

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2659–S2697

Measures Introduced: Thirty-eight bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1200–1237, and S. Res. 170–173. **Pages S2687–88**

Measures Reported:

H.R. 651, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 820 Elmwood Avenue in Providence, Rhode Island, as the “Sister Ann Keefe Post Office”.

S. 179, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 3rd Avenue, NW, in Chisholm, Minnesota, as the “James L. Oberstar Memorial Post Office Building”.

S. 994, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the “Staff Sergeant Joseph D’Augustine Post Office Building”.

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Measures Passed:

Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program Reauthorization Act: Senate passed S. 125, to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2020, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S2670–72**

Leahy (for Lee) Amendment No. 1214, to modify the authorization of appropriations. **Pages S2671–72**

WIOA Technical Amendments Act: Senate passed S. 1124, to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to improve the Act, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Page S2696

Inhofe (for Alexander/Murray) Amendment No. 1215, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S2696**

Condemning Atrocities Committed by Bashar al-Assad of Syria: Senate agreed to S. Res. 173, condemning atrocities committed by Bashar al-Assad of Syria and his regime. **Page S2696**

National Travel and Tourism Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 170, supporting the goals and

ideals of National Travel and Tourism Week and honoring the valuable contributions of travel and tourism to the United States.

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National Charter Schools Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 171, congratulating the students, parents, teachers, and administrators of charter schools across the United States for making ongoing contributions to education, and supporting the ideals and goals of the 16th annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 3 through May 9, 2015. **Page S2697**

National Small Business Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 172, honoring the vital role of small businesses and the passion of entrepreneurs in the United States during “National Small Business Week”, from May 4, through May 8, 2015.

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Measures Considered:

Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Page S2663

Pending:

Corker/Cardin Amendment No. 1140, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S2663**

Corker/Cardin Amendment No. 1179 (to Amendment No. 1140), to require submission of all Persian text included in the agreement. **Page S2663**

Blunt Amendment No. 1155 (to Amendment No. 1140), to extend the requirement for annual Department of Defense reports on the military power of Iran. **Page S2663**

Vitter Modified Amendment No. 1186 (to Amendment No. 1179), to require an assessment of inadequacies in the international monitoring and verification system as they relate to a nuclear agreement with Iran. **Page S2663**

Cotton Amendment No. 1197 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 1140), of a perfecting nature. **Page S2663**

Cotton (for Rubio) Amendment No. 1198 (to Amendment No. 1197), to require a certification that Iran's leaders have publically accepted Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state. **Page S2663**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, May 7, 2015, with the time until the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Corker/Cardin Amendment No. 1140 (listed above) equally divided in the usual form; and that the filing deadline for all second-degree amendments to Corker/Cardin Amendment No. 1140 and to the bill be at 10 a.m. **Page S2697**

Ensuring Tax Exempt Organizations the right to appeal act: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations. **Pages S2663–70, S2672–82**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S2685–87**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S2687**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2688–90**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2690–94**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2684–85**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S2694–95**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S2695–96**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:28 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 7, 2015. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2697.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

GLOBAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs concluded a hearing to examine global health problems, after receiving testimony from Deborah L. Birx, Ambassador-at-Large, Coordinator, Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS, and Special Representative for Global Health Diplomacy, Department of State; Mark Dybul, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Geneva, Switzerland; Elton John, Elton John AIDS Foundation, New York, New York; and Pastor Rick Warren, Saddleback Church, Lake Forest, California.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Defense, after receiving testimony from Ashton B. Carter, Secretary, and General Martin E. Dempsey, USA, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, both of the Department of Defense.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Daniel R. Elliott III, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board, and Mario Cordero, of California, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE BUDGET

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Fish and Wildlife Service, and S. 1036, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to provide certain Western States assistance in the development of statewide conservation and management plans or the protection and recovery of sage-grouse species, S. 855, to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to permit Governors of States to regulate intrastate endangered species and intrastate threatened species, S. 736, to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require disclosure to States of the basis of determinations under such Act, to ensure use of information provided by State, tribal, and county governments in decision making under such Act, S. 655, to prohibit the use of funds by the Secretary of the Interior to make a final determination on the listing of the northern long-eared bat under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, S. 468, to provide a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to allow the Director of the Bureau of Land Management and the Chief of the Forest Service to remove Pinyon-Juniper trees to conserve and restore the habitat of the greater sage-grouse and the mule deer, S. 293, to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to establish a procedure for approval of certain settlements, S. 292, to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require publication on the Internet of the basis for determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species, S. 112, to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require the Secretary of the Interior to publish and make available for public comment a draft economic analysis at the

time a proposed rule to designate critical habitat is published, and S. 1081, to end the use of body-gripping traps in the National Wildlife Refuge System, after receiving testimony from Dan Ashe, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; Gordon Cruickshank, Valley County Board of Commissioners Chairman, Valley County, Idaho, on behalf of the National Association of Counties; David Bernhardt, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, Arlington, Virginia; and Donald Barry, Defenders of Wildlife, Washington, D.C.

MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND POLICIES OVERSIGHT

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Multilateral International Development, Multilateral Institutions, and International Economic, Energy, and Environmental Policy concluded an oversight hearing to examine multilateral and bilateral international development programs and policies, after receiving testimony from Bathsheba N. Crocker, Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs, Isobel Coleman, Ambassador for UN Management and Reform, Judith G. Garber, Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, and Kurt Tong, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, all of the Department of State; and Brett D. Schaefer, The Heritage Foundation, and Reid Detchon, United Nations Foundation, both of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 280, to improve the efficiency, management, and interagency coordination of the Federal permitting process through reforms overseen by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1180, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to modernize the integrated public alert and warning system of the United States, with an amendment;

S. 750, to achieve border security on certain Federal lands along the Southern border, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 282, to provide taxpayers with an annual report disclosing the cost and performance of Government programs and areas of duplication among them, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1109, to require adequate information regarding the tax treatment of payments under settlement agreements entered into by Federal agencies;

S. 1172, to improve the process of presidential transition, with amendments;

S. 434, to strengthen the accountability of individuals involved in misconduct affecting the integrity of background investigations, to update guidelines for security clearances, to prevent conflicts of interest relating to contractors providing background investigation fieldwork services and investigative support services;

H.R. 623, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 179, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 3rd Avenue, NW, in Chisholm, Minnesota, as the “James L. Oberstar Memorial Post Office Building”;

S. 994, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the “Staff Sergeant Joseph D’Augustine Post Office Building”;

H.R. 651, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 820 Elmwood Avenue in Providence, Rhode Island, as the “Sister Ann Keefe Post Office”; and

The nominations of David Michael Bennett, of North Carolina, Mickey D. Barnett, of New Mexico, Stephen Crawford, of Maryland, and James C. Miller, III, of Virginia, each to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service.

REAUTHORIZING THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, focusing on the role of consumer information in college choice, after receiving testimony from Mark Schneider, American Institutes for Research, Deborah A. Santiago, *Excelencia* in Education, both of Washington, D.C.; Stacy Lightfoot, Public Education Foundation, Chattanooga, Tennessee; and Taleah Mitchell, Seattle, Washington.

ENSURING AN INFORMED CITIZENRY

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine ensuring an informed citizenry, focusing on examining the Administration’s efforts to improve open government, after receiving testimony from Melanie Ann Pustay, Director, Office of Information Policy, Department of Justice; Nikki Gramian, Acting Director, Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration; Joyce Barr, Assistant Secretary of State for Administration; Karen Kaiser, The Associated Press, New York, New York, on behalf of The Sunshine in Government Initiative; and Thomas

Blanton, George Washington University National Security Archive, Washington, D.C.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Dale A. Drozd, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, who was introduced by Senator Boxer, Lawrence Joseph Vilardo, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York, who was introduced by Senator Schumer, and LaShann Moutique DeArcy Hall, who was introduced by Senator Gillibrand, and Ann Donnelly, who was introduced by Senator Schumer, both to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

IMPACT OF FEDERAL LABOR AND SAFETY LAWS ON THE U.S. SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the impact of federal labor and safety laws on the United States seafood industry, including S. 190, to amend the

Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safety of imported seafood, after receiving testimony from Steven M. Solomon, Deputy Associate Commissioner, Regulatory Affairs, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; Portia Wu, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training; Mike Strain, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry Commissioner, Baton Rouge; John Connelly, National Fisheries Institute, Washington, D.C.; and Frank B. Randol, Randol, Inc, Lafayette, Louisiana.

AGING IN PLACE

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine aging in place, focusing on advances in technology that help seniors live independently, after receiving testimony from Maureen McCarthy, Deputy Chief Patient Care Services Officer, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Laurie M. Orlov, Aging in Place Technology Watch, Port St. Lucie, Florida; Carol Kim, University of Maine, Orono; Marjorie Skubic, University of Missouri, Columbia; and Charles S. Strickler, Manakin-Sabot, Virginia.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet in a Pro Forma session at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 8, 2015.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2015

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold hearings to examine child nutrition programs, 10 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine rural health, 10 a.m., SD-124.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Justice, 10:30 a.m., SD-192.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine social media in the next evolution of terrorist recruitment, 9:30 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine S. 1137, to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act to make improvements and technical corrections, 9:30 a.m., SD-226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive closed briefings on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE
9:30 a.m., Thursday, May 7

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
11 a.m., Friday, May 8

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 1191, Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act, with the filing deadline for second-degree amendments to the Corker/Cardin Amendment No. 1140 and to the bill at 10 a.m. At 10:30 a.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Corker/Cardin Amendment No. 1140 to the bill.

House Chamber

Program for Friday: The House is scheduled to meet in a Pro Forma session at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 8, 2015.



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