
NHBPA Winter Convention February 2013

NHBPA Legislative Affairs Committee Report



AMERICAN CONTINENTAL GROUP

I. New 113th Congress: U.S. House of Representatives

- Republicans remain in control of the House by a margin of 232 (Republicans) to 200 (Democrats)
- Three vacancies in the House due to the resignations of:
 - Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-IL)
 - Rep. Rep. Tim Scott (R-SC) - now serving in the U.S. Senate
 - Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO)
- Rep. John Boehner (R-OH) reelected as Speaker of the House
- Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) reelected as House Minority Leader



I. New 113th Congress: U.S. Senate

- Democrats remain in control of the Senate by a margin of 53 (Democrats) to 45 (Republicans)
 - Newly elected Senator Angus King (I-ME) and Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) are caucusing with the Democrats, effectively giving them a **55-45 Democratic majority**
- Senator Harry Reid (D-NV) continues to serve as Senate Majority Leader - not in cycle until 2016
- Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) continues to serve as Senate Minority Leader - faces reelection in 2014



II. Key Congressional Committees: House

House Energy and Commerce Committee

- Chairman: Fred Upton (R-MI)
- Ranking Member: Henry Waxman (D-CA)
- Rep. Ed Whitfield (R-KY) continues to serve on the committee
- Rep. Lee Terry (R-NE) new Chairman of Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade Subcommittee and Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) remains Ranking Democrat
- Jurisdiction:
 - Medication issue
 - Interstate Horseracing Act
 - Internet gambling



House Judiciary Committee

- Chairman: Bob Goodlatte (R-VA)
- Ranking Member: Jon Conyers (D-MI)
- Jurisdiction:
 - Immigration
 - Internet gambling



II. Key Congressional Committees: Senate

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

- Chairman: John Rockefeller (D-WV) - **Retiring end of 2014**
- Ranking Member: John Thune (R-SD)
- Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) no longer serving on committee
- Jurisdiction:
 - Medication issue
 - Interstate Horseracing Act
 - Internet gambling



Senate Judiciary Committee

- Chairman: Patrick Leahy (D-VT)
- Ranking Member: Charles Grassley (R-IA)
- Jurisdiction:
 - Immigration
 - Internet gambling



III. Federal Medication Legislation

- New medication bill(s) could be introduced in the 113th Congress that go beyond those in the 112th
- New bill could propose opening the Interstate Horseracing Act to establish a new national medication regulatory organization
 - May seek to take away rights of majority horsemen's organizations over interstate simulcasting
- **No bill or draft has yet been introduced/made public**



IV. Federal Internet Poker Legislation

- Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), in late 2012, announced plans to renew Internet poker legislation efforts in the 113th Congress
- Proponents of Internet poker legislation need to identify a new Republican to take over Senator Jon Kyl's (R-AZ) leadership role, as he retired last Congress
- Draft legislative proposal acquired by NHBPA in November 2012



V. Recent Meetings on Capitol Hill

- Early February meetings held with:
 - Senior staff of Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY),
 - Senior counsel for Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee,
 - Counsel for Senator Rand Paul (R-KY),
 - Rep. Andy Barr (R-KY) and staff,
 - Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY) and staff, and
 - Chief Counsel for House Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade Subcommittee



