

[H.R. 2270, Billy Frank Jr. Tell Your Story Act](#)

FLOOR SITUATION

On Monday, November 30, 2015, the House will consider [H.R. 2270](#), *the Billy Frank Jr. Tell Your Story Act*, under suspension of the rules. H.R. 2270 was introduced on May 12, 2015 by Rep. Denny Heck (D-WA) and was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, which ordered the bill reported, as amended, by unanimous consent, on October 8, 2015.

SUMMARY

H.R. 2270, as amended, re-designates the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, located in the State of Washington, as the “Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge.” The bill also establishes within the wildlife refuge the Medicine Creek Treaty National Memorial to commemorate the signing of an 1854 treaty that established reservation land and the right to fish for Puget Sound area tribes. The refuge was established in 1974 to protect and conserve wildlife in the Nisqually River Delta, which is near Puget Sound.

BACKGROUND

Billy Frank, Jr. was “a champion for Native American treaty rights and environmental stewardship in the Puget Sound area in Washington State.”¹ Mr. Frank “grew up fishing on the Nisqually River and successfully brought together tribes, government officials, and others to improve treaty rights, tribal sovereignty, environmental stewardship, and salmon recovery in the area.”² He “campaign[ed] against limits on tribal fishing, and his efforts led to a 1974 federal court decision which reaffirmed certain tribes’ rights to half of the fish harvest in Washington.”³ Mr. Frank, who passed away in 2014, was awarded the Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism and the Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Service Award. He also was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2010.

¹ [House Report 114-335](#) at 2.

² Id.

³ Id.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 2270 would cost less than \$500,000 over the over the 2016 to 2020 period. Enacting H.R. 2270 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information please contact [Jerry White](#) with the House Republican Policy Committee by email or at 5-0190.