

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6089–6146

Measures Introduced: Seventeen bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1882–1898, and S. Res. 234–235. **Page S6136**

Measures Reported:

S. 373, to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114–96)

S. 284, to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, with an amendment.

S. 1596, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2082 Stringtown Road in Grove City, Ohio, as the “Specialist Joseph W. Riley Post Office Building”.

S. 1632, to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1826, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 99 West 2nd Street in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, as the Lieutenant Colonel James “Maggie” Megellas Post Office. **Page 6134**

Measures Passed:

Authorize Printing: Senate agreed to S. Res. 234, to authorize the printing of a collection of the rules of the committees of the Senate. **Page S6144**

National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 235, designating September 2015 as “National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month”. **Page S6144**

Measures Considered:

Hire More Heroes Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of H.R. 22, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Pro-

tection and Affordable Care Act, after taking action on the following motions and amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S6091–92**

Adopted:

McConnell (for Inhofe) Amendment No. 2533 (to Amendment No. 2421), relating to Federal-aid highways and highway safety construction programs. **Page S6092**

McConnell Amendment No. 2421 (to Amendment No. 2266), of a perfecting nature. **Page S6091**

By 62 yeas to 38 nays (Vote No. 258), McConnell Modified Amendment No. 2266, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6092**

Rejected:

McConnell Amendment No. 2417 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 2266), to change the enactment date. (Senate tabled the amendment.) **Page S6091**

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

McConnell Amendment No. 2418 (to Amendment No. 2417), of a perfecting nature, fell when McConnell Amendment No. 2417 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 2266) (listed above), was tabled. **Page S6091**

By 65 yeas to 35 nays (Vote No. 259), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the bill. **Page S6092**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill, post-cloture, at approximately 10:00 a.m., on Thursday, July 30, 2015; that the time until 12:00 p.m. be equally divided in the usual form; and that all time during the adjournment of the Senate count post-cloture on the bill. **Pages S6144–45**

Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that if the Senate receives the papers for H.R. 3236, to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, to provide resource flexibility to the Department of Veterans Affairs for health care services, that

at 1:45 p.m., on Thursday, July 30, 2015, Senate begin consideration of the bill and vote on passage, with no intervening action of debate, and that there be a 60 affirmative vote threshold for passage of the bill.

Page S6144

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13441 with respect to Lebanon; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM-22)

Page S6132

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Allison Beck, of the District of Columbia, to be Federal Mediation and Conciliation Director.

Page S6146

Carol Fortine Ochoa, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, General Services Administration.

Page S6146

Jeffrey Michael Prieto, of California, to be General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture.

Page S6146

1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general.

Page S6146

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

2 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force and Army.

Pages S6145-46

Messages from the House:

Page S6132

Measures Referred:

Page S6132

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

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Enrolled Bills Presented:

Page S6132

Executive Communications:

Pages S6132-34

Executive Reports of Committees:

Pages S6134-36

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S6136-38

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S6138-43

Additional Statements:

Pages S6130-32

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Pages S6143-44

Privileges of the Floor:

Page S6144

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—259)

Page S6092

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:28 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 30, 2015. (For Senate's program, see the re-

marks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6145.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the impacts of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on United States interests and the military balance in the Middle East, after receiving testimony from John F. Kerry, Secretary of State; Ashton B. Carter, Secretary, and General Martin E. Dempsey, USA, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, both of the Department of Defense; Jacob J. Lew, Secretary of the Treasury; and Ernest J. Moniz, Secretary of Energy.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SHIPYARDS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support concluded a hearing to examine best practices at public and private shipyards, after receiving testimony from Ray Bagley, Huntington Ingalls Industries Newport News Shipbuilding, Newport News, Virginia; and Paul O'Connor, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Maine.

BANKRUPTCY REFORM

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection concluded a hearing to examine the role of bankruptcy reform in addressing too-big-to-fail, including S. 1840, to amend title 11, United States Code, to provide for the liquidation, reorganization, or recapitalization of a covered financial corporation, after receiving testimony from Randall D. Guynn, Davis Polk and Wardwell LLP, New York, New York, on behalf of the Bipartisan Policy Center Financial Regulatory Reform Initiative Failure Resolution Task Force; John B. Taylor, Stanford University Hoover Institution, Palo Alto, California; Thomas H. Jackson, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York; and Simon Johnson, MIT Sloan School of Management, Cambridge, Massachusetts, on behalf of the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

WIRELESS BROADBAND

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine wireless broadband and the future of spectrum policy, after receiving testimony from Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission; Meredith Attwell Baker, CTIA—The Wireless Association, and Thomas M. Lenard, Technology Policy

Institute, both of Washington, D.C.; J. Pierre de Vries, University of Colorado Silicon Flatirons Center for Law, Technology and Entrepreneurship Spectrum Policy Initiative, Boulder; and Blair Levin, Brookings Institute Metropolitan Policy Program, Chevy Chase, Maryland.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee continued consideration of an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, but did not complete action thereon, and will meet again on Thursday, July 30, 2015.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Vanessa Lorraine Allen Sutherland, of Virginia, to be Chairperson of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, Kristen Marie Kulinowski, of New York, to be a Member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, Gregory Guy Nadeau, of Maine, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, and Eric Martin Satz, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 284, to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, with an amendment;

S. 1632, to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1875, to support enhanced accountability for United States assistance to Afghanistan, with an amendment; and

The nominations of Michele Thoren Bond, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary (Consular Affairs), Sarah Elizabeth Mendelson, of the District of Columbia, to be Representative on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to be an Alternate Representative to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Sheila Gwaltney, of California, to be Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic, Perry L. Holloway, of South Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, Laura Farnsworth Dogu, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Nicaragua, Peter F. Mulrean, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Haiti, Kathleen Ann Doherty, of New York, to be Amba-

sador to the Republic of Cyprus, James Desmond Melville, Jr., of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Estonia, Samuel D. Heins, of Minnesota, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway, Hans G. Klemm, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to Romania, Paul Wayne Jones, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Poland, all of the Department of State, Gayle Smith, of Ohio, to be Administrator, and Thomas O. Melia, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator, both of the United States Agency for International Development, and routine lists in the Foreign Service.

JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, after receiving testimony from Mark Dubowitz, Foundation for Defense of Democracies Center of Sanctions and Illicit Finance, Washington, D.C.; and Nicholas Burns, Harvard Kennedy School, Boston, Massachusetts.

FINANCIAL CRISIS IN GREECE

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation concluded a hearing to examine the financial crisis in Greece, focusing on implications and lessons learned, after receiving testimony from John B. Taylor, Stanford University Hoover Institution, Stanford, California; and Robert B. Kahn, Council on Foreign Relations, Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

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

S. 1864, to improve national security by developing metrics to measure the effectiveness of security between ports of entry, at points of entry, and along the maritime border;

S. 1846, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to secure critical infrastructure against electromagnetic threats, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1869, to improve federal network security and authorize and enhance an existing intrusion detection and prevention system for civilian federal networks, with amendments;

S. 1073, to amend the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012, including making changes to the Do Not Pay initiative, for improved detection, prevention, and recovery of improper payments to deceased individuals, with amendments;

S. 1868, to extend by 15 years the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to conduct the quarterly financial report program, with an amendment;

S. 1808, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a Northern Border threat analysis, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 779, to provide for Federal agencies to develop public access policies relating to research conducted by employees of that agency or from funds administered by that agency, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1170, to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research;

H.R. 1531, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide a pathway for temporary seasonal employees in Federal land management agencies to compete for vacant permanent positions under internal merit promotion procedures;

S. 1596, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2082 Stringtown Road in Grove City, Ohio, as the “Specialist Joseph W. Riley Post Office Building”;

S. 1826, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 99 West 2nd Street in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, as the Lieutenant Colonel James “Maggie” Megellas Post Office; and

The nomination of Denise Turner Roth, of North Carolina, to be Administrator of General Services.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported S. 383, to provide for Indian trust asset management reform, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE OVERSIGHT

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the true costs of alcohol and drug abuse in Native communities, after receiving testimony from Robert G. McSwain, Principal Deputy Director, Indian Health Service, and Mirtha Beadle, Director, Office of Tribal Affairs and Policy, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, both of the Department of Health and Human Services; Melanie Benjamin, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Onamia, Minnesota; John P. Walters, Hudson Institute Center for Substance Abuse Policy Research, Washington, D.C.; and Sunny Goggles, White Buffalo Recovery Center, Arapahoe, Wyoming.

IRS TARGETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights and Federal Courts concluded a hearing to examine Internal Revenue Service targeting, focusing on progress of agency reforms and congressional options, including S. 273, to amend title 18, United States Code, to pro-

hibit the intentional discrimination of a person or organization by an employee of the Internal Revenue Service, after receiving testimony from John Koskinen, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury; Cleta Mitchell, Foley and Lardner LLP, Stephen Spaulding, Common Cause, Lawrence M. Noble, Campaign Legal Center, Diana L. Aviv, Independent Sector, Gregory L. Colvin, Adler and Colvin, on behalf of the Bright Lines Project, and Jay Alan Sekulow, American Center for Law and Justice, all of Washington, D.C.; Edward D. Greim, Graves Garrett, LLC, Kansas City, Missouri; Toby Marie Walker, Waco Tea Party, Waco, Texas; and Jenny Beth Martin, Tea Party Patriots, Inc., Woodstock, Georgia.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1400, to amend the Small Business Act to direct the task force of the Office of Veterans Business Development to provide access to and manage the distribution of excess or surplus property to veteran-owned small businesses, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1756, to help small businesses take advantage of energy efficiency;

S. 1857, to amend the Small Business Act to provide for expanded participation in the microloan program;

S. 1866, to establish the veterans’ business outreach center program, to improve the programs for veterans of the Small Business Administration, with an amendment;

S. 1870, to amend the Small Business Act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to carry out a pilot program on issuing grants to eligible veterans to start or acquire qualifying businesses, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

An original bill entitled, “A Sense of the Committee on the Small Business Tax Compliance Relief Act of 2015”.

VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine ending veteran homelessness, after receiving testimony from Lisa Pape, Executive Director, Homeless Programs, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Jennifer Ho, Senior Advisor on Housing and Services, Department of Housing and Urban Development; Lisa Tepper Bates, Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, Hartford; Michael Blecker, Swords to Plowshares, San Francisco, California; Baylee Crone, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, and Jeff

Steele, The American Legion, both of Washington, D.C.; and Edward Powers, HOPE Atlanta, Atlanta, Georgia.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 160 public bills, H.R. 3273–3432; and 18 resolutions, H.J. Res. 62; H. Con. Res. 67–69; and H. Res. 392–405 were introduced. **Pages H5762–70**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H5775–77**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 9, to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act to make improvements and technical corrections, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–235);

H.R. 1992, to reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–236);

H.R. 3116, to extend by 15 years the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to conduct the quarterly financial report program (H. Rept. 114–237);

H.R. 1759, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the publication, by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, of information relating to rulemakings, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–238, Part 1); and

H.R. 1759, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the publication, by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, of information relating to rulemakings, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–238, Part 2). **Page H5762**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Fleischmann to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H5595**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:30 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H5605**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by voice vote. **Pages H5605, H5653**

VA Accountability Act of 2015: The House passed H.R. 1994, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal or demotion of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs based on performance or misconduct, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 256 yeas to 170 nays, Roll No. 489.

Pages H5653–40, H5650–53

Rejected the Takano motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 184 yeas to 241 noes, Roll No. 488. **Pages H5651–53**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Veterans Affairs now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule. **Page H5631**

Agreed to:

Benishak amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 114–234) that reforms and improves the VA Inspector General's ability to report on problems and problem employees at the VA; requires the IG to release reports including employee misconduct to the public and explain what changes the VA has requested, requires the IG to identify a manager responsible for fixing an identified problem, makes it easier to fire an identified employee, and targets the bonuses of employees that fail to solve problems. **Pages H5635–40**

Rejected:

Takano amendment in the nature of a substitute (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 114–234) that sought to provide VA Secretary the authority to immediately suspend without pay any employee whose performance or misconduct is a threat to health or safety; ensure back pay for whistleblowers unfairly terminated, and cap the payment of administrative leave to 14 days; make effective date of back pay provision October 1, 2015 (by a recorded vote of 191 yeas to 233 noes, Roll No. 487). **Pages H5650–51**

H. Res. 388, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1994) and (H.R. 3236) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 243 yeas to 183 noes, Roll No. 484, after the previous question was ordered by a yeas-and-nays vote of 242 yeas to 180 nays, Roll No. 483. **Pages H5610–23**

Question of Consideration: The Chair announced that the bill (H.R. 3236) to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and to provide resource flexibility to the Department of Veterans Affairs for health care services, contained an emergency designation pursuant to section 4(g)(1) of the Statutory Pay-

As-You-Go Act of 2010. Subsequently, the House agreed to consider H.R. 3236 by voice vote.

Page H5640

Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015: The House passed H.R. 3236, to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and to provide resource flexibility to the Department of Veterans Affairs for health care services, by a yea-and-nay vote of 385 yeas to 34 nays with one answering “present”, Roll No. 486.

Pages H5640–50

H. Res. 388, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1994) and (H.R. 3236) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 243 yeas to 183 nays, Roll No. 484, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 242 yeas to 180 nays, Roll No. 483.

Pages H5621–22

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated on Monday, July 27th:

First Responder Anthrax Preparedness Act: H.R. 1300, amended, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines and antimicrobials available to emergency response providers, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 424 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 485.

Page H5623

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 1 p.m. on Friday, July 31.

Page H5653

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure—Communication: Read a letter from Chairman Shuster wherein he transmitted copies of resolutions to authorize nine alteration projects, two reprogramming prospectuses, two construction prospectuses, and two lease prospectuses, included in the General Services Administration’s FY2015 and FY2016 Capital Investment and Leasing Programs. The resolutions were adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on July 23, 2015.

Page H5664

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency with respect to Lebanon that was declared in Executive Order 13441 of August 1, 2007, is to continue in effect beyond August 1, 2015—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 114–53).

Page H5664

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate appears on page 5601.

Senate Referrals: S. 614 and S. 242 were held at the desk. S. 764 was referred to the Committee on

Natural Resources. S. Con. Res. 20 was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Page H5761

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes and three recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5621–22, H5622–23, H5623, H5650, H5651, H5652–53, and H5653. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Committee Meetings

DODD-FRANK TURNS FIVE: ASSESSING THE PROGRESS OF GLOBAL DERIVATIVES REFORMS

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Dodd-Frank Turns Five: Assessing the Progress of Global Derivatives Reforms”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS IN THE REGION OF THE IRAN DEAL

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Potential Implications in the Region of the Iran Deal”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee concluded a markup on H.R. 985, “Concrete Masonry Products Research, Education, and Promotion Act of 2015”; H.R. 3154, “E-Warranty Act of 2015”; H.R. 1344, “Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act of 2015”; H.R. 1462, “Protecting Our Infants Act of 2015”; H.R. 1725, “National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Authorization Act of 2015”; and H.R. 2820, “Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2015”. The following bills were ordered reported, without amendment: H.R. 1462, H.R. 1725, H.R. 2820, and H.R. 3154. The following bills were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 1344 and H.R. 985.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee concluded a markup on H.R. 766, the “Financial Institution Customer Protection Act of 2015”; H.R. 1210, the “Portfolio Lending and Mortgage Access Act”; H.R. 1317, to amend the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify how clearing requirements apply to certain affiliate transactions, and for other purposes; H.R.

1553, the “Small Bank Exam Cycle Reform Act of 2015”; H.R. 1737, the “Reforming CFPB Indirect Auto Financing Guidance Act”; H.R. 1839, the “Reforming Access for Investments in Startup Enterprises Act of 2015”; H.R. 1941, the “Financial Institutions Examination Fairness and Reform Act”; H.R. 2091, the “Child Support Assistance Act of 2015”; H.R. 2243, the “Equity in Government Compensation Act of 2015”; H.R. 2643, the “State Licensing Efficiency Act of 2015”; H.R. 2912, the “Centennial Monetary Commission Act of 2015”; H.R. 3032, the “Securities and Exchange Commission Reporting Modernization Act”; H.R. 3189, the “Fed Oversight Reform and Modernization Act of 2015”; and H.R. 3192, the “Homebuyers Assistance Act”. The following bills were ordered reported, without amendment: H.R. 766, H.R. 1210, H.R. 1941, H.R. 1553, H.R. 2091, H.R. 3192, H.R. 3032, H.R. 2912, H.R. 1737, and H.R. 2643. The following bills were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 2243, H.R. 1839, H.R. 3189, and H.R. 1317.

WOMEN UNDER ISIS RULE: FROM BRUTALITY TO RECRUITMENT

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Women Under ISIS Rule: From Brutality to Recruitment”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THREATS TO PRESS FREEDOM IN THE AMERICAS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere held a hearing entitled “Threats to Press Freedom in the Americas”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

AVIATION SECURITY CHALLENGES: IS TSA READY FOR THE THREATS OF TODAY?

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Aviation Security Challenges: Is TSA ready for the threats of today?”. Testimony was heard from Peter V. Neffenger, Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, Department Homeland Security.

INTERNET OF THINGS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet held a hearing entitled “Internet of Things”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FEDERAL AGENCIES’ SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF ESA CONSULTATION

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Federal Agencies’ Selective Enforcement of ESA Consultation”. Testimony was heard from Michael Bean, Principal Deputy Assistant

Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior; and Sam Rauch, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries.

EPA MISMANAGEMENT, PART II

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “EPA Mismanagement, Part II”. Testimony was heard from the following Environmental Protection Agency officials: Ronald Harris, Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist; Carolyn Bohlen, Chief, Enforcement Services Section #2, Superfund Division; Ross Tuttle, Senior Advisor; and Gina McCarthy, Administrator; and a public witness.

DATA ACT IMPLEMENTATION

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Information Technology; and Subcommittee on Government Operations, held a joint hearing entitled “DATA Act Implementation”. Testimony was heard from Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office; David Mader, Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget; David A. LeBryk, Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury; and Robert A. Taylor, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit, Department of the Treasury.

A REVIEW OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION’S LICENSING PROCESS

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled “A Review of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s Licensing Process”. Testimony was heard from Stephen Burns, Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D865)

H.R. 2499, to amend the Small Business Act to increase access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs, to help create jobs. Signed on July 28, 2015. (Public Law 114–38)

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY,
JULY 30, 2015**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine whistleblower claims at the Department of Veterans Affairs, 10:30 a.m., SD-124.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Admiral John M. Richardson, USN, to be Chief of Naval Operations, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: business meeting to continue consideration of an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, S. 133, to approve and implement the Klamath Basin agreements, to improve natural resource management, support economic development, and sustain agricultural production in the Klamath River Basin in the public interest and the interest of the United States, S. 145, to require the Director of the National Park Service to refund to States all State funds that were used to reopen and temporarily operate a unit of the National Park System during the October 2013 shutdown, S. 146, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with States and political subdivisions of States providing for the continued operation, in whole or in part, of public land, units of the National Park System, units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and units of the National Forest System in the State during any period in which the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture is unable to maintain normal level of operations at the units due to a lapse in appropriations, S. 329, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 403, to revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern Minnesota and to extend the trail into Vermont to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, S. 521, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of President Station in Baltimore, Maryland, S. 583, to establish certain wilderness areas in central Idaho and to authorize various land conveyances involving National Forest System land and Bureau of Land Management land in central Idaho, S. 593, to require the Secretary of the Interior to submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation to manage its infrastructure assets, S. 610, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of P.S. 103 in West Baltimore, Maryland and for other purposes, S. 720, to promote energy savings

in residential buildings and industry, S. 873, to designate the wilderness within the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve in the State of Alaska as the Jay S. Hammond Wilderness Area, S. 1103, to reinstate and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving Clark Canyon Dam, S. 1104, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the Gibson Dam, S. 1240, to designate the Cerro del Yuta and Rio San Antonio Wilderness Areas in the State of New Mexico, S. 1305, to amend the Colorado River Storage Project Act to authorize the use of the active capacity of the Fontenelle Reservoir, S. 1483, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the James K. Polk Home in Columbia, Tennessee, as a unit of the National Park System, S. 1694, to amend Public Law 103-434 to authorize Phase III of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project for the purposes of improving water management in the Yakima River basin, and an original bill to provide for reforms of the administration of the Outer Continental Shelf of the United States, 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine sanctions and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, 10 a.m., SD-419.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Lucy Tamlyn, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Benin, Jeffrey J. Hawkins, Jr., of California, to be Ambassador to the Central African Republic, David R. Gilmour, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Togolese Republic, Daniel H. Rubinstein, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Tunisia, and Carolyn Patricia Alsup, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of The Gambia, all of the Department of State, 2 p.m., SD-419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to examine the impact of the United States tax code on the market for corporate control and jobs, 9:30 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 1814, to withhold certain Federal funding from sanctuary cities, and S. 32, to provide the Department of Justice with additional tools to target extraterritorial drug trafficking activity, 10 a.m., SD-226.

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

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture, hearing entitled "Examination of Federal and State Response to Avian Influenza", 8:30 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, July 30

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 22, Hire More Heroes Act, post-cloture, and vote on passage of the bill at 12 p.m.

If Senate receives the papers for H.R. 3236, Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act, Senate will begin consideration of the bill and vote on passage at 1:45 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1 p.m., Friday, July 31

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 1 p.m.

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Congressional Record

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