

## Legislative Accomplishments

### By Issue:

Ethics Reform

Agriculture

Insurance  
Energy

Environment  
Seniors

Judiciary  
Veterans Issues

Iraq War  
Iran

Health Care  
Spending Cuts

Government Reform  
Financial Services

Science & Technology  
Fiscal Responsibility/ Community Development

Congressman  
Mahoney's Bills Signed into Law

- H.R.  
2779, Recognizes  
the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce, Florida, as the official national  
museum of Navy SEALs and their predecessors, including the Underwater  
Demolition Teams, Naval Combat Demolition Units, Office of Strategic  
Services Maritime Units, and Amphibious Scouts and Raiders.

Ø  
Passed  
the House by Voice Vote on October 1, 2007

Ø  
Passed  
the Senate by Voice Vote on October 31, 2007

Ø  
Signed  
into law by the President on November 13, 2007 (Public Law 110-115)

- H.R.  
1922, the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area Act of 2007, to designate the Jupiter Inlet  
Lighthouse as an Outstanding Natural Area (ONA).

Ø  
ONA is a congressional designation that was  
established to protect federal lands; it is used for conservation sites of  
approximately 100 acres that also include a lighthouse. Jupiter Inlet  
would be the second ONA in the nation. The first is at Yaquina Head in Oregon.

Ø  
Companion legislation was introduced by Senator  
Nelson in the Senate.

Ø  
Natural Resources Subcommittee on National  
Parks, Forests and Public  
Lands held a hearing on  
H.R. 1922 on 10/23/07.

Ø  
Passed the House by Voice Vote on March 4, 2008

Ø  
Passed the Senate (as S. 2739) on April 10, 2008  
(91-4; RC Vote 101)

Ø  
Passed the House on April 29, 2008 (291-117; RC  
Vote 226)

Ø

Signed into law by the President on May 8, 2008  
(Public Law 110-229)

- H.R. 4008, the Credit and Debit Card  
Receipt Clarification Act of 2007, a bi-partisan bill which is  
intended to address abusive lawsuits.

Ø

In 2003, Congress passed the Fair and Accurate  
Credit Transactions Act (FACTA). This legislation was intended to improve  
and strengthen various protections against identity theft. One of the key  
provisions in the bill requires businesses to limit the amount of information  
printed on receipts. Unfortunately, the way in which Congress drafted the  
provision has led to confusion and expensive litigation.

Ø

In response to the enactment of FACTA,  
businesses began complying with the law by truncating the credit and debit card  
number down to the appropriate number of digits. Shortly thereafter,  
hundreds of lawsuits were filed against these businesses alleging that the  
failure to truncate both the card number and redact the expiration date on a  
receipt was a willful violation of the law. Because FACTA was  
incorporated into the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), the statutory damages  
provisions of the law (between \$100 and \$1000 per consumer) meant that a company  
that had printed a million transactions was facing a minimum of \$100 million  
and as much as \$1 billion in damages.

Ø

It is important to note that there is no  
evidence that the failure to redact an expiration date has ever resulted in a  
consumer being harmed. In fact, not one of the lawsuits alleges any  
actual harm to an individual's account or identity.

Ø

H.R. 4008 removes the incentive for attorneys to  
file these suits, while simultaneously preserving a consumer's right to sue in  
the event a business's negligence causes identity theft.

Ø

Passed in the House on May 13, 2008 (407-0; RC  
Vote 308)

Ø

Passed in the Senate on May 20, 2008 (by  
Unanimous Consent)

Ø

Signed into law by the President on June 3, 2008  
(Public Law 110-241)

Bills Introduced  
by Congressman Mahoney

- H.R. 3355, the Homeowners' Defense Act of 2007. Introduced with Congressman Klein.

Ø  
This proactive approach focuses on providing an opportunity for states to responsibly plan for disasters ahead of time, while also offering emergency relief for those states that may be lower-risk regions. By planning ahead of time, states can reduce their catastrophe losses and get homeowners back on their feet as quickly as possible following a disaster.

Ø  
The bill sets up a consortium for state-sponsored insurance funds to voluntarily pool their catastrophe risk with one another, and then transfer that risk to the private markets through the use of catastrophe bonds and reinsurance contracts. Following the risk transfer, state-sponsored insurance funds will be better protected and increasingly able to provide services for those who are not able to find insurance on their own.

Ø  
The legislation further provides for loans that could be extended to any state facing a significant financial shortfall after a natural catastrophe. These common-sense provisions will ensure that states are able to provide for their citizens in the wake of a devastating event.

Ø  
Acknowledging that homeowners are the first line of defense against a catastrophe, the bill encourages sound mitigation efforts and stresses the impact that homeowners can take to protect their own homes.

Ø  
RC#  
1074; passed House 11/8/07; 258-155

- H.R. 1929, the Save the Family Farm and Ranch Act of 2007. Introduced with Congressman Salazar.

Ø  
This bill would amend the Internal Revenue Code to exclude from the gross estate of a decedent the value of farmland used by an

heir of the decedent for farming purposes. Imposes a recapture tax on an heir who disposes of such farmland after the decedent's death or who ceases to use it for farming purposes.

- H.R.

2113, a bill to protect the environmentally sensitive land on Jupiter Island. The bill would give the Town of Jupiter Island the right of first refusal on the land, should the current owner, the Coast Guard, decide to let go of the property.

Ø

The land was originally obtained by the Federal Government in World War II for use by the Coast Guard. However, the property has not been actively used since that time. Instead, it has become a critical habitat for endangered sea turtles, birds and other indigenous species, while facing sensitive weather-related threats to the dunes.

Ø

To ensure long-term protection of Jupiter Island's natural habitat, the bill includes a reversionary clause that would give the property back to the Coast Guard if the Town decides they no longer want the property or do not use it as a conservation area.

Ø

H.R. 2113 was incorporated into the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2007, HR 2830, and is expected to be considered by the House of Representatives in 2008.

- H.R. 2595, a bill to require the disclosure of proxy votes relating to executive and director compensation by beneficial owners of more than 5 percent of a company's shares.

Ø

By requiring large shareholders to disclose votes on executive and director compensation, this legislation will provide individuals, investors, and publicly traded companies with increased transparency and information about activities that can affect a company's future.

- H.R. 2930, the Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Act of 2007.

Ø  
The Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program provides capital development grants and rental assistance contracts to non-profit housing sponsors to develop, build and maintain housing for seniors with very-low incomes. H.R. 2930 ensures that more affordable housing for our nation's low income senior citizens is available.

Ø  
Passed the House by Voice Vote on 12/05/07

- H.R. 3078, the Patient Safety & Abuse Prevention Act

Ø Seniors in assisted care facilities should not be put at risk by the individuals who care for them. This legislation would help our states work together to create a national system so that individuals with criminal backgrounds and histories of abuse are not taking care of our country's frail and vulnerable.

- H.R. 3953, the Homeowners' Property Tax Relief Act of 2007.

Ø Under current law, a taxpayer who falls under the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) cannot deduct their state and local property taxes from their federal taxes. This bill will create a state and local property tax deduction on a federal income tax return for a taxpayer who falls under the AMT.

Ø  
This hits Florida residents hard because Florida residents do not pay income tax and instead pay a much higher property tax. Florida residents would likewise benefit from this bill because of the ability of deduct the high property taxes despite falling under the AMT.

.  
The Committee on Ways and Means estimates that 46,451 joint tax returns in the 16th district will be affected by the AMT in 2007.

.  
The Congressional Research Service estimates that over 900,000 taxpayers will be subject to the AMT in Florida in 2007.

.

The Congressional Research Service also estimates that this will amount to an average savings over of \$3,000 for Florida taxpayers filing under the AMT.