



THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

MEMORANDUM

January 17, 2013

To: Members and Staff

From: Majority Staff

Re: Committee on Energy and Commerce Organizational Meeting and Markup of Health and Energy related legislation

The following provides background on the resolutions and bills to be considered by the Committee on Energy and Commerce on January 22, 2013.

I. **BACKGROUND**

A. **Organization Resolutions**

The Committee will consider four resolutions to organize the Committee on Energy and Commerce:

- The first resolution will establish the Rules of the Committee. The rules are substantially similar to the rules adopted during the 112th Congress;
- The second resolution will establish the jurisdiction of the Committee's subcommittees;
- The third resolution will establish the Republican Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen, and Membership of the subcommittees; and,
- The fourth resolution will establish the Democratic Ranking Members and Membership of the subcommittees.

B. **H.R. 297, Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2013**

Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) was first enacted in 1999 to provide freestanding children's hospitals with discretionary Federal support for direct and indirect expenses associated with operating medical residency training programs. Since few children's hospitals receive Medicare funds, the legislation was designed to correct the exclusion of pediatric training in the Medicare GME program.

Congress has reauthorized CHGME twice, each time with broad bipartisan support. In 2006, Congress enacted the CHGME Support Reauthorization Act, which extended the program through Fiscal Year 2011.

In 2011, H.R. 1852, the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education Reauthorization Act of 2011, was introduced to reauthorize the program for five years. In September 2011,

H.R.1852 passed the House by a voice vote and was sent to the Senate. The text of H.R. 1852 was also incorporated into S. 1440 prior to its passage by the House of Representatives on December 19, 2012. No further action was taken during the 112th Congress.

H.R. 297, the Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2013, was introduced by Chairman Joe Pitts and Ranking Member Pallone and would extend the CHGME program until 2017 at the previous authorization level. The Report to Congress on the CHGME program was moved to 2016, a year before the bill would expire in 2017. The Report includes a summary of the annual reports prepared by the grantees as a requirement for funding that describes the following: (1) the types of residency programs; (2) the number of training positions; (3) types of training; (4) any changes in residency training curriculum; (5) a review of patient and safety care; (6) the number of residents who complete training; and, (7) recommendations for improvement.

C. H.R. 235, Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act of 2013

Members of the U.S. military who trained and served as Combat Medics face State licensing challenges when they try to find similar work after discharge. Many States do not recognize their qualifications as applicable to the licensing requirements of the civilian health care system for Emergency Medical Services, such as emergency medical technicians (EMTs) or Paramedics. State licensing laws vary, and while some States make exceptions for former military medics and allow them reciprocity and a chance to sit for the licensing exam without going through the usual training, many States do not.

In March 2012, H.R. 4124, the Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support of 2012, was introduced to address the problem. The bill would have provided demonstration grants to States with emergency medical technician shortages to help streamline State requirements and make allowances for returning veterans to enter the EMT workforce without unnecessary duplication of their training. This bill was passed by the House in September 2012 and sent to the Senate. The text of H.R. 4124 was incorporated into S. 1440 prior to its passage by the House of Representatives on December 19, 2012. No further action was taken on this bill in the 112th Congress.

H.R. 235, the Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support of 2013 would provide demonstration grants to States with EMT shortages to help streamline State requirements and make allowances for returning veterans to enter the EMT workforce without unnecessary duplication of their training by:

- Determining the extent to which the State requirements for education and training of EMTs are equivalent to that of the military; and,
- Identifying methods, such as waivers, for qualified military EMTs to forego duplicative requirements.

The bill would also provide for an annual report to Congress. Funding of \$1,000,000 for the program would be offset with funds from Area Health Education Centers, Sec. 751 of the Public Health Service Act.

D. H.R. 225, National Pediatric Research Network Act of 2013

According to the National Institutes for Health (NIH), there are between 6,000 and 7,000 diseases considered rare that affect 25 to 30 million people. Most of the approximately 7,000 rare diseases are pediatric diseases and often genetic. Unfortunately, doctors do not have sufficient therapies to treat them. The use of pediatric research consortia is a proven way to support pediatric applied research and promote coordinated research activities that focus on translating research to practice. That would result in health and health service improvements when applied directly into pediatric healthcare.

In July 2012, H.R. 6163, the National Pediatric Research Network Act of 2012, was introduced to amend the Public Health Service Act (PHSA) so that the Director of the NIH as a part of the Pediatric Research Initiative could provide for the establishment of a national pediatric research network comprised of pediatric research consortia. In September 2012, the House passed H.R. 6163 and sent the bill to the Senate. The text of H.R. 6163 was incorporated into S. 1440 prior to passage by the House of Representatives on December 19, 2012. No further action was taken on H.R. 6163 during the 112th Congress.

H.R. 225, the National Pediatric Research Network Act of 2013 would amend the PHSA so that the Director of the NIH, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, may provide for the establishment of a national pediatric research network comprised of pediatric research consortia. The Director could award cooperative agreements to those that strengthen and provide basic support to pediatric research consortia and train researchers. Consortia that receive an award would be comprised of cooperating institutions and coordinated by a lead institution. No more than 20 Pediatric research consortia could receive awards. In addition, the Director of the NIH would be able to establish a data coordinating center to support research and distribute scientific findings and provide reports to the Director of the NIH and the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration.

E. H.R. 267, Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2013

H.R. 267, the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2013, was introduced on January 15, 2013, by Representatives McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), DeGette (D-CO), Dingell (D-MI), Walden (R-OR), Terry (R-NE), Latta (R-OH), Markey (D-MA), Matheson (D-UT), and Lujan (D-NM). Identical legislation – H.R. 5892 – was passed by the House of Representatives in the 112th Congress.

The bill includes the following provisions:

Section 1: Sets forth the Act's short title and provides a table of contents.

Section 2: Sets forth findings on the untapped potential of hydropower resources, in terms of both power production and job creation.

Section 3: Facilitates the development of small hydropower projects by increasing the licensing exemption from 5 MW to 10 MW.

Section 4:

- Promotes hydropower development at conduits (i.e., man-made water conveyances such as tunnels, canals, or pipelines that are operated for water distribution and not primarily for electricity generation) by excluding projects under 5 MW from Federal licensing requirements if the project meets certain criteria.
- Facilitates conduit project development by exempting projects between 5-40 MW from Federal licensing requirements, upon approval of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Section 5: Allows FERC to extend the term of a preliminary permit for up to 2 years, for a total of 5 years, in order to allow a permittee sufficient time to develop and file a license application.

Section 6: Directs FERC to study the feasibility of establishing a streamlined 2-year licensing process for hydropower development at non-powered dams and closed-loop pumped storage projects. The results of the program will be reported to Congress.

Section 7: Directs the Secretary of Energy to complete a study of: (1) the technical flexibility and potential of certain hydropower storage facilities and technology to support intermittent renewable generation and provide grid reliability benefits; and (2) the range of opportunities for hydropower from conduits.

F. H.R. _____, Collinsville Renewable Energy Promotion Act

H.R. _____, the Collinsville Renewable Energy Promotion Act, was released on January 17, 2013, by Rep. Elizabeth Etsy (D-CT). Identical legislation – H.R. 5625 – was passed by the House of Representatives in the 112th Congress.

The bill includes the following provisions:

Section 1: Provides the short title of “Collinsville Renewable Energy Promotion Act.”

Section 2: Provides that FERC may reinstate two terminated hydroelectric licenses for the Upper and Lower Collinsville Dams on the Farmington River in Connecticut.

Section 3: Provides that if FERC reinstates the two terminated hydroelectric licenses it shall transfer the licenses to the Town of Canton, Connecticut.

Section 4: Requires FERC to complete an environmental assessment of the two hydroelectric projects that updates previously completed environmental analyses.

Section 5: Requires FERC to make a final decision with respect to the reinstatements within 270 days of enactment.

Section 6: Provides that the Act does not affect any other valid license issued by FERC prior to the date of enactment.

II. CONCLUSION

If you have any questions regarding the organization resolutions, please contact Mike Bloomquist. If you have any questions regarding H.R. 297, H.R. 225, or H.R. 235, please contact Brenda Destro or Clay Alspach. If you have any questions regarding H.R. 267 or H.R. ____, Collinville Hydroelectric Relicensing, please contact Patrick Currier or Tom Hassenboehler. All staff can be reached at (202) 225-2927.