

Date entry added	Issue	Bill #	Bill Title	Chief Sponsor	RECENT AND Date of vote/Status update	UPCOMING BILLS IN THE US HOUSE AND SENATE Bill Summary	Sources
9/17/09	National Security	H.R.3326	Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010	Rep. John Murtha (D-PA)	7/30/09: Passed in House. 10/6/09: Passed in Senate. 10/8/09: House passed amendment that expands the definition of hate crimes to include violence motivated by the victim's sexual orientation, gender, disability, or gender identity. Senate still has to approve the measure.	This bill details how funds are to be appropriated to and within the Dept of Defense for Fiscal Year 2010. Examples of funding areas include: military personnel, procurement of weapons and combat vehicles, drug interdiction, and CIA Retirement & Disability System Fund.	(1) <a href="http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/thomas">http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/thomas</a> (2) <a href="http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-hate-gays9-2009oct09_0,653318,full_story">http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-hate-gays9-2009oct09_0,653318,full_story</a>
9/22/09	Environment	H.R.2996	Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010	Rep. Norman Dicks (D-WA)	6/26/09: Passed in the House. 9/24/09: Passed in the Senate. Currently resolving differences and making amendments.	This bill determines budgetary appropriations for the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service (NPS), the U.S. Geological Survey, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and other related agencies for FY2010. Following are examples of appropriations recipients within the organizations listed above: land and resource management, land acquisition, forestry and rangeland research, construction, the National Wildlife Refuge Fund, and expenses related to carrying out wildlife conservation grants.	<a href="http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.R.2996">http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.R.2996</a> :
9/22/09	Economy	H.R.3548	Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2009	Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA)	9/10/2009 Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means. 9/22/09: Passed in the House, received in the Senate.	This act amends the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008 to provide for the temporary availability of additional emergency unemployment compensation. H.R.3548 extends unemployment insurance benefits by 13 weeks in states that have jobless rates above 8.5 percent.	<a href="http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.R.3548">http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.R.3548</a> :
9/22/09	(Not sure, but this is relevant to current events/partisan conflict, and Americans may be opinionated on issue)	H.R.3571	Defund ACORN Act	Rep. John Boehner (R-OH)	9/15/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. (Companion bill: S.1687)	The "Defund ACORN Act" prohibits any federal funds, contracts, grants, or agreements be awarded to or entered into with an indicted organization. Additionally, no Federal employee or contractor may promote or recommend the organization to anyone for any purpose. The "organization" refers to those who have committed fraud, been indicted, failed to comply with disclosure requirements; specifically, the term refers to ACORN and any of its affiliates. This is the government's means of severing all ties with the organization; namely, completely cutting off its funding.	<a href="http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.R.3571">http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.R.3571</a> :
9/22/09	(Not sure, but this is relevant to current events/partisan conflict, and Americans may be opinionated on issue)	S.1687	Defund ACORN Act	Sen. Mike Johanns (R-NE)	9/21/2009 Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 162. (Companion bill: H.R.3571)	The "Defund ACORN Act" prohibits any federal funds, contracts, grants, or agreements be awarded to or entered into with an indicted organization. Additionally, no Federal employee or contractor may promote or recommend the organization to anyone for any purpose. The "organization" refers to those who have committed fraud, been indicted, failed to comply with disclosure requirements; specifically, the term refers to ACORN and any of its affiliates. This is the government's means of severing all ties with the organization; namely, completely cutting off its funding.	<a href="http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.R.3571">http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.R.3571</a> :
9/22/09	Energy	H.R.2454	American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, aka Waxman-Markey Bill, or Cap and-Trade	Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA)	6/26/09: Bill was passed in the House. 7/6/09: Bill has been placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 97. The bill is currently in the Senate, but has met with a number of delays. It is questionable whether the bill will get signed into law within the coming year.	This comprehensive, ambitious bill includes a cap-and-trade global warming reduction plan designed to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions 17% by 2020, and 80% by 2050. It also includes a provision for large electricity providers, who must produce 20% of their electricity from renewable sources (e.g. wind, solar) by 2020. This bill also includes energy efficiency incentives for homes and buildings, grants for green jobs, expanded production of electric vehicles, and modernization of the electrical grid. This bill marks the first time that either house of Congress had approved a bill meant to curb the heat-trapping gases scientists have linked to climate change.	(1) <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/20/AR2009092001965.html?hpid=hp&amp;hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main-climate-change&amp;hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main-climate-change">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/20/AR2009092001965.html?hpid=hp&amp;hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main-climate-change&amp;hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main-climate-change</a> (2) <a href="http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/F?c111:./temp/~c1110WuNTt:e1276">http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/F?c111:./temp/~c1110WuNTt:e1276</a> (3) <a href="http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-h2454/show">http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-h2454/show</a> (4) <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Clean_Energy_and_Security_Act">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Clean_Energy_and_Security_Act</a>

Date entry added	Issue	Bill #	Bill Title	Chief Sponsor	RECENT AND Date of vote/Status update	UPCOMING BILLS IN THE US HOUSE AND SENATE Bill Summary	Sources
9/22/09	Energy	S.1462	American Clean Energy Leadership Act of 2009	Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM)	7/16/2009: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 110. (Note: Since the House of Representatives passed its sweeping energy and climate bill, H.R. 2454, the Senate has become the focus of energy-related legislative activity. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee agreed to the S.1462 bill, making it eligible for debate by the full Senate.)	Like the Waxman-Markey bill, S.1462 covers appliance energy efficiency, building energy codes, the reliability of the US grid for electricity transmission, renewable electricity standards, carbon capture and storage, energy market manipulation, and aid for deploying clean energy technologies. The single biggest difference between the two may be that S.1462 would not control U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. The Senate bill's renewable standards are also weaker than those of the House bill, a fact which many environmental activists and some senators have criticized. However, on some energy issues, most notably promoting new sources of oil and gas, S.1462 goes even further than Waxman-Markey. To finance this drastic energy overhaul, S.1462 would create a "Clean Energy Deployment Administration" to provide loans, insurance, and other financial aid for deploying clean energy technologies and for domestic production of commodities and materials.	(1) <a href="http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:S.1462">http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:S.1462</a> : (2) <a href="http://www.mondaq.com/article.asp?articleid=84686">http://www.mondaq.com/article.asp?articleid=84686</a>
9/22/09	Economy - Financial Services	H.R.627	Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act of 2009	Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY)	5/22/09: Became Public Law no. 111-24. Watch for additional and related legislation on debit card reform.	This legislation is meant to restore a level playing field between consumers and credit card companies by banning practices that have been determined to be unfair, deceptive and anti-competitive by the Federal Reserve. Specific examples are as follows: card companies must give 45 days notice before raising interest rates, banks must send out your bill no later than 21 days before the due date, banks must have an "opt in" requirement in order to dole out fees for spending above one's credit limit, and lastly, the act bans expiration dates on gift cards and certificates any sooner than five years after the card/certificate's original issue date. The passing of H.R.627 has been met with widespread praise (except, of course, among banks), and has inspired related legislation to reign in unwanted, expensive overdraft fees from debit card purchases as well (see H.R.1456).	(1) <a href="http://maloney.house.gov/index.php?option=com_issues&amp;task=view_issue&amp;issue=29&amp;&amp;Itemid=35">http://maloney.house.gov/index.php?option=com_issues&amp;task=view_issue&amp;issue=29&amp;&amp;Itemid=35</a> (2) <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/20/your-money/20money.html">http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/20/your-money/20money.html</a>
9/22/09	Economy - Financial Services	H.R.1456	Consumer Overdraft Protection Fair Practices Act	Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY)	3/19/09: House Financial Services Committee hearing held. (Look for a companion bill sponsored by Sen. Chris Dodd to be announced in the near future)	This bill would require banks to notify customers at the ATM or point-of-sale terminal when a debit card purchase is about to trigger an overdraft—and would give consumers at the transaction point a choice of whether to accept or reject the overdraft service and the associated fee. The bill would also prohibit banks from manipulating the sequence in which checks and other debits are posted if it causes more overdrafts and maximizes fees. (Background: There has recently been an uproar among debit card holders about these overdraft fees. The fees are a large source of income for the banks, who say it should be the consumer's responsibility not to overdraft. Many members of Congress are miffed that banks continue to squeeze customers, even as the government is investing vast sums to rescue the industry.)	(1) <a href="http://maloney.house.gov/index.php?option=content&amp;task=view&amp;id=1809&amp;Itemid=61">http://maloney.house.gov/index.php?option=content&amp;task=view&amp;id=1809&amp;Itemid=61</a> (2) <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/20/AR2009092002879.html?hpid=newsletter&amp;wpisrc=newsletter&amp;wpisrc=newsletter">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/20/AR2009092002879.html?hpid=newsletter&amp;wpisrc=newsletter&amp;wpisrc=newsletter</a> (3) <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/09/your-money/credit-and-debit-cards/09debit.html?_r=1">http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/09/your-money/credit-and-debit-cards/09debit.html?_r=1</a>
9/22/09		H.R.3602	Newspaper Revitalization Act of 2009	Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY)	9/17/09: Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means (Companion bill: S.673)	This bill would streamline the process for newspapers to convert to nonprofits similar to public broadcasting stations. Under the bill, advertising and subscription revenue would be tax-exempt and contributions for support would be tax-deductible. In soliciting support for the bill, sponsor and Chair of the Joint Economic Committee Rep. Carolyn Maloney cited figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics showing that newspapers cut nearly 50,000 jobs — roughly 15 percent of the industry's work force — between June 2008 and June 2009. "I think that the government can help foster solutions for this industry in ways which protect the independence of newspapers and enable their objective reporting to thrive in a new economic and media climate," she said. Companion Senate legislation is S.673, sponsored by Sen. Ben Cardin.	<a href="http://maloney.house.gov/index.php?option=content&amp;task=view&amp;id=1937&amp;Itemid=61">http://maloney.house.gov/index.php?option=content&amp;task=view&amp;id=1937&amp;Itemid=61</a> (& see full text PDF)

Date entry added	Issue	Bill #	Bill Title	Chief Sponsor	RECENT AND Date of vote/Status update	UPCOMING BILLS IN THE US HOUSE AND SENATE Bill Summary	Sources
9/22/09		S.673	Newspaper Revitalization Act of 2009	Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD)	3/24/09: Referred to Senate Committee on Finance (Companion bill: H.R.3602)	This is the companion legislation to H.R. 3602, sponsored by Rep. Carolyn Maloney. Both bills call to amend the Internal Revenue Code to give newspaper corporations income tax exemption, as long as the corporation publishes a newspaper for general circulation on a regular basis that contains local, national, and international news stories of interest to the general public. The newspaper's distribution must also be deemed necessary or valuable in achieving an educational purpose. Under the bill, advertising and subscription revenue would be tax-exempt and contributions for support would be tax-deductible.	<a href="http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:S.673">http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:S.673</a>
9/23/09	Education	H.R.3221	Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009	Rep. George Miller (D-CA)	9/17/09: Passed in House. 9/22/09: Referred to Senate committee.	This bill aims to overhaul college lending by ending a program that subsidizes private lenders to provide student loans; instead, the government itself would provide these loans, cutting out the middlemen and arguably providing a more reliable source of capital for loans. \$40 billion of federal funds would flow to Pell grants, the main federal college scholarships for low- and moderate-income students. Additionally, the bill streamlines the student financial aid form (FAFSA), which has often deterred potential applicants in the past because of its complexity. Lastly, the bill would also provide tens of billions of dollars for renovating and constructing public schools and community colleges and ensuring that such institutions meet environmental and energy standards.	(1) <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/17/AR2009091702192.html">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/17/AR2009091702192.html</a> (2) <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/22/AR2009092203009.html?wpisrc=newsletter&amp;wpisrc=newsletter">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/22/AR2009092203009.html?wpisrc=newsletter&amp;wpisrc=newsletter</a>
9/24/09	Foreign Affairs	S.1494	Intelligence Authorization Act for FY2010	Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)	9/16/09: Passed in Senate. 9/17/09: Sent to House, not yet referred to a committee.	If the legislation, already approved by the Senate, can be reconciled with the House version and is signed by the president, it would mark the first time in five years that an authorization bill, setting policy for the nation's intelligence agencies, has become law. This means that US intelligence policy in effect has not been updated in five years, so many are pushing the passage of this bill. The Senate bill has deferred discussion of rules for interrogation and detention of terrorism suspects, as these controversial issues have derailed previous proposals. The bill serves to broaden congressional briefings, requiring intelligence committee leaders to be briefed on covert operations, and for all intelligence committee members to be briefed on the main features of these operations. However national intelligence leaders worry that these broadened briefings could threaten the security of classified information. The legislation also creates an independent inspector general at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and requires audits of cybersecurity programs for privacy rights compliance.	<a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/17/AR2009091704501.html?wpisrc=newsletter">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/17/AR2009091704501.html?wpisrc=newsletter</a>
10/3/09	Healthcare	N/A	America's Healthy Future Act	Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT)	9/16: Baucus releases long-awaited healthcare bill. Bill is currently under discussion in the Senate Finance Committee, and a committee vote is expected sometime within the next week. The list of unresolved issues in the bill is long and complex, and once the bill passes the Finance Committee, it will need to be merged with a rival Senate bill, at which point Democrats will most likely push for already-rejected measures, such as the public option.	This is THE major healthcare legislation that is currently being discussed in both the House and the Senate. Baucus hails it as "one of the largest pieces of social legislation in the history of our country since the Depression" and said it represents "a balanced and common-sense" approach to health-care reform that can pass Congress by the end of the year. Lawmakers have attempted to pass health care reform legislation for decades, but to no avail. Most agree that reform is necessary and pressing, but it is exorbitantly difficult to get Congress, as well as the American people, to agree on how this should best be done.	(1) <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/16/AR2009091601151.html?wpisrc=newsletter">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/16/AR2009091601151.html?wpisrc=newsletter</a> (2) <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/special/nation/health/compare-health-plans-2009/?wpisrc=newsletter">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/special/nation/health/compare-health-plans-2009/?wpisrc=newsletter</a>
9/24/09	Healthcare / Education	H.R.1324	Child Nutrition Promotion and School Lunch Protection Act of 2009	Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)	Introduced 3/5/09. 4/29/09: Referred to House Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities.	The Act aims to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to improve the overall nutrition and health of schoolchildren. The Act of 1966 is responsible for feeding 10 million school children daily, but its nutritional guidelines have become outdated. Therefore the new amendment will require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish, based on the latest Dietary Guidelines for Americans, updated and science-based nutrition standards for school meals. These standards will also apply to foods and beverages sold outside of school meals (e.g. items found in vending machines, snack bars). By spending more on children's nutrition now, lawmakers intend to offset some of the immense costs of obesity and diabetes in the future.	(1) <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/20/AR2009092001966.html?wpisrc=newsletter&amp;wpisrc=newsletter">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/20/AR2009092001966.html?wpisrc=newsletter&amp;wpisrc=newsletter</a> (2) <a href="http://www.healthyschoolscampaign.org/getinvolved/action/childnutrition/act.php">http://www.healthyschoolscampaign.org/getinvolved/action/childnutrition/act.php</a>

Date entry added	Issue	Bill #	Bill Title	Chief Sponsor	RECENT AND Date of vote/Status update	UPCOMING BILLS IN THE US HOUSE AND SENATE Bill Summary	Sources
		S.934	Child Nutrition Promotion and School Lunch Protection Act of 2009	Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA)	4/30/09: Introduced and sent to Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.	The Act aims to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to improve the overall nutrition and health of schoolchildren. The Act of 1966 is responsible for feeding 10 million school children daily, but its nutritional guidelines have become outdated. Therefore the new amendment will require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish, based on the latest Dietary Guidelines for Americans, updated and science-based nutrition standards for school meals. These standards will also apply to foods and beverages sold outside of school meals (e.g. items found in vending machines, snack bars). By spending more on children's nutrition now, lawmakers intend to offset some of the immense costs of obesity and diabetes in the future.	(1) <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/20/AR2009092001966.html?wpisrc=newsletter&amp;wpisrc=newsletter">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/20/AR2009092001966.html?wpisrc=newsletter&amp;wpisrc=newsletter</a> (2) <a href="http://www.healthyschoolscampaign.org/getinvolved/action/childnutrition/act.php">http://www.healthyschoolscampaign.org/getinvolved/action/childnutrition/act.php</a>
9/27/09	Energy	H.R.3246	Advanced Vehicle Technology Act of 2009	Rep. Gary Peters (D-MI)	7/17/09: Introduced in the House. 9/16/09: Passed in the House, referred to Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.	This bill distributes funds to the Secretary of Energy for FY1020-FY2014 for the purpose of investing in the research and development for environment-friendly vehicles. Funds will be directed toward researching technologies to eliminate petroleum use and automobile emissions. Additionally, the Act calls for a competitive grant program to improve the efficiency of commercial trucks and tractor-trailers by 50%. Lastly, each activity under the Act should be a collaboration with fuel producers, energy suppliers, and automotive and heavy commercial manufacturers, among others.	<a href="http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-h3246/show">http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-h3246/show</a>
9/24/09	Foreign Affairs	Not sure if this is a bill? Recommended by ITC, implemented by Obama	Tire tariff			The tire tariff enforces a trade law outlined in 2000 legislation.	(1) <a href="http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125271824237605479.html">http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125271824237605479.html</a> (2) <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/20/AR2009092001299.html?wpisrc=newsletter&amp;wpisrc=newsletter">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/20/AR2009092001299.html?wpisrc=newsletter&amp;wpisrc=newsletter</a> (3) <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/11/AR2009091103957.html">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/11/AR2009091103957.html</a> (4) <a href="http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/58567-pro-trade-dems-give-tire-decision-thumbs-up">http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/58567-pro-trade-dems-give-tire-decision-thumbs-up</a>
9/27/09	Technology/ Consumer Advocacy (?)	In the works...not yet a bill		Rep. Rick Boucher (D-VA)		On Sept. 1, 2009, representatives from 10 consumer advocacy groups urged Congress to enact a set of laws governing what types of data Web sites and data collection firms can compile. To date, the FTC has issued a set of recommended principles for behavioral targeting and left companies and trade groups to regulate themselves. Privacy advocates call the current system inadequate. Rep. Rick Boucher, D-Va., the chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications, Technology and the Internet, says he is working on a bill that would outline broad restrictions on certain types of data collection and ad targeting. Speaking in front of Congress this month, Boucher said he hopes to draft a bill of rights, of sorts, regarding online ads. Meanwhile, the FTC is studying existing behavior marketing practices and whether it needs to make its principles legally binding.	(1) <a href="http://www.forbes.com/2009/09/24/online-advertising-privacy-business-media-regulation.html">http://www.forbes.com/2009/09/24/online-advertising-privacy-business-media-regulation.html</a> (2) <a href="http://www.redorbit.com/news/technology/1748844/house_bill_takes_aim_at_web_privacy/">http://www.redorbit.com/news/technology/1748844/house_bill_takes_aim_at_web_privacy/</a>