

## Timeline/Table of Contents

### Introduction to HR?

- 1/5/1995: [House] Referred bill to Committee on State Administration
- 1/5/1995: [Senate] Concurred
- 3/6/1995: [House] Reported favorably by committee and referred to committee on House Ways and Means
- 6/26/1995: [House] Committee recommended ought to pass and placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session
- 6/27/1995: [House] Read second; Placed at the end of the Orders of the Day
- 7/10/1995: [House] Amendments rejected; Ordered to a third reading; Motion to reconsider negatived
- 7/10/1995: [SHNS] STATE CONTRACTS.....The question came on ordering to third reading H 2833 5/5/12 State House News Service regulating state contracts with companies doing business with or in Burma (Myanmar). Rep. Teague offered an amendment adding China, Cuba, North Korea and Rwanda, Without debate his amendment was rejected and the bill was ordered to third reading.
- 7/19/1995: [House] Read third; Amendments adopted; Amendment rejected; Passed to be engrossed; Motion to reconsider negative
- 7/19/1995: [SHNS] BURMA.....The question came on engrossing H 2833 regulating contracts with companies doing business with or in China.
  - Rep. Rushing offered an amendment that was adopted without debate.
  - Rep. Teague offered an amendment adding 'and/or China.'
  - Rep. Teague urged adoption. Burma is ruled by a tyrant and there are serious problems. But that nation is not alone. Other countries have even more offensive human rights violations. I want to include mainland China. At present there is a US citizen named Harry Wu being held. We are engaging in foreign policy and no one is going to defend Mainland China. Harry Wu is locked up because he's an American there talking about human rights. Just imagine what they do to their own citizens.
  - Rep. Rushing said we have the proud reputation of leading the world in trying to restore democracy in South Africa. We learned then that if you're going to engage in foreign policy, you have to be very definite. Our goal then was to end apartheid. We had various forms of state sanctions in Massachusetts for 12 years. When change came, we ended all of our sanctions. Burma has been taken over by a right wing totalitarian regime. The goal is free democratic elections in Burma.
  - Rep. Teague asked if Rep. Rushing feels as strongly about China.
  - Rep. Rushing said every time we do one of these bills, the Republicans try to add every dastardly country in the world.
  - Rep. Teague said perhaps all these dastardly countries should be added.
  - Rep. Rushing said he won't do that because Rep. Teague has never filed a bill to restore democracy in China or North Korea. There has never been a hearing on any of those bills.
  - Rep. Teague said he never filed a prison bond bill either but that doesn't mean he can't offer an amendment to it.
  - By voice vote, amendment rejected and by the same vote, the bill was then engrossed. Reconsideration was negative.
- 7/20/1995: [Senate] Read and referred to the committee on Senate Ways and Means

- 9/18/1995: [Senate] Committee recommended ought to pass and referred to the committee on Senate Steering and Policy
- 10/16/1995: [Senate] Reporting date extended to October 30
- 11/6/1995: [Senate] Reporting date extended to November 15
- 2/29/1996: [Senate] Committee reported that the matter be placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session
- 3/20/1996: [Senate] Read second; Motion to lay on the table pending and postponed to the next session
- 3/20/1996: [SHNS] BURMA....Question came on ordering to a third reading H 2833 regulating state contracts with companies doing business with or in Burma.
  - Sen. Lees asked that action be delayed three weeks, and the Senate entered into a recess, after which, Sen. Lees withdrew his request.
  - Sen. Lees said I am very curious why members here want to do this. Why isn't Congress or the president doing this? We should not be setting foreign policy.
  - Sen. Walsh said the federal government gets many of its best ideas from the commonwealth of Massachusetts, including the Constitution.
  - Sen. Lees said maybe the president should put it in his policy guidelines.
  - Sen. Lees moved that the matter be laid upon the table.
  - Under the rules, action on his motion was placed in the orders of the day for the next session.
- 3/27/1996: [Senate] Postponed to April 3
- 3/27/1996: [SHNS] DELAY....Sen. Walsh asked to delay action until Apr. 3 on H 2833 regulating state contracts with companies doing business with or in Burma. By voice vote and without debate, action was delayed.
- 4/1/1996: [SHNS] BURMA....Maintaining that the state should not be involved in setting foreign policy, Senate Minority Leader Brian Lees will likely continue arguing against a bill regulating state contracts with companies doing business in Burma. Two weeks ago, Lees slammed the proposal and delayed action on it. And when it surfaced last week, Sen. Marian Walsh (D-West Roxbury), a supporter, asked for a one week delay until this Wednesday. During Mar. 20 debate, Lees wondered why, if this is such a good idea, Congress and President Clinton aren't pushing for such a policy. "The federal government gets many of its best ideas from the commonwealth of Massachusetts," responded Walsh, "including the Constitution."
- 4/10/1996: [Senate] Pending motion to lay on the table negatived; Ordered to a third reading
- 4/10/1996: [SHNS] BURMA....Question came on laying on the table H 2833 regulating state contracts with companies doing business with or in Burma.
  - Sen. Hicks said this legislation should not be handled by us. If this is so important, why hasn't our congressional delegation done anything with this? Why are we not singling out other countries where the same violations are occurring? I would hope that we set our sights on creating jobs here instead of worrying about jobs over there.
  - Sen. Walsh said I can understand why people would question this. I had the same questions. This is a small world. We have in countries like Burma horrific human rights violations. In South Africa in the late 1980s, we passed similar legislation. We taught each other. We became aware that we can have an effect. Two years ago we repealed that legislation because that government in South Africa smelled the coffee and changed. We also did this in Northern Ireland. This is a clear message from the government of Massachusetts to countries that violate human rights. What is our role here? It is the people at the local grassroots level that fight the wars and raise the

armies. I offer as one member that we recognize the responsibility we have to set a tone for civil rights across the globe.

- Sen. Hedlund said I hope the motion to lay on the table is not adopted. Much of what we do in this body we have no right injecting ourselves into. Last week we did something about barges, that is probably an interstate commerce issue. This is a valid issue. The situation in Burma is infinitely worse than what has gone on in South Africa in recent decades. It's a small small action that this body can take, but it's one that is warranted. I hope the motion to lay on the table is not adopted.
- By voice vote, MATTER IS NOT LAID UPON THE TABLE. By voice vote, matter is ordered to a third reading.
- 4/29/1996: [SHNS] BURMA....San Francisco just did it, Burma's rubber tree farmers fear it and Beacon Hill lawmakers are about to act on it - a ban on business with Burmese companies. Initially approved during the Senate's last formal session, the bill prohibits the commonwealth from entering into contracts for the purchase of goods and services with any companies doing business in Burma. The ban is similar to one applied to South Africa in the mid-1980s, which Massachusetts lawmakers are quick to point out they were the first to enact. Sen. Marian Walsh (D-West Roxbury) and Rep. Byron Rushing (D-Boston) aim to retrace those steps and have the commonwealth again lead the protest despite arguments that the issue is one of foreign policy. Burma, now known as Myanmar, is ruled by a military junta that has ruthlessly suppressed opposition.
- 6/5/1996: [Senate] Read third and passed to be engrossed
- 6/5/1996: [SHNS] ENGROSSED....By voice vote, the following bills were engrossed: H 2833 regulating state contracts with Burma
- 6/7/1996: [House] Enacted
- 6/7/1996: [SHNS] ENACTED.....Enacted without debate were H 2833 regulating state contracts with companies doing business with or in Burma
- 6/12/1996: [Senate] Enacted and laid before the Governor
- 6/12/1996: [SHNS] ENACTED....By voice vote the Senate enacted the following bills: further regulating state contract with Burma.
- 6/13/1996: [SHNS] And reaching the governor's desk this week was a bill to make Massachusetts the first state to impose sanctions on companies doing business in or with Burma. Weld is usually cool to such measures but is said to be leaning toward signing the bill that would prevent the state from buying goods or services from firms like Apple Computer and Pepsi, which have investments in the southeast Asian country where a military junta has been criticized for human rights violations. Weld was vacationing this week in the Adirondacks and will decide the Burma bill's fate when he returns next week. Of particular interest is word that Senator John Kerry, whom Weld would like to replace in the US Senate this fall, opposes sanctions.
- 6/17/1996: [SHNS] BURMA....On Gov. Weld's desk this week is legislation to prevent the state from buying products or services from companies that do business with or in Burma. If he signs the bill, Massachusetts will become the first state to impose such sanctions, although several US cities have done so. A military junta in 1990 threw out results of a Burmese election in which pro-democracy candidates won 80 percent of the 495 seats in parliament. Military forces have been charged with human rights violations for years. And US Senator John Kerry, whom Weld is trying to unseat this fall and who has resisted US economic sanctions, must soon record himself on a similar federal bill.
- 6/24/1996: [SHNS] BURMA....If a weekend review turned up no technical problems, Gov. Weld on Tuesday is expected to sign a bill barring the commonwealth from contracting with

companies doing business in Burma. Recently passed by both branches, the measure would make Massachusetts the first state in the nation to enact economic sanctions against the military junta now ruling the Southeast Asian nation. Weld, in a move to take advantage of US Senator John Kerry's hesitancy on a similar federal proposal, will likely throw a bill-signing ceremony Tuesday. Bill sponsor Rep. Byron Rushing (D-Boston) and area Burmese students and activists are expected to attend.

- 6/25/1996: Signed by the Governor
- 6/25/1996: [SHNS] BURMA.... Despite acting from halfway around the Globe, Massachusetts' push to be the nation's first state imposing economic sanctions against Burma's repressive rulers was applauded today as a bold move by Burmese activists now living here. [rest of text omitted for brevity; see corresponding SHNS document for full story]
- 9/23/1996: [SHNS] [The Burma law], which was signed into law earlier this year, has raised the ire of some of the business community's giants. The law, prohibiting state contracts with companies doing business in Burma, will force corporations like Apple Computer to decide if they want to be selective with whom they contract, or keep their Massachusetts ties. The Burma law was passed to pressure Burma's autocratic regime to change its ways. But, "How does selling computers to schools discourage democracy?" George Scalise, Apple's chief administrative office asked Newsweek last week. "I don't think we should be doing State Department work at the state capital level."