Friday, July 7, 2006

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CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE  NEW

The House and Senate have been out of session this week for the July 4 recess. Both chambers will reconvene on Monday at 2:00 p.m.

The House next week plans to take up a bill to overhaul the credit rating industry (H.R. 2990) and a bill to make it illegal for credit card companies to accept payments for unlawful Internet gambling (H.R. 4411). The chamber also may consider legislation to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act (H.R. 9) later in the week, and possibly a bill to remove the jurisdiction of the federal courts in cases involving challenges to the “under God” phrase in the Pledge of Allegiance (H.R. 2389).

The Senate this week will begin consideration of the FY07 Homeland Security appropriations bill (H.R. 5441).

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS

SENATE TO TAKE UP FIRST OF ITS FY07 FUNDING BILLS  NEW

As noted above, the Senate next week will consider the first of its FY07 appropriations bills, Homeland Security (H.R. 5441). The Senate Appropriations Committee has approved six of the 12 FY07 bills, with two more scheduled for this week: Commerce-Justice-Science and District of Columbia. The four remaining bills are scheduled for committee action the week of July 20: Defense, Labor-HHS-Education, Military Construction-Veterans Affairs, and Transportation-Treasury.

The House has passed all of its funding bills except the Labor-HHS-Education measure (H.R. 5647). Floor consideration of the bill has been delayed—and could wait until after the November election—because a controversial amendment to raise the minimum wage was added
during committee mark-up and the Republican leadership, which opposes it, appears to lack sufficient votes to delete it on the House floor.

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE TO MARK UP COMMERCE-JUSTICE–SCIENCE BILL NEXT WEEK  NEW

The Senate Appropriations Committee has announced that the FY07 appropriations bill for Commerce-Justice-Science and Related Agencies (H.R. 5672) will be marked up in subcommittee on Tuesday, July 11. As reported previously, full committee mark-up for the bill is scheduled for Thursday, July 13. During that session the full committee also will mark up the FY07 District of Columbia funding bill.

OTHER

ASSOCIATIONS THANK HOUSE LEADERS FOR ACI FUNDING  NEW

AAU, the American Council on Education, and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges sent letters to the House Majority and Minority leaders on June 30 commending the House for providing the additional FY07 research investments proposed by the President in his American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI).

The three associations thanked House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL), Majority Leader John Boehner (R-OH), Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), and Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD) for the increased research funding the House provided for the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

The letter urged that the House also approve the complementary competitiveness authorization legislation reported by the House Science Committee in early June, which strengthens existing mathematics and science education and research programs at NSF and the DOE Office of Science.

A copy of the associations’ letter is available on the AAU Web site at: http://www.aau.edu/research/Ltr_HouseMajMin_ACI_6-30-06.pdf.

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