

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4063–S4118

Measures Introduced: Twenty bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1551–1570, and S. Res. 199–200.

Pages S4103–04

Measures Reported:

H.R. 23, to reauthorize the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114–62)

S. 1558, making appropriations for Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016. (S. Rept. No. 114–63)

H.R. 2250, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114–64)

S. 756, to require a report on accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria.

Page S4103

Measures Passed:

Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Denver: Senate passed S. 1568, to extend the authorization to carry out the replacement of the existing medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver, Colorado, to authorize transfers of amounts to carry out the replacement of such medical center.

Page S4116

Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act: Senate passed H.R. 615, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Pages S4116–17

Authorizing the Reprinting of the 25th Edition Pocket Constitution: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 54, authorizing the reprinting of the 25th edition of the pocket version of the United States Constitution.

Page S4117

Measures Considered:

National Defense Authorization Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S4073–90

Withdrawn:

McCain (for Burr) Modified Amendment No. 1569 (to Amendment No. 1463), to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats.

Pages S4073, S4089

Pending:

McCain Amendment No. 1463, in the nature of a substitute.

Page S4073

McCain Amendment No. 1456 (to Amendment No. 1463), to require additional information supporting long-range plans for construction of naval vessels.

Page S4073

Cornyn Amendment No. 1486 (to Amendment No. 1463), to require reporting on energy security issues involving Europe and the Russian Federation, and to express the sense of Congress regarding ways the United States could help vulnerable allies and partners with energy security.

Page S4073

Vitter Modified Amendment No. 1473 (to Amendment No. 1463), to limit the retirement of Army combat units.

Pages S4073, S4075, S4083

Markey Amendment No. 1645 (to Amendment No. 1463), to express the sense of Congress that exports of crude oil to United States allies and partners should not be determined to be consistent with the national interest if those exports would increase energy prices in the United States for American consumers or businesses or increase the reliance of the United States on imported oil.

Page S4073

Reed (for Blumenthal) Modified Amendment No. 1564 (to Amendment No. 1463), to enhance protections accorded to servicemembers and their spouses.

Pages S4073, S4075–83

McCain (for Paul) Modified Amendment No. 1543 (to Amendment No. 1463), to strengthen employee cost savings suggestions programs within the Federal Government. **Page S4073**

Reed (for Durbin) Modified Amendment No. 1559 (to Amendment No. 1463), to prohibit the award of Department of Defense contracts to inverted domestic corporations. **Page S4073**

Feinstein (for McCain) Amendment No. 1889 (to Amendment No. 1463), to reaffirm the prohibition on torture. **Page S4073**

Fischer/Booker Amendment No. 1825 (to Amendment No. 1463), to authorize appropriations for national security aspects of the Merchant Marine for fiscal years 2016 and 2017. **Page S4073**

Lee Amendment No. 1687 (to Amendment No. 1473), to provide for the protection and recovery of the greater sage-grouse, the conservation of lesser prairie-chickens, and the removal of endangered species status for the American burying beetle. **Pages S4083–88**

McCain (for Ernst/Boxer) Amendment No. 1549 (to Amendment No. 1463), to provide for a temporary, emergency authorization of defense articles, defense services, and related training directly to the Kurdistan Regional Government. **Pages S4089–90**

Reed (for Gillibrand) Amendment No. 1578 (to Amendment No. 1463), to reform procedures for determinations to proceed to trial by court-martial for certain offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. **Page S4090**

A motion was entered to close further debate on McCain Amendment No. 1463, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Tuesday, June 13, 2015. **Page S4087**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of McCain Amendment No. 1463. **Page S4087**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 56 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. 207), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the McCain (for Burr) Modified Amendment No. 1569 (to Amendment No. 1463) (listed above). **Pages S4087–88**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that McCain (for Ernst) Amendment No. 1549 (to Amendment No. 1463) (listed above) and Reed (for Gillibrand) Amendment No. 1578 (to Amendment No. 1463) (listed above) be subject to a 60 affirmative vote threshold. **Page S4089**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, June 15, 2015, Senate resume consideration of the bill; and that the filing deadline for all first-degree amendments to both the bill and to McCain Amendment No. 1463, be at 4 p.m. **Page S4117**

Signing Authority—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senator Perdue be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions. **Page S4117**

McGuire and Smith Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 5 p.m., on Monday, June 15, 2015, Senate begin consideration of the nominations of Matthew T. McGuire, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and Gentry O. Smith, of North Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service; that there be 30 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote, without intervening action of debate, on confirmation of the nominations in the order listed; and that no further motions be in order to the nominations. **Page S4117**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

Douglas J. Kramer, of Kansas, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration. **Pages S4070, S4118**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Brian R. Martinotti, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Robert F. Rossiter, Jr., of Nebraska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska. **Pages S4117–18**

Messages from the House: **Page S4103**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S4104–05**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S4105–10**

Additional Statements: **Pages S4101–02**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S4110–15**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Pages S4115–16**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S4116**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S4116**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—207) **Page S4088**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:19 p.m., until 2 p.m. on Monday, June

15, 2015. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S4117.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Appropriations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

An original bill (S.1558) entitled, “Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2016”;

An original bill entitled, “Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016”; and

An original bill entitled, “Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2016”.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Ann Elizabeth Dunkin, of California, Thomas A. Burke, of Maryland, and Jane Toshiko Nishida, of Maryland, who was introduced by Senator Cardin,

each to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

FEDERAL AGENCY WHISTLEBLOWERS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine accounts of current and former federal agency whistleblowers, after receiving testimony from Lieutenant Colonel Jason Amerine, USA; Taylor Johnson, Senior Special Agent, Office of Investigations, and Jose Rafael Ducos, Chief Officer, Customs and Border Protection, both of the Department of Homeland Security; Michael James Keegan, former Associate Commissioner, Facilities and Supply Management, Department of Budget, Finance, and Management, Social Security Administration; and Thomas Devine, Government Accountability Project, Washington, D.C.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 17 public bills, H.R. 2728–2744; and 1 resolution, H. Res. 309 were introduced.

Pages H4241–42

Additional Cosponsors:

Page H4243

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 160, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–147);

H.R. 1615, to direct the Chief FOIA Officer of the Department of Homeland Security to make certain improvements in the implementation of section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Freedom of Information Act), and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–148); and

H.R. 1637, to require annual reports on the activities and accomplishments of federally funded research and development centers within the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–149).

Page H4241

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Duncan (TN) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H4163

Recess: The House recessed at 10:56 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Page H4169

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal by a recorded vote of 239 ayes to 172 noes with one answering “present”, Roll No. 360.

Pages H4169, H4236–37

Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015—Order of Business: Agreed by unanimous consent that the order of the House of June 10, 2015, regarding consideration of the Senate amendments to H.R. 1295, be modified by striking “printed” and inserting “submitted for printing”.

Page H4172

Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015: The House agreed to the Ryan (WI) motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the title of H.R. 1295 and concur in the Senate amendment to the text of H.R. 1295 with an amendment numbered 1 printed in the Congressional Record, by a yea-and-nay vote of 397 yeas to 32 nays, Roll No. 345.

Pages H4194–H4218

Senate amendments were considered pursuant to the order of the House of June 10, 2015, as modified by the order of the House of today. **Page H4172**

Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2016: The House passed H.R. 2685, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, by a yea-and-nay vote of 278 yeas to 149 nays, Roll No. 358. Consideration began yesterday, June 10th.

Pages H4172, H4218–27

Rejected the Moulton motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 186 ayes to 240 noes, Roll No. 357. **Pages H4225–27**

Agreed to:

Massie amendment that was debated on June 10th that prohibits the use of funds for Section 702 programs of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (by a recorded vote of 255 ayes to 174 noes, Roll No. 356).

Pages H4224–25

Rejected:

Schiff amendment that was debated on June 10th that sought to prohibit the use of funds after March 31, 2016, for Operation Inherent Resolve in the absence of a law enacted by Congress before such date that specifically authorizes the use of military force against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (by a recorded vote of 196 ayes to 231 noes, Roll No. 346); **Pages H4218–19**

Lee amendment that was debated on June 10th that sought to prohibit the use of funds pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force after December 31, 2015 (by a recorded vote of 157 ayes to 270 noes, Roll No. 347); **Page H4219**

Lee amendment that was debated on June 10th that sought to prohibit the use of funds pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (by a recorded vote of 165 ayes to 264 noes, Roll No. 348); **Pages H4219–20**

Sablan amendment that was debated on June 10th that sought to prohibit the use of funds to establish any live-fire range, training course, or maneuver area within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (by a recorded vote of 173 ayes to 256 noes, Roll No. 349); **Page H4220**

Gosar amendment that was debated on June 10th that sought to prohibit the use of funds by the Department of the Navy to divest or transfer, or prepare to divest or transfer, any search and rescue units from the Marine Corps (by a recorded vote of 81 ayes to 347 noes, Roll No. 350); **Page H4221**

Johnson (GA) amendment that was debated on June 10th that sought to prohibit the use of funds

to transfer a flash-bang grenade (by a recorded vote of 165 ayes to 265 noes, Roll No. 351); **Pages H4221–22**

Gosar amendment that was debated on June 10th that sought to prohibit the use of funds to procure any Army Aircrew Combat Uniforms (by a recorded vote of 51 ayes to 378 noes, Roll No. 352); **Page H4222**

Johnson (GA) amendment that was debated on June 10th that sought to prohibit the use of funds to transfer a mine-resistant ambush protected vehicle (by a recorded vote of 166 ayes to 262 noes, Roll No. 353); **Page H4223**

Ellison amendment that was debated on June 10th that sought to prohibit the use of funds to enter into a contract with any person whose disclosures of a proceeding with a disposition in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System include the term “Fair Labor Standards Act” and such disposition is listed as “willful” or “repeated” (by a recorded vote of 187 ayes to 242 noes, Roll No. 354); and **Pages H4223–24**

Smith (MO) amendment that was debated on June 10th that sought to prohibit the use of funds to provide for defense counsel for any individual described in section 8101(c) (by a recorded vote of 133 ayes to 297 noes, Roll No. 355). **Page H4224**

H. Res. 303, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 2685) and (H.R. 2393), was agreed to yesterday, June 10th.

Trade Act of 2015 and Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015—Rule for consideration: The House agreed to H. Res. 305, the rule providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1314) and the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 644), by a yea-and-nay vote of 217 yeas to 212 nays, Roll No. 359. **Pages H4227–36**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H4227.

Senate Referral: S. 253 was held at the desk. **Page H4227**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes and thirteen recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4217–18, H4218, H4219, H4219–20, H4220, H4221, H4221–22, H4222, H4223, H4223–24, H4224, H4225, H4226–27, H4227, H4236, H4236–37. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Committee Meetings

IMPLEMENTING THE AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 2014: CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry held a hearing entitled “Implementing the Agricultural Act of 2014: Conservation Programs”. Testimony was heard from Jason Weller, Chief, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture; Val Dolcini, Administrator, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held a markup on the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill. The Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill was forwarded to the full committee, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Full Committee held a markup on the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill for FY 2016. The State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill for FY 2016 was ordered reported, as amended.

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE VIEWS ON THE MILITARY COMPENSATION AND RETIREMENT MODERNIZATION COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MILITARY HEALTH CARE REFORM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing entitled “The Department of Defense Views on the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission's Recommendations for Military Health Care Reform”. Testimony was heard from Jonathan Woodson, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Department of Defense; Lieutenant General Patricia D. Horoho, Surgeon General, Army; Lieutenant General Mark A. Ediger, Surgeon General, Air Force; and Rear Admiral C. Forrest Faison, III, MC, USN, Deputy Surgeon General, Navy.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Examining H.R. 1786, James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act”. Testimony was heard from John Howard, Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; and public witnesses.

THE FUTURE OF HOUSING IN AMERICA: OVERSIGHT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Future of Housing in America: Oversight of the Department of Housing and Urban Development”. Testimony was heard from Julian Castro, Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

EXAMINING LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO PRESERVE CONSUMER CHOICE AND FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit held a hearing entitled “Examining Legislative Proposals to Preserve Consumer Choice and Financial Independence”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

RETREAT OR REVIVAL: A STATUS REPORT ON DEMOCRACY IN ASIA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific held a hearing entitled “Retreat or Revival: A Status Report on Democracy in Asia”. Testimony was heard from Tom Malinowski, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Department of State; Jonathan Stivers, Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Asia, U.S. Agency for International Development; Scot Marciel, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Department of State; and public witnesses.

THE GOLDMAN ACT TO RETURN ABDUCTED AMERICAN CHILDREN: ASSESSING THE COMPLIANCE REPORT AND REQUIRED ACTION

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled “The Goldman Act to Return Abducted American Children: Assessing the Compliance Report and Required Action”. Testimony was heard from Karen Christensen, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Department of State; Henry Hand, Director, Office of Children's Issues, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Department of State; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 9, the “Innovation Act”. H.R. 9 was ordered reported, as amended.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee concluded a markup on H.R. 387, the “Economic Development Through Tribal Land Exchange Act”;

H.R. 521, to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska; H.R. 1289, the “John Muir National Historic Site Expansion Act”; H.R. 1992, the “American Soda Ash Competitiveness Act”; H.R. 2295, the “National Energy Security Corridors Act”; H.R. 2358, the “Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act”; and H.R. 2647, the “Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015”. The following bills were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 521, H.R. 1289, H.R. 2295, H.R. 2358, and H.R. 2647. The following bills were ordered reported, without amendment: H.R. 387 and H.R. 1992.

EXAMINING FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE AT THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Health Care, Benefits and Administrative Rules held a hearing entitled “Examining Fraud, Waste, and Abuse at the Export-Import Bank”. Testimony was heard from Mike McCarthy, Acting Inspector General, Export-Import Bank, Office of the Inspector General.

TRANSFORMING AMERICA’S AIR TRAVEL

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Space held a hearing entitled “Transforming America’s Air Travel”. Testimony was heard from Jaiwon Shin, Associate Administrator, Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Member, Federal Aviation Administration Research and Development Advisory Committee; Dennis Filler, Director, William J. Hughes Technical Center, Federal Aviation Administration; and public witnesses.

SQUEEZED: CURRENT CHALLENGES FOR SMALL CITRUS OPERATIONS

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy and Trade held a hearing entitled

“Squeezed: Current Challenges for Small Citrus Operations”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXPLORING VBA’S FIDUCIARY PROGRAM

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing entitled “Exploring VBA’s Fiduciary Program”. Testimony was heard from David R. McLenachen, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Disability Assistance, Director, Pension and Fiduciary Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Gary Abe, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations, Office of Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2015

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing entitled “EPA’s Proposed Ozone Rule”, 9:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Oversight Failures Behind the Radiological Incident at DOE’s Waste Isolation Pilot Plant”, 9:45 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Research and Technology, hearing entitled “U.S. Surface Transportation: Technology Driving the Future”, 9 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

2 p.m., Monday, June 15

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond one hour), Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1735, National Defense Authorization Act. The filing deadline for all first-degree amendments to both the bill and to McCain Amendment No. 1463, will be at 4 p.m.

At 5 p.m., Senate will begin consideration of the nominations of Matthew T. McGuire, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and Gentry O. Smith, of North Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service, and vote on confirmation of the nominations at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Friday, June 12

House Chamber

Program for Friday: Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 1314—Trade Act of 2015 (Subject to a Rule). Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendments with a House Amendment to H.R. 644—Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (Subject to a Rule).

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