



Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Peter A. DeFazio
Chairman

Katherine W. Dedrick, Staff Director

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Ranking Member

Paul J. Sass, Republican Staff Director

February 25, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
FROM: Staff, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
RE: Full Committee Markup of Budget Views and Estimates, H. Con. Res. 16, H. Con. Res. 19, H.R. 1318, and H.R. 639

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will meet in open session on Wednesday, February 27, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., in room HVC-210, Capitol Visitor Center, to mark up the following items:

- Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Views and Estimates of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure;
- H. Con. Res. 16 – authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition;
- H. Con. Res. 19 – authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby;
- H.R. 1318 – to direct the Library of Congress to obtain a stained glass panel depicting the seal of the District of Columbia and install the panel among the stained glass panels depicting the seals of States which overlook the Main Reading Room of the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building; and
- H.R. 639 – to amend section 327 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to clarify that National Urban Search and Rescue Response System task forces may include Federal employees.

FY 2020 BUDGET VIEWS AND ESTIMATES OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Under section 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act and House Rule X, clause 4(f), each legislative committee is required to submit to the Committee on the Budget its views and estimates on the forthcoming budget.

The Committee Views and Estimates state that the Committee believes that America's infrastructure network is essential to the quality of life of our citizens and the productivity of the nation's economy, and that through direct investment, we can build a 21st century infrastructure for America that creates jobs, including family-wage jobs, facilitates economic growth, and ensures global competitiveness. It requests that the fiscal year 2020 budget resolution reflect the authorized levels in the FAST Act, repeal the rescission in Section 1438 of that Act, and establish a new budgetary baseline accordingly. In addition, the Committee requests a deficit neutral reserve fund for infrastructure. It also states that the Committee's bipartisan legislative priorities this year include: an infrastructure investment bill; a long-term surface transportation bill; a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) bill; measures to improve economic development programs; and, reauthorizing the United States Coast Guard, the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's pipeline safety programs, and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

In addition, the document states that not all Members of the Committee necessarily agree with every aspect of the report. Accordingly, the Committee reserves its flexibility to determine program needs and recognizes the potential for funding changes as the Committee and Congress work their will through the legislative process.

Prior Legislative and Oversight Activities

Each year, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure submits to the Committee on the Budget its Views and Estimates on the forthcoming budget.

Amendments

No amendments to the Budget Views and Estimates are expected at this time.

Committee Staff Contact

Jill Harrelson (ext. 5-0484)

H. Con. Res. 16 – Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition

H. Con. Res. 16 authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation which designated May 15th as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as "Police Week." Today, tens of thousands of law enforcement officers from around the world come to Washington, D.C. to participate in events during that week to honor those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Among the events during Police Week are the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

The Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police will sponsor a public event on May 15, 2019, the 38th Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service on the Capitol Grounds, in order to honor the law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty during 2018. Over 140 fallen federal, state, and local law enforcement officers will be honored during the ceremony for their ultimate sacrifice.

In addition, the Fraternal Order of Police National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition will utilize the area surrounding the Grant Statue on the East side of the Capitol Reflection Pool on May 14, 2019, to provide for law enforcement from around the country to exhibit their ability to demonstrate Honor Guard programs and for a separate Big Pipe Band exhibition.

Prior Legislative and Oversight Activities

The Committee has considered similar concurrent resolutions for the last several years.

Amendments

No amendments to H. Con. Res. 16 are expected at this time.

Committee Staff Contact

Aaron Davis (ext. 6-8776)

H. Con. Res. 19 – Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby

H. Con. Res. 19 authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

The Greater Washington Soap Box Derby occurs annually on the Capitol Grounds. The Soap Box Derby allows children to demonstrate their dedication, work, and creativity as they compete for trophies.

The first official All-American Soap Box Derby was held in Dayton, Ohio in 1934 and moved to Akron, Ohio the following year. The Soap Box Derby continued until the beginning of World War II and resumed in 1946. While initially the Soap Box Derby was only open to boys, in 1971, girls began racing.

The Greater Washington Soap Box Derby is one of many local races that will qualify winning competitors to participate in the National Soap Box Derby in Ohio.

Prior Legislative and Oversight Activities

The Committee has considered similar concurrent resolutions for the last several years.

Amendments

No amendments to H. Con. Res. 19 are expected at this time.

Committee Staff Contact

Aaron Davis (ext. 6-8776)

H.R. 1318 – To direct the Library of Congress to obtain a stained glass panel depicting the seal of the District of Columbia and install the panel among the stained glass panels depicting the seals of States which overlook the Main Reading Room of the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building

H.R. 1318 would direct the Librarian of Congress to obtain a stained glass panel depicting the seal of the District of Columbia and install the panel among the stained glass panels depicting the seals of States which overlook the Main Reading Room of the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building concurrently with the planned renovation and replacement of the existing glass panels.

The Committee understands there is a planned renovation and replacement of the existing glass panels and seals after which all of the seals for the 50 States, in addition to those of the U.S. territories, are expected to be included. This legislation is intended to ensure the seal of the District of Columbia is included when the planned renovation occurs. Ensuring the inclusion of the D.C. seal happens concurrently with the renovation will minimize costs to the taxpayer.

Prior Legislative and Oversight Activities

The Committee considered similar legislation during the 114th Congress, and reported out amended language. The amended language from the 114th Congress is reflected in H.R. 1318.

Amendments

No amendments to H.R. 1318 are expected at this time.

Committee Staff Contact

Aaron Davis (ext. 6-8776)

H.R. 639 – To amend section 327 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to clarify that National Urban Search and Rescue Response System task forces may include Federal employees

H.R. 639 is a technical correction which would amend section 327 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to explicitly clarify that Federal employees are allowed to participate in the National Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Response System task forces, coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Following enactment of P.L. 114-326, the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System Act, certain Federal agencies that employ members of some of these task forces have been misinterpreting language which granted liability protections for non-Federal task force members equal to Federal first responders—only when their task force was called into Federal Service—as an impediment to those Federal employees serving on a task force.

FEMA has developed the National USAR Response System over the last several decades to act as a force multiplier for disaster rescue missions. The System is comprised of 28 task force teams from across the country and comprised of highly skilled volunteers who are constantly training for a variety of hazard scenarios, both man-made and natural, and task force teams have proven their effectiveness time and again.

Prior Legislative and Oversight Activities

The Committee has never considered this legislation, but S. 2971, which became P.L. 114-326, was considered by the House under suspension of the rules on Dec. 7, 2016, and passed 405-7.

Amendments

No amendments to H.R. 639 are expected at this time.

Committee Staff Contact

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