

Washington Watch: Legislative Update For the Week of 2 August 2010

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I. LEGISLATIVE NEWS AND ACTIVITY

National President Chuck Canterbury announced that the FOP had four of its members appointed to the review boards which will consider nominees for the Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery. National President Canterbury and National Vice President David Hiller will serve on the board reviewing nominees of State and local officers, and D.C. State Lodge Vice President Andy Maybo and Michael Stenger, United States Secret Service Assistant Director, will serve on the board reviewing Federal officer nominees.

Executive Director Jim Pasco met with Assistant Director Stenger to discuss the Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery and other security-related issues.

Legislative Liaison Irene Egan met with staff in the office of Senator Alan S. Franken (D-MN) to discuss draft legislation.

II. THIS WEEK IN CONGRESS

The House was in recess this week, but the Senate was in session. The Senate is expected to go into recess today until 13 September. The House will return for one day next week to finalize action on H.R. 1586 and it will return to recess until after Labor Day.

Action in the Senate

The Senate considered and voted 63-37 in favor of Elena Kagan to be the next Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

The Senate considered and passed H.R. 1586, the "FAA Air Transportation Modernization and Safety Improvement Act," on 61-39 vote. Despite its name, the bill would provide \$10 billion for education jobs and give six more months of increased federal Medicaid reimbursements to States at a cost of \$16.1 billion. The bill will be transmitted to the House, which is expected to pass it on a special one day session next week.

III. UPDATE ON FOP TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

For the complete list of cosponsors for all of our top legislative priorities, or to find out if your Representative and Senators are cosponsors of specific bills, check out <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

A. Social Security Issues

(1) Support H.R. 235/S. 484, the "Social Security Fairness Act"

We currently have a total of three hundred and twenty-two (322) cosponsors on H.R. 235--more than a House majority! Please note that this total differs slightly from THOMAS, as we are not including six (6) Representatives who are no longer serving in Congress, nor the four (4) Delegates, who have limited voting rights on the floor.

We currently have thirty (30) cosponsors on S. 484. Please note that this total differs slightly

from THOMAS, as we are not including in our count Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), who died last year. Senator Kennedy's successor, Senator Scott P. Brown (R-MA), is not currently a cosponsor of the bill.

(2) Opposing any legislation that would require the participation of public employees in Social Security

The FOP will continue to lobby against this scheme and oppose any legislation which would mandate participation in Social Security.

B. Support H.R. 413/S. 1611/S. 3194, the "Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act"

As reported late last month, the Senate rejected all House amendments to H.R. 4899, the "Supplemental Appropriations Act," including our provision on collective bargaining. The Majority Leaders in both chambers, Senator Harry M. Reid (D-NV) and Representative Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD), both pledged that they intend to hold a vote on our bill in this Congress, be it as a stand alone measure or as part of another vehicle following the Congressional recess.

We currently have two hundred and twenty-one (221) cosponsors on H.R. 413--more than a House majority! Please note that this total differs slightly from THOMAS, as we are not including in our count three (3) Representatives no longer serving in Congress, nor the three (3) Delegates, who have limited voting rights on the floor.

We currently have twenty-three (23) cosponsors on S. 1611. Please note that this total differs slightly from THOMAS, as we are not including in our count Senators Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), who died last year, or Senator Mel Martinez (R-FL), who resigned his seat last year. Senator Scott P. Brown (R-MA), who succeeded Senator Kennedy is now a cosponsor, but Senator George LeMieux (R-FL), who succeeded Senator Martinez, is not.

In addition to S. 1611, Senator Reid introduced S. 3194, which is identical to S. 1611.

C. Support H.R. 1972, the "Law Enforcement Officer's Procedural Bill of Rights Act"

We added one (1) cosponsor to H.R. 1972, bringing our current total to ten (10) cosponsors.

The Senate companion bill has not yet been introduced.

D. Support H.R. 673, the "Law Enforcement Officers' Equity Act"

We currently have thirty-four (34) cosponsors on H.R. 673. Please note that this total differs slightly from THOMAS, as we are not including in our count two (2) Representative no longer serving in Congress.

The Senate companion bill has not yet been introduced.

IV. UPDATE ON LEGISLATION AMENDING LEOSA

In May, the Senate passed S. 1132 by unanimous consent. This legislation has been referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary for further consideration.

The National Legislative staff is having ongoing dialogue with the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee regarding S. 1132, as well as staff in the office of the House Majority Leader to discuss how the bill might be considered on the House floor.

We currently have fifteen (15) cosponsors on H.R. 3752. Please note we are not including in our count two (2) Representatives who are no longer serving in Congress. The bill is similar in most respects to the Senate companion bill, S. 1132. The House bill includes language that would also clarify the status of retired military personnel that served as law enforcement officers in their respective branch of service.

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