Bill No. and sponsor:  S. 3081 (Mr. Sam Brownback of Kansas).

Proponent name, location:  Celestaire, Inc., Wichita, KS.

Other bills on product (109th Congress only):  None.


Retroactive effect:  None.

Suggested article description(s) for enactment (including appropriate HTS subheading(s)):

Marine sextants of metal, designed for use in navigating by celestial bodies (provided for in subheading 9014.80.10).

Check one:  

Same as that in bill as introduced.  
X  Different from that in bill as introduced (see Technical comments section).

Product information, including uses/applications and source(s) of imports:

Sextants are optical instruments used for navigation that measure the angle of celestial bodies above the horizon from the observer’s position. The principal U.S. import sources are Germany, China, and Japan.

Estimated effect on customs revenue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HTS subheading: 9014.80.10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col. 1-General rate of duty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated value dutiable imports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customs revenue loss</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source of estimated dutiable import data: Commission and industry estimates.
Contacts with domestic firms/organizations (including the proponent):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of firm/organization</th>
<th>Date contacted</th>
<th>Claim US makes same or competing product(s)?</th>
<th>Submission attached?</th>
<th>Opposition noted?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Celestaire, Inc. (Proponent)  
Ken Gebhardt, 316-686-9785 | 07/12/2006 | No | No | No |
| Weems & Plath  
Dan Dickerson, 410-263-6700 | 07/13/2006 | No | No | No |
| Davis Instrument Corporation  
John Hansen, 510-732-9229 | 07/25/2006 | No | No | No |

Technical comments:  

The term “high accuracy” in the draft description lacks definition or any standard against which to measure performance, and thus we suggest that it be deleted unless such information can be added. The description is drafted as an “actual use” provision, requiring Customs verification, and we see that as impractical and unnecessary to administering the suspension. We suggest other minor modifications to make the description more consistent with normal tariff drafting, as shown on page 1.

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3 The Commission may express an opinion on the HTS classification of a product to facilitate consideration of the bill. However, by law, only the U.S. Customs Service is authorized to issue a binding ruling on this matter. The Commission believes that the U.S. Customs Service should be consulted prior to enactment of the bill.
To suspend temporarily the duty on high accuracy, metal, marine sextants, used for navigating by celestial bodies.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
MAY 25, 2006
Mr. BROWNBACK introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL
To suspend temporarily the duty on high accuracy, metal, marine sextants, used for navigating by celestial bodies.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. HIGH ACCURACY, METAL, MARINE Sextants, used for navigating by celestial bodies.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following new heading:
1 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by 
2 subsection (a) applies to goods entered, or withdrawn from 
3 warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after 
4 the date of the enactment of this Act.