

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HM 821 U.S.S. John F. Kennedy
SPONSOR(S): Jordan & others
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) Military & Veteran Affairs Committee	8 Y, 0 N	Marino	Carter
2) State Administration Council		Marino	Bussey
3) _____			
4) _____			
5) _____			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

This memorial urges Congress to oppose the decommissioning of the U.S.S. John F. Kennedy from active service. This memorial also urges Congress to allow Mayport Naval Station to remain the homeport of the U.S.S. John F. Kennedy until Mayport is able to support and serve as home port for a nuclear-fueled aircraft carrier. Finally, the memorial urges Congress to maintain the U.S. Navy's Atlantic aircraft carrier fleet at its current strength.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

Not Applicable

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation:

The President proposed in his 2005-2006 budget to Congress that the Navy's aircraft carrier fleet be reduced from twelve to eleven as part of the Department of Defense's overall cost saving strategy. Speculation by the media and many senior military officials is that the U.S.S. John F. Kennedy (USS Kennedy) aircraft carrier, the navy's last Atlantic-based fossil-fueled carrier, based in Mayport Naval Station, Florida, is the carrier that will be decommissioned.

An environmental study to determine if Mayport can be converted to a port for a nuclear-fueled aircraft carrier was included in the budget proposal. This is seen by many as a prelude to possibly moving one of the nuclear-fueled carriers currently based in Virginia southward to Mayport.

The USS Kennedy recently underwent an overhaul with a cost of \$350 million and is scheduled to go through another overhaul of \$350 million later this year, should the carrier not be decommissioned. The carrier is manned and supported by 5,000 sailors, and the economic impact of losing them and their families would be a loss of \$200 million¹ to the Jacksonville economy.

Legislation has been introduced to the U.S. House that would maintain the aircraft carrier fleet strength at twelve. In addition, Congress is currently developing their version of the budget.

Effect of Proposed Changes:

This memorial urges Congress to oppose the decommissioning of the USS Kennedy from active service. This memorial also urges Congress to allow Mayport Naval Station to remain the homeport of USS Kennedy until Mayport is able to support and serve as home port for a nuclear-fueled aircraft carrier. Finally, the memorial urges Congress to maintain the U.S. Navy's Atlantic aircraft carrier fleet at its current strength.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Not Applicable.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

There are no known or expected fiscal impacts on state government revenues.

¹ Editorial, Gainesville.com, "Guns Vs. Butter," February 11, 2005,

<http://www.gainesville.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050211/EDITORIALS/202110307/1096/today> (March 2, 2005).

2. Expenditures:

There are no known or expected fiscal impacts on state government expenditures.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

There are no known or expected fiscal impacts on local government revenues.

2. Expenditures:

There are no known or expected fiscal impacts on local government expenditures.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

If Congress takes the actions outlined and urged in this memorial, the local economy of Jacksonville will continue to receive the benefit of approximately \$200 million a year in economic impact.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

This memorial does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds. This bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities. This bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities have to raise revenues.

2. Other:

There do not appear to be any constitutional issues with this memorial.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

Not Applicable.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

Not Applicable.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES

Not Applicable.