s flood insurance program (NFIP), which is roughly \$23 billion in debt. Federally guaranteed mortgages for properties in flood zones are required by law to carry flood insurance. Though the current requirement to purchase flood insurance does not stipulate that the policy must be provided by the federal government, mortgage lenders have expressed uncertainty that private flood coverage satisfies federal requirements. This legislation would stipulate that licensed, admitted or state-approved private policies where the property is located would satisfy the federal requirement for flood insurance for flood-zone properties with federal guarantees as would policies provided by the NFIP. Policies issued by non-admitted insurers would also apply. Moreover, it would clarify that all federal lenders and banking regulators would be required to accept state-approved private flood insurance in order to satisfy mandatory flood insurance requirements. This legislation would re-stipulate that any building or personal property financed by a federally-backed mortgage that is designated in a special flood hazard zone would require flood insurance. Federal banking regulators would be required to instruct regulated institutions to not make loans that are secured by real property in flood zones, unless that property possesses flood insurance. Both private and NFIP plans would satisfy flood insurance requirements for regulated financial institutions.

This legislation would require Government Sponsored Entities, including the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, to require flood insurance for properties within special flood hazard areas that are purchased or guaranteed by the entities. They would be required to accept federal or private flood insurance as meeting that requirement. Mortgages offered, insured, or guaranteed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development or through Title V of the Housing Act of 1949 would also be required to accept federal or private flood insurance as meeting that requirement. This legislation would require the Federal Housing Finance Association, in consultation with other relevant groups, to establish uniform financial strength requirements for insurance providers.

This legislation would also allow the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to consider policy holders that move off a National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and later back onto a NFIP as having continuous coverage if they can demonstrate they maintained a private flood insurance

policy in the interim period. Finally, this legislation would prohibit federal regulations from conflicting with state action pertaining to the regulation of flood insurance.

### **Title V - Tax Relief for Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria**

According to [CRS](#), Congress has at times provided certain tax preferences after natural disasters.

**Penalty Free Withdrawals from Retirement Plans:** The bill would exempt qualified hurricane disbursements from retirement plans made before January 1, 2019, from the ten percent early withdrawal penalty. Penalty free withdrawals are limited to no more than \$100,000.

**Employment Retention Credits:** The bill would provide a credit to employers for up to 40 percent of wages paid (for up to \$6,000) to employees in hurricane affected areas during a time when the business is inoperable through January 1, 2018.

The credit would be available “without regard to whether the employee performs no services, performs services at a different place of employment than such principal place of employment, or performs services at such principal place of employment before significant operations have resumed.”

**Suspension of Charitable Contribution Limitations:** The bill would suspend the limitations on charitable contributions through December 31, 2017.

**Disaster Related Personal Casualty Losses:** For those affected by the hurricanes, the bill would waive the requirement that uncompensated personal casualty losses must exceed ten percent of income in order to qualify for a tax deduction.

**Special Rule for Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit:** For those in hurricane affected areas and whose income this year is less than the income of the previous year, the bill would allow taxpayers to choose to use the earned income from the preceding year for the purposes of calculating the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit.

The bill would require the Secretary of the Treasury to pay each possession of the United States (territory) that has a tax system that automatically mirrors the U.S. tax code for losses in revenue that are caused by the special rule for the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit calculation.

**PAYGO Exemption:** The bill would exempt the budgetary effects of the tax provisions from the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act and the PAYGO rule in the Senate by designating the title as an emergency requirement.

### **COMMITTEE ACTION:**

Earlier this year, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee marked up and reported [H.R. 2997](#), the 21st Century Aviation Innovation, Reform, and Reauthorization Act of 2016, which would extend aviation programs through 2023 and make major changes to the FAA’s air traffic control operations by transitioning those services to a new federally chartered ATC Corporation.

The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee recently reported [S. 1405](#), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act of 2016, which would reauthorize aviation programs in their current structure through 2017.

### **ADMINISTRATION POSITION:**

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:**

No congressional authority statement is available.

# S. 810 — A bill to facilitate construction of a bridge on certain property in Christian County, Missouri, and for other purposes (Sen. Blunt, R-MO)

CONTACT: [Noelani Bonifacio](#), 202-226-2076

## FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered September 25, 2017, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

### TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[S. 810](#) would authorize the Riverside Bridge Project in Christian County, Missouri.

### COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has [estimated](#) that implementing the bill would cost \$2 million over the 2018-2022 period, subject to appropriation. The bill would not affect direct spending or revenues, so pay-as-you-go would not apply.

### CONSERVATIVE 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?** The bill provides authorization for a specific project by waiving restrictions imposed by FEMA. The bill does not authorize or provide any specific funding for the project, and prohibits disaster assistance for the property

## DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

S. 810 would authorize the [Riverside Bridge Project](#) in Christian County, Missouri. The bill would waive deed restrictions [imposed](#) by FEMA that would otherwise prohibit construction on land adjacent to the bridge.

In carrying out the project, Christian County, Missouri must ensure there is no flood damage attributed to the project, and is liable for any flood damage that does occur as a result of the project.

The bill would also prohibit the federal government from providing disaster assistance with respect to the property.

According to the [bill's sponsor](#), S. 810 would expedite the replacement of a bridge damaged by flooding.

## COMMITTEE ACTION:

S. 810 was introduced in the Senate by Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO). The bill was passed by unanimous consent on August 3, 2017. The bill was received in the House and referred to the House

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

**ADMINISTRATION POSITION:**

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:**

Bills that originate in the Senate are not required to include Constitutional Authority Statements.

# H.R. \_\_\_\_\_ – Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2017 (Rep. Mast, R-FL)

CONTACT: [Amanda Lincoln](#), 202-226-2076

## FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on September 25, 2017, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

### TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. \\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#) would authorize the extension of authority and appropriations for numerous programs found within the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA), and make technical corrections to the Harry M. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act signed into law in August 2017.

### COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is not available at this time. According to a preliminary CBO estimate provided by the Veterans Affairs Committee, CBO estimates the bill will increase spending subject to appropriations by \$3.32 billion.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

### CONSERVATIVE 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:

H.R. \_\_\_\_\_ would authorize the extension of authority and appropriations for numerous programs within the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Title I would extend the following authorities related to health care:

- Authority for the VA to collect medical care copayments from certain veterans through September 30, 2019.
- Authority for the VA's nursing home care program for eligible veterans with service-connected disabilities through September 30, 2019.
- Authority for the VA to provide caregiver assistance and support through September 30, 2019, and authorizes \$839 million each year.
- Authority for VA's third-party medical care collections through September 30, 2019.
- Authority for the VA's pilot program on child care assistance through September 30, 2019.
- Authority for the VA's grant program supporting VSOs that provide highly rural veterans transportation to VA facilities through 2019.

- Authority for the VA's pilot program on community-based brain injury rehabilitative care services for veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury through January 6, 2018.
- Authority for the VA's pilot program on transition counseling in retreat settings for women veterans with PTSD through 2019.
- Authority for the VA's five-site pilot program providing a travel allowance for veterans seeking care from vet centers through September 30, 2018.

Title II would extend the following authorities related to veterans benefits through September 30, 2018: (1) authority to calculate net value at time of foreclosure; (2) authority to provide direct loans to buyers of VA-owned residences pooled together by the VA; and (3) authority to provide rehabilitation and vocational benefits to service members with severe injuries or illness prior to discharge.

Title III would extend the following authorities related to homeless veterans:

- Authority for the Department of Labor to operate Homeless Veterans Reintegration Programs through 2018;
- Authority to operate the HVRP program to provide employment and training programs to providers that specifically service homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children through 2018;
- Authority to provide employment services to veterans at risk of homelessness who are transitioning out of incarceration or residence in a long-term care institution for mental illness, through 2018;
- Authority to provide financial assistance for supportive services to promote housing stability for eligible low income veteran families through 2019, and authorizes \$320 million annually for the Supportive Services for Veterans Families program.
- Authority to provide grants to support homeless veterans with special needs through 2019.
- Authority for the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans, which advises the Secretary on matters related to homeless veterans, through September 30, 2018.
- Authority to offer special medical care and rehabilitation to veterans with serious mental illness and/or homeless veterans through September 30, 2019.

Title IV would extend numerous other expiring authorities, including:

- Authority to transport individuals to or from a VA facility in connection with a vocational rehabilitation or counseling through September 30, 2019.
- Authority to operate the VA Regional Office in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines through September 30, 2018.
- Authority to provide per diem pay to eligible disabled veterans residing in U.S. Olympic Committee facilities while training for the Paralympics through 2019.
- Requirement that the VA Secretary report annually to Congress regarding cases where the VA disbursed money to compensate beneficiaries adversely impacted by administrative error.
- Authorization of \$8 million in appropriations for the VA's Adaptive Sports Program through 2019.
- Authority for the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans through September 30, 2018.
- Extension of authority to adapt the homes of Post-9/11 veterans who have difficulty walking without assistance through 2018.
- Authority for Specially Adapted Housing Assistive Technology Grant Program through September 30, 2018.

- Authority to guarantee payment of principal and interest on Certificates or other securities through September 30, 2018.
- Authority to extend the requirement that the VA contract with the National Academies of Medicine for biennial literature review on the health effects of Agent Orange exposure through September 30, 2018.
- Authority to extend the payment of reporting fees at the rate of \$6 per student through July 31, 2018, and at a rate of \$15 per student through July 31, 2020.

Title V includes technical corrections to the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2017, which the House passed by a vote of [405-0](#) on July 24, 2017.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

This bill has not seen Committee action.

**ADMINISTRATION POSITION:**

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:**

No constitutional authority statement is available.

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**NOTE:** *RSC Legislative Bulletins are for informational purposes only and should not be taken as statements of support or opposition from the Republican Study Committee.*