Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 1911, Smarter Solution for Students Act, as amended.

The House passed H.R. 2397, Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2014.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5851–S5924

Measures Introduced: Thirteen bills were introduced, as follows: S. 1349–1361. **Page S5907**

Measures Reported:

S. 960, to foster stability in Syria, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 113–79)

S. Res. 156, expressing the sense of the Senate on the 10-year anniversary of NATO Allied Command Transformation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble.

S. 375, to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form. **Page S5907**

Measures Passed:

Smarter Solutions for Students Act: By 81 yeas to 18 nays (Vote No. 185), Senate passed H.R. 1911, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish interest rates for new loans made on or after July 1, 2013, to direct the Secretary of Education to convene the Advisory Committee on Improving Postsecondary Education Data to conduct a study on improvements to postsecondary education transparency at the Federal level, by the order of the Senate of Tuesday, July 23, 2013, 60 Senators having voted in the affirmative, after taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S5863–94**

Adopted:

Harkin (for Manchin) Amendment No. 1773, to establish student loan interest rates. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the requirement of a 60 affirmative vote threshold, be vitiated.) **Pages S5866, S5893–94**

Rejected:

By 46 yeas to 53 nays (Vote No. 183), Reed Amendment No. 1778 (to Amendment No. 1773), to provide for interest rate caps for certain Federal student loans. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the amendment, having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, the amendment was not agreed to.) **Pages S5870–74, S5891–92**

By 34 yeas to 65 nays (Vote No. 184), Sanders Amendment No. 1774 (to Amendment No. 1773), to provide a sunset date. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the amendment, having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, the amendment was not agreed to.) **Pages S5866–70, S5892–93**

Patricia Clark Boston Air Route Traffic Control Center: Senate passed H.R. 1092, to designate the air route traffic control center located in Nashua, New Hampshire, as the ''Patricia Clark Boston Air Route Traffic Control Center''. **Page S5923**

Measures Considered:

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of S. 1243, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S5856–63**

Adopted:

Portman Modified Amendment No. 1749, to prioritize certain projects under the bridges in critical corridors program. **Pages S5857–58**

Pending:

Murray (for Cardin) Amendment No. 1760, to require the Secretary of Transportation to submit to Congress a report relating to the condition of lane miles and highway bridge deck. **Pages S5858–61**

Coburn Amendment No. 1750, to prohibit funds from being directed to federal employees with unpaid Federal tax liability. **Page S5861**

Coburn Amendment No. 1751, to prohibit Federal funding of union activities by Federal employees. **Page S5861**

Coburn Amendment No. 1754, to prohibit Federal funds from being used to meet the matching requirements of other Federal Programs. **Pages S5861–63**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at 11 a.m. on Thursday, July 25, 2013. **Page S5924**

Tennessee Wilderness Act—Bill Referral: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of S. 1294, to designate as wilderness certain public land in the Cherokee National Forest in the State of Tennessee, and the bill then be referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. **Page S5923**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

3 Army nominations in the rank of general.

1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, and Navy. **Page S5924**

Messages from the House: **Page S5901**

Measures Referred: **Page S5901**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S5851–52, S5901**

Executive Communications: **Pages S5901–03**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S5903–07**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S5907**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S5907–08**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S5908–16**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S5916–22**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S5922**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S5922–23**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S5923**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—185) **Pages S5892, S5894**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 7:22 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 25, 2013. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5924.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

FHA SOLVENCY ACT

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the "Federal Housing Administration (FHA) Solvency Act of 2013", after receiving testimony from Carol Galante, Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Housing, and Federal Housing Administration Commissioner.

NOMINATION

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Mark E. Schaefer, of California, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Nelson, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

CRUISE INDUSTRY OVERSIGHT

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine cruise industry oversight, focusing on the need for a stronger focus on consumer protection, after receiving testimony from Rear Admiral Joseph Servidio, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy, United States Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security; Ross A. Klein, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada; Mark Rosenker, Cruise Lines International Association, McLean, Virginia; and Gerald Cahill, Carnival Cruise Lines, and Adam M. Goldstein, Royal Caribbean International, both of Miami, Florida.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments:

Subcommittee on Energy: Senators Franken (Chair), Johnson (SD), Landrieu, Cantwell, Sanders, Stabenow, Udall (CO), Manchin, Heinrich, Baldwin, Risch, Heller, Flake, Alexander, Portman, and Hoeven.

Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining: Senators Manchin (Chair), Johnson (SD), Landrieu, Cantwell, Udall (CO), Franken, Schatz, Heinrich, Baldwin, Barrasso, Risch, Lee, Heller, Flake, Scott, Alexander, and Hoeven.

Subcommittee on National Parks: Senators Udall (CO) (Chair), Landrieu, Sanders, Stabenow, Schatz, Heinrich, Baldwin, Portman, Barrasso, Lee, Alexander, and Hoeven.