

1948-1950

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION AND MEASURES OF INTEREST,

1948

FEBRUARY 5, 1948

H.J. Res. 334, called the "Southern Educational Compact" and giving Congressional consent to a scheme where seven southern states agreed to pool their resources to establish and maintain regional educational institutions in "professional, technological, scientific, literary and other fields," is sent to the House Judiciary Committee.

FEBRUARY 5, 1948

Senate Committee of Labor and Public Welfare reports out S. 984, a measure calling for the establishment of a permanent FEPC, to the full Senate, but no further action was taken.

FEBRUARY 25, 1948

House Judiciary Subcommittee favorably reported out H.R. 3488, the Case Anti-Lynching Bill and sends it to the full committee (2/28/48 report).

FEBRUARY 27, 1948

Senate subcommittee of the Committee on Rules and Administration favorably reports H.R. 29, the Bender Anti-Poll Tax bill, to the full committee.

MARCH 15, 1948

Gamble Committee, after holding extensive hearings, issues a report; its recommendations closely follow the stipulations found in S. 866.

MARCH 16, 1948

H.J. Res. 334 is favorably reported out by the House Judiciary Committee and sent to the full House.

MARCH 25, 1948

House Judiciary Committee reported out H.R. 3488, or the Case Anti-Lynching Bill, after striking out three sections, and sent it to the full House. It never came to a vote.

APRIL 9, 1948

Representatives Karl E. Mundt (R-S.D.) and Richard M. Nixon (R-Cal.) sponsor H.R. 5852, requiring the registration of all Communist-front organizations and their officers and all Communist political organizations and their members. The measure is sent to the House Un-American Activities Committee.

APRIL 9, 1948

House considers H.R. 6959, a long-range housing bill without public housing or urban redevelopment features, sending the measure to the House Banking and Currency Committee.

APRIL 13, 1948

S.J. Res. 191, a companion bill to H.J. Res. 334, was reported out by the Senate Judiciary Committee and sent to the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration (4/30/48 report).

APRIL 21, 1948

House rejects nondiscrimination amendment to S. 1841, a bill to establish women's units as a permanent part of the Army and Navy (4/30/48 report)

APRIL 22, 1948

Senate passes S. 866 after defeating a motion to eliminate public housing, and sends the measure to the House, where the Committee on Rules will subsequently vote not to send it to the House floor, effectively killing it.

APRIL 27, 1948

House Committee on Rules favorably reports out H.J. Res. 334 and sends it to the floor of the House.

APRIL 30, 1948

Senate Committee on Rules and Administration favorably reports out H.R. 29 and sends it to the full Senate.

APRIL 30, 1948

House Un-American Activities Committee reports out H.R. 5852, the Mundt-Nixon Registration bill, and sends it to the full House.

MAY 4, 1948

House passes H.J. Res. 334 and sends it to the Senate.

MAY 6, 1948

House District of Columbia Committee reports out a proposal for home rule for the District of Columbia; the measure provided for an elective council-manager government. The measure died on the House floor.

MAY 13, 1948

Senate recommits S.J. Res. 191 to the Judiciary Committee, effectively killing it and its companion bill, H.J. Res. 334 (5/31/48 report).

MAY 19, 1948

House passes H.R. 5852, the Mundt-Nixon bill, and sends it to the Senate, where no action is taken.

MAY 27, 1948

Senate Judiciary Committee reports out S. 2242, a bill controlling the number of war refugees allowed to enter the United States, after amending the bill to increase the number of refugees to 200,000 persons who had entered Germany, Italy or Austria before December 22, 1945 (excluding many Jewish displaced persons who had fled Poland in 1946), sends it to the full Senate.

MAY 30, 1948

House Judiciary Committee reports out H.R. 6396, authorizing the admission of 200,000 displaced persons in refugee camps or occupied zones who had entered Germany, Italy or Austria before April 21, 1947, and sends it to the full House.

JUNE 2, 1948

Senate passes S. 2242.

JUNE 7, 1948

Senate tabled amendments to the Selective Service Act of 1948 (H.R. 6401) that would have barred segregation in the Armed Forces, and made the lynching of servicemen a federal offense. The Senate did adopt an amendment to the Act that barred payment of poll tax by servicemen.

JUNE 7, 1948

Senate Judiciary Committee reports out S. 2860, or the Ferguson Anti-Lynching bill, but it never comes to a vote in the Senate.

JUNE 9, 1948

Senate rejected an amendment to the Selective Service Act of 1948 (H.R. 6401) that would have permitted draftees or enlistees a choice of serving in racially segregated units; the amended legislation was subsequently passed by the Senate and sent back to the House for concurrence.

JUNE 11, 1948

House passes H.R. 6396, and sends it to the Senate for concurrence with S. 2242.

JUNE 17, 1948

House adopts an amendment to the Selective Service Act of 1948 barring the payment of poll taxes by servicemen; this amendment would remain in the bill as it was finally enacted; the bill would subsequently pass both houses of Congress and be signed into law by President Truman.

JUNE 18, 1948

During the conference on the Displaced Persons bills (S. 2242 and H.R. 6396), conferees combined both bills, providing for the admission of 200,000 displaced persons who had entered Western zones before December 22, 1945, and sent the report to the House. The full House approved the report, after defeating a motion by Rep. Emanuel Celler (D-N.Y.) to recommit the bill to conference.

JUNE 18, 1948

House passes H.R. 6959 and sends it to the Senate.

JUNE 19, 1948

Senate approves the report on S. 2242, and five days later, President Truman reluctantly signs into law what is known as the Displaced Persons Act.

JULY 28, 1948

Senate begins consideration of H.R. 29; Sen. Carl T. Hayden (D-Az.) proposes an amendment striking out all except the enacting clause of H.R. 29 and substitute a resolution to bar the poll tax by constitutional amendment.

JULY 29, 1948

Filibuster by Southern senators on H.R. 29 starts.

AUGUST 2, 1948

Twenty-one Senators signed off on a cloture petition designed to break the filibuster holding up consideration of H.R. 29; however, a point of order was made that it wasn't applicable as it was on a pending motion rather than a pending measure; this point of order was upheld by a ruling by Sen. Arthur H. Vandenberg (R-Mich.), sitting as president pro tempore of the Senate, stating that no limit could be imposed on debate by the Senate on a formal motion to take up a measure; a limit could only be supplied "upon any pending measure," thus killing H.R. 29.

AUGUST 6, 1948

Senate passes H.R. 6959 and sends it to the House for concurrence.

AUGUST 7, 1948

House passes H.R. 6959 and sends it to President Truman for his signature; he signs it on August 10 as the Housing Act of 1948.

AUGUST 8, 1948

Senate votes to adjourn.

1949 JANUARY 3, 1949

House considers H.R. 4567, incorporating a number of changes in the Displaced Persons Act requested by the Truman Administration. The bill is sent to the House Judiciary Committee.

JANUARY 5, 1949

Senate considers three housing bills: S. 138, representing the Truman Administration, sponsored by Sen. Allen Ellender (D-La.) and Sen. Robert F. Wagner (D-N.Y.), among others; S. 709, representing the Republican party, sponsored by Sen. Robert A. Taft (R-Ohio), among others; and S. 757, sponsored by Sen. John W. Bricker (R-Ohio) and Sen. Harry Pulliam Cain (R-Wash.); the bills are sent to the Senate Banking and Currency Committee.

JANUARY 5, 1949

Senate considers S.J. Res. 2, sponsored by Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge (R-Mass.), calling for the election of the President and Vice-President by direct vote. The bill is sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

JANUARY 5, 1949

House considers H.J. Res. 2, sponsored by Rep. Ed Lee Gossett (D-Texas), which is identical to the Senate proposal sponsored by Senator Lodge. The bill is sent to the House Judiciary Committee.

JANUARY 24, 1949

Senate Committee on Rules and Administration holds hearings on resolutions amending the rules covering unlimited debate; Sen. Francis J. Myers (D-Pa.) and Sen. Wayne Morse (R-Ore.) introduced S. Res. 11, and S. Res. 12, respectively, designed to shut off debate by majority vote; Sen. Carl T. Hayden (D-Az.) and Sen. Kenneth Wherry (R-Neb.) sponsored S. Res. 15, which sought to impose cloture by a two-thirds vote requirement.

FEBRUARY 1, 1949

The Displaced Persons Commission reports to Congress, stating that the Displaced Persons Act of 1948 was "all but unworkable."

FEBRUARY 17, 1949

Housing Subcommittee of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee reports out S. 1070 and sends it to the full committee.

FEBRUARY 17, 1949

Senate Committee on Rules and Administration reported out S. Res. 15, the Hayden-Wherry resolution, after defeating the Myers-Morse substitute.

FEBRUARY 23, 1949

Senate Banking and Currency Committee holds hearings on the housing bills, and produces S. 1070, a committee bill with the bipartisan support of a number of senators including Senators Taft, Ellender, and Wagner; the bill, officially called the Housing Act of 1949, includes provisions covering slum clearance and public housing. The measure is sent to the Housing Subcommittee of the Banking and Currency Committee for hearings.

FEBRUARY 25, 1949

Senate Banking and Currency Committee reports out S. 1070 and sends it to the full Senate.

FEBRUARY 28, 1949

Senate brings S. Res. 15 to the floor, where the motion to take up the resolution is filibustered for the next two weeks.

MARCH 1, 1949

House passes H.R. 199, establishing quotas for the admission of Japanese, Koreans and Polynesians, as well as making the natives of those areas already in the United States eligible for citizenship. Senate takes no action on this legislation.

MARCH 11, 1949

Vice President Alben W. Barkley (D-Ky.), as President of the Senate, overturned the Vandenberg cloture ruling (see above, August 2, 1948)

MARCH 12, 1949

Senate overturned the Barkley ruling, reaffirming the Vandenberg ruling.

MARCH 17, 1949

After agreeing that debate would be solely on S. Res. 15, the filibuster was ended and subsequently the resolution was passed.

MARCH 23, 1949

Senate considers S. 1527, a home rule bill for the District of Columbia calling for an elective council-manager government. The bill is sent to the Senate District of Columbia Committee, where it will be favorably reported out and sent to the floor of the Senate.

MARCH 28, 1949

House passes legislation calling for a sales tax for the District of Columbia and sends the measure to the Senate (3/31/49 report) where no action was taken.

APRIL 4, 1949

House adopted a nonsegregation amendment to a measure creating a Coast Guard Women's Reserve, and then recommitted the measure, effectively killing it.

APRIL 21, 1949

Senate rejects nondiscrimination and non-segregation amendments to S. 1070, Housing Act of 1949; the bill subsequently passes the Senate (5/31/49 report).

APRIL 29, 1949

House rejects a nondiscrimination amendment to a bill repealing the Taft-Hartley Act.

MAY 5, 1949

House considers H.R. 4453, a compulsory FEPC bill proposed by Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. (D-N.Y.) and sends it to the House Committee on Education and Labor.

MAY 5, 1949

Senate passes S. 246, the Thomas Federal Aid to Education Bill; this required states "where separate public schools are maintained for minority races" to provide "just and equitable apportionment" of such funds for the segregated schools. The bill was sent to the House but died there due to a conflict over the granting of funds to parochial schools.

MAY 12, 1949

House Banking and Currency Committee reports out H.R. 4009, a companion bill to S. 1070, the Housing Act of 1949.

MAY 16, 1949

House Judiciary Committee reports out H.R. 4567 and sends it to the full House.

MAY 23, 1949

A subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee favorably reports out S.J. Res. 34, a proposal to abolish the poll tax by constitutional amendment, to the full committee, where it will be tabled.

MAY 31, 1949

Senate rejected amendments to S. 1527 that would have required a majority referendum for adoption of anti-segregation ordinances in the District of Columbia; the bill is subsequently passed and sent to the House where it goes to the House District of Columbia Committee; although a subcommittee holds hearings on the measure, there is no further action taken.

MAY 31, 1949

Senate also rejected an amendment to S. 1365 that would have required ultimate congressional approval of the abolition of racial segregation in the District of Columbia, even though abolition be decreed by referendum and by appropriate action by the city council; the bill is subsequently passed and sent to the House (5/31/49 report)

JUNE 2, 1949

House passes H.R. 4567, and sends it to the Senate, where it goes to the Judiciary Committee.

JUNE 6, 1949

Senate Judiciary Committee reports out S. 91, an anti-lynching bill, but the measure fails to reach the floor of the Senate.

JUNE 14, 1949

House Rules Committee releases H.R. 4009 and sends it to the full House.

JUNE 24, 1949

House Administration Committee reports out Norton Anti Poll Tax bill (H.R. 3199) and sends it to the full House.

JUNE 29, 1949

House rejects nondiscrimination amendment to Housing Act of 1949, H.R. 4009, and rejects an amendment striking out public housing; the bill passes the House and is sent to conference with the Senate.

JUNE 30, 1949

Senate Judiciary Committee reports out S.J. Res. 2 and sends it to the floor of the Senate.

JULY 8, 1949

The conference report for the Housing Act of 1949 is agreed to by both houses and sent to President Truman for his signature; he signs the bill into law on July 15.

JULY 21, 1949

House Judiciary Committee reports out H.J. Res. 2 and sends it to the House Rules Committee.

JULY 26, 1949

House passes H.R. 3199 and sends it to the Senate; the measure eventually will get to the Senate Rules Committee, where it will die.

JULY 27, 1949

House defeats motion to recommit to conference the Military Housing Act of 1949 because it did not contain a nonsegregation clause.

AUGUST 2, 1949

House Educational and Labor Committee reports out H.R. 4453, a compulsory FEPC bill and sends it to the House Rules Committee.

OCTOBER 12, 1949

Senate Judiciary Committee reports out H.R. 4567 without recommendation.

OCTOBER 15, 1949

Senate recommits H.R. 4567 to the Judiciary Committee, with instructions to report back by January 25, 1950.

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OCTOBER 17, 1949

Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee reports out S. 1728 without recommendation, sending it to the full Senate.

JANUARY 25, 1950

Senate passes S.J. Res. 25, a proposed constitutional amendment guaranteeing equal rights for women. The House took no action on the measure.

JANUARY 25, 1950

Senate Judiciary Committee reports out a revised version of H.R. 4567; in a minority report, Senators Harley W. Kilgore (D-W.Va.) and Homer S. Ferguson (R-Mich.), along with Senator Frank P. Graham (D-N.C.), attacked the changes made by the committee and submitted a substitute more in line with the House's version of H.R. 4567, designed to liberalize the Displaced Persons Act of 1948.

FEBRUARY 1, 1950

Senate passes an amended S.J. Res. 2 and sends it to the House.

FEBRUARY 23, 1950

Supporters of H.R. 4453, after several attempts to get it out of the House Rules Committee, bring it to the House floor under Calendar Wednesday procedures. A substitute amendment (H.R. 6841) to H.R. 4453, that provides for a voluntary FEPC without enforcement powers is approved by the House, which subsequently passes the watered-down bill.

FEBRUARY 28, 1950

Senate begins debate on H.R. 4567.

MARCH 20, 1950

House Public Lands Committee reports out H.R. 2988, providing for a Resident Commissioner (non-voting congressional representative) for the U. S. Virgin Islands and the measure is sent to the House Rules Committee where it dies.

MARCH 20, 1950

Rep. Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.) objects to unanimous consent for House consideration of H.R. 7185, a bill proposing to open examinations for apprenticeships in the Bureau of Engraving, Department of Treasury to military veterans through the United States, thus blocking further congressional action on the bill; this measure would have discriminated against blacks who had been successful in forcing the Bureau of Engraving to admit them to apprentice examinations (April 1950 report).

MARCH 21, 1950

Senate Judiciary Committee reports out S. 2311 and sends it to the full Senate.

MARCH 22, 1950

House rejects nondiscrimination amendment to Housing Act of 1950.

APRIL 5, 1950

After extensive debate on proposed amendments to H.R. 4567, Senate passes the Kilgore-Ferguson substitute to the Displaced Persons Act and sends it to the House for concurrence with H.R. 4567 (April 1950 report).

MAY 19, 1950

A Senate cloture vote that would have supported a motion to consider S. 1728 (calling for a compulsory FEPC), fails.

JUNE 6, 1950

Conference report on H.R. 4567 agreed to by Senate.

JUNE 7, 1950

House agrees to conference report on H.R. 4567, and sends it on to President Truman who signs it into law on June 16.

JUNE 21, 1950

House rejects nondiscrimination and non-segregation amendments to the Selective Service Extension Act of 1950 after Rep. Carl Vinson (D-Ga.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee stated that progress was being made under President Truman's 1948 executive order to break down segregation barriers.

JUNE 21, 1950

Senate eliminates a provision in the Selective Service Extension Act of 1950 that would have given inductees and volunteers a choice of serving in racially segregated units. It also rejects an amendment that would have required segregation if a majority of men from 36 states preferred it.

JULY 12, 1950

A second cloture vote concerning S. 1728 also fails.

JULY 17, 1950

House rejects a motion by Rep. Gossett to suspend the rules of the House Rules Committee and bring S.J. Res. 2 to the floor of the House; no further action was taken on this measure; its counterpart, H.J. Res. 2, would not get out of the Rules Committee (8/31/50 report).

AUGUST 17, 1950

Senate Judiciary Committee reports out an amended version of S. 4037 that included provisions of other internal security measures including S. 2311, the Mundt-Ferguson bill, and sent it to the full Senate.

SEPTEMBER 5, 1950

S. 4037 reaches the Senate floor.

SEPTEMBER 12, 1950

Senate passes S. 4037.

SEPTEMBER 23, 1950

Senate and the House override President Truman's veto of S. 4037, the Internal Security (McCarran) Act, and it becomes law.

DECEMBER 11, 1950

Senate tabled a nondiscrimination amendment to the Railway Labor Act (S. 3295).