

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 1735, National Defense Authorization Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7173–S7225

Measures Introduced: Eighteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2147–2164, S. Res. 280–281, and S. Con. Res. 23. **Page S7219**

Measures Reported:

S. 2116, to improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Page S7219

Measures Passed:

Transnational Drug Trafficking Act: Senate passed S. 32, to provide the Department of Justice with additional tools to target extraterritorial drug trafficking activity.

Page S7223

DHS Social Media Improvement Act: Senate passed 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, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Pages S7223–24

Librarian of Congress: Senate passed S. 2162, to establish a 10-year term for the service of the Librarian of Congress.

Page S7224

National Dyslexia Awareness Month: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 275, calling on Congress, schools, and State and local educational agencies to recognize the significant educational implications of dyslexia that must be addressed and designating October 2015 as “National Dyslexia Awareness Month”, and the resolution was then agreed to.

Page S7224

National Women’s Small Business Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 280, recognizing the month of

October 2015 as “National Women’s Small Business Month”. **Page S7224**

National Health Information Technology Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 281, designating the week of October 5 through October 9, 2015, as “National Health Information Technology Week” to recognize the value of health information technology in transforming and improving the healthcare system for all people in the United States.

Page S7225

Enrollment Corrections: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 81, providing for corrections to the enrollment of the bill H.R. 1735.

Page S7225

Measures Considered:

Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016.

Pages S7195–S7216

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at 10:45 a.m., on Thursday, October 8, 2015; that the time from 10:45 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. be controlled by the Majority, that the time between 11:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. be controlled by the Democrats, and the time between 12:15 p.m. and 12:45 p.m. be equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees; and that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill occur at 12:45 p.m.

Page S7225

Conference Reports:

National Defense Authorization Act: By 70 yeas to 27 nays (Vote No. 277), Senate agreed to the conference report to accompany 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. **Pages S7175–95**

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

By 71 yeas to 26 nays (Vote No. 276), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to waive all applicable sections of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and applicable budget resolutions, with respect to the conference report to accompany the bill. Subsequently, the point of order that the pending measure was in violation of section 3101 of S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025, was not sustained, and thus the point of order fell.

Page S7195

Messages from the House:

Page S7218

Measures Referred:

Pages S7218–19

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

Pages S7173, S7219

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S7219–21

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S7221–22

Additional Statements:

Pages S7217–18

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Pages S7222–23

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—277)

Page S7195

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:53 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 8, 2015. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7225.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine the National Institutes of Health, focusing on investing in a healthier future, after receiving testimony from Francis Collins, Director, Douglas Lowy, Acting Director, National Cancer Institute, Griffin P. Rodgers, Director, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases,

Walter J. Koroshetz, Director, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, Jon R. Lorsch, Director, National Institute of General Medical Sciences, and Nora D. Volkow, Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse, all of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services.

IRANIAN INFLUENCE IN IRAQ AND CAMP LIBERTY CASE

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Iranian influence in Iraq and the case of Camp Liberty, after receiving testimony from former Senator Joseph I. Lieberman, Yeshiva University; General James L. Jones, USMC (Ret.), Atlantic Council Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security, former National Security Advisor; and Colonel Wesley Martin, USA (Ret.), U.S. Foundation for Liberty, former Commander, Forward Operating Base Ashraf.

WIRELESS BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine removing barriers to wireless broadband deployment, after receiving testimony from Douglas Kinkoph, Associate Administrator, Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Department of Commerce; Jonathan Adelstein, PCIA—The Wireless Infrastructure Association, Alexandria, Virginia; Mayor Gary Resnick, Wilton Manors, Florida, on behalf of the National League of Cities and the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors; Cory J. Reed, Deere and Company, Moline, Illinois; and Bruce Morrison, Ericsson Inc., Bellevue, Washington.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION OVERSIGHT

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, after receiving testimony from Stephen G. Burns, Chairman, and Kristine Svinicki, William Ostendorff, and Jeffrey Baran, each a Commissioner, all of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

NORTH KOREA

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy concluded a hearing to examine the North Korea threat and United States policy, after receiving testimony from Robert L. Gallucci, Director, John W. Kluge Center, Library of Congress; Jay Lefkowitz, former Special Envoy for Human Rights in North Korea, Kirkland and Ellis LLP, New York,

New York; and Victor D. Cha, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

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

S. 1607, to affirm the authority of the President to require independent regulatory agencies to comply with regulatory analysis requirements applicable to executive agencies, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1818, to amend title 5, United States Code, to reform the rule making process of agencies, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1820, to require agencies to publish an advance notice of proposed rule making for major rules, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1817, to improve the effectiveness of major rules in accomplishing their regulatory objectives by promoting retrospective review, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2109, to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop an integrated plan to reduce administrative costs under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1873, to strengthen accountability for deployment of border security technology at the Department of Homeland Security, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2128, to require the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency to submit to Congress a report on Inspector General mandates;

S. 2133, to improve Federal agency financial and administrative controls and procedures to assess and mitigate fraud risks, and to improve Federal agencies' development and use of data analytics for the purpose of identifying, preventing, and responding to fraud, including improper payments;

S. 2021, to prohibit Federal agencies and Federal contractors from requesting that an applicant for employment disclose criminal history record information before the applicant has received a conditional offer, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2093, to provide that the Secretary of Transportation shall have sole authority to appoint Federal Directors to the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority;

H.R. 998, to establish the conditions under which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish preclearance facilities, conduct preclearance operations, and provide customs services outside the

United States, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

H.R. 322, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16105 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the "Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office";

H.R. 323, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 Grasso Plaza in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson Post Office";

H.R. 324, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11662 Gravois Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office";

H.R. 558, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 South Pioneer Boulevard in Springboro, Ohio, as the "Richard 'Dick' Chenault Post Office Building";

H.R. 1442, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Cornell Street in Kingston, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Robert H. Dietz Post Office Building";

H.R. 1884, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 206 West Commercial Street in East Rochester, New York, as the "Officer Daryl R. Pierson Memorial Post Office Building"; and

H.R. 3059, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4500 SE 28th Street, Del City, Oklahoma, as the James Robert Kalsu Post Office Building.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1579, to enhance and integrate Native American tourism, empower Native American communities, increase coordination and collaboration between Federal tourism assets, and expand heritage and cultural tourism opportunities in the United States; and

H.R. 487, to allow the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease or transfer certain lands.

INDIAN AFFAIRS LEGISLATION

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine pending Indian Affairs legislation, including S. 817, to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon, S. 818, to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, S. 1436, to require the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, S. 1761, to take certain Federal land located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, S. 1822, to take certain Federal land located in

Tuolumne County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, S. 1986, to provide for a land conveyance in the State of Nevada, and H.R. 387, to provide for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of Morongo Band of Mission Indians, after receiving testimony from Michael R. Smith, Deputy Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; Glenn Casamassa, Associate Deputy Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Arlan D. Melendez, Reno Sparks Indian Colony, Reno, Nevada; Robert Martin, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Banning, California; and Darren Daboda, Moapa Band of Paiutes, Moapa, Nevada.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights concluded a hearing to examine S. 2102, to amend the Clayton Act and the Federal Trade Commission Act to provide that the Federal Trade Commission shall exercise authority with respect to mergers only under the Clayton Act and only in the same procedural manner as the Attorney General exercises such authority, after receiving testimony from Edith Ramirez, Chairwoman, Federal Trade Commission; Deborah A. Garza, Covington and Burling LLP, David A. Clanton, Baker and McKenzie LLP, and Abbott B. Lipsky, Jr., Latham and Watkins LLP, all of Washington, D.C.; and Jonathan M. Jacobson, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich and Rosati, New York, New York.

BUSINESS MEETING

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

S. 1811, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a program to make loans to certain businesses, homeowners, and renters affected by Superstorm Sandy, with amendments;

S. 2116, to improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2126, to reauthorize the women's business center program of the Small Business Administration;

S. 2136, to establish the Regional SBIR State Collaborative Initiative Pilot Program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2138, to amend the Small Business Act to improve the review and acceptance of subcontracting plans; and

S. 2139, to amend the Small Business Act to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for the procurement of covered contracts, with an amendment.

PROTECTING SENIORS FROM IDENTITY THEFT

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine if the Federal Government is doing enough to protect seniors from identity theft, after receiving testimony from Sean Cavanaugh, Deputy Administrator and Director, Center for Medicare, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and Gary Cantrell, Deputy Inspector General for Investigations, Office of Inspector General, both of the Department of Health and Human Services; Betty Balderston, Legal Services for the Elderly, Winthrop, Maine; and Marc Rotenberg, Electronic Privacy Information Center, Washington, D.C.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 12 public bills, H.R. 3696–3707 were introduced.

Page H6892

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H6893–94

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 466, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 538) to facilitate the development of energy on Indian lands by reducing Federal regulations that impede tribal development of Indian lands, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 702) to adapt to changing crude oil

market conditions (H. Rept. 114–290); and H.R. 3442, to provide further means of accountability of the United States debt and promote fiscal responsibility (H. Rept. 114–291).

Page H6892

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Stewart to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H6839

Recess: The House recessed at 10:40 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Page H6843

Privileged Resolution—Intent to Offer: Representative Slaughter announced her intent to offer a privileged resolution.

Page H6844

Question of Privilege: The Chair ruled that the resolution offered by Representative Slaughter did not constitute a question of the privileges of the House. Subsequently, Representative Slaughter appealed the ruling of the chair and Representative Stivers moved to table the appeal. Agreed to the motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the Chair by a yea-and-nay vote of 240 yeas to 183 nays, Roll No. 536.

Pages H6856–58

Unanimous Consent Agreement: Agreed by unanimous consent that the question of adopting a motion to recommit on H.R. 3192 may be subject to postponement as though under clause 8 of rule 20.

Page H6858

Homebuyers Assistance Act: The House passed H.R. 3192, to provide for a temporary safe harbor from the enforcement of integrated disclosure requirements for mortgage loan transactions under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 and the Truth in Lending Act, by a vote yea-and-nay of 303 yeas to 121 nays, Roll No. 540.

Pages H6858–69, H6880–81

Rejected the Moulton motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Financial Services with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 185 yeas to 240 nays, Roll No. 539.

Pages H6868–69, H6880

H. Res. 462, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3192) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 238 yeas to 181 nays, Roll No. 537, after the previous question was ordered.

Pages H6848–56, H6858

Establishing a Select Investigative Panel of the Committee on Energy and Commerce: The House agreed to H. Res. 461, amended, establishing a Select Investigative Panel of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, by a yea-and-nay vote of 242 yeas to 184 nays, Roll No. 538.

Pages H6869–79

Agreed to the Foxx amendment by voice vote.

Pages H6878–79

Commission on Care—Minority Leader Appointment: The Chair announced the Minority Leader's reappointment of the following individual on the part of the House to the Commission on Care: Ms. Lucretia M. McClenney, Locust Grove, Virginia.

Page H6881

Senate Messages: Message from the Senate and message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on page H6848.

Senate Referral: S. Con. Res. 22 was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Page H6890

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H6857, H6858, H6879, H6880, H6880–81. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Committee Meetings

DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2015 DIETARY GUIDELINES FOR AMERICANS

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing to review the development of the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Testimony was heard from Tom Vilsack, Secretary, Department of Agriculture; and Sylvia Burwell, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services.

PLUTONIUM DISPOSITION AND THE MOX PROJECT

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a hearing entitled "Plutonium Disposition and the MOX Project". Testimony was heard from Frank G. Klotz, Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration; John J. MacWilliams, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Energy, Department of Energy; and a public witness.

STRENGTHENING HEAD START FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Strengthening Head Start for Current and Future Generations". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PROTECTING AMERICA'S WORKERS: AN ENFORCEMENT UPDATE FROM THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a hearing entitled "Protecting America's Workers: An Enforcement Update from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration". Testimony was heard from David Michaels, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, Department of Labor.

EPA'S CO2 REGULATIONS FOR NEW AND EXISTING POWER PLANTS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy and Power held a hearing entitled "EPA's CO2 Regulations for New and Existing Power Plants". Testimony was heard from Janet McCabe, Acting EPA Administrator for Air and Radiation, Environmental Protection Agency.

IMPROVING FEDERAL SPECTRUM SYSTEMS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled “Improving Federal Spectrum Systems”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

REFORMING FOOD AID: DESPERATE NEED TO DO BETTER

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Reforming Food Aid: Desperate Need to Do Better”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS IN AFRICA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled “Food Security and Nutrition Programs in Africa”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

REVIEWING PRESIDENT XI'S STATE VISIT

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific held a hearing entitled “Reviewing President Xi's State Visit”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE MISSION, STRUCTURE, AND REORGANIZATION EFFORT OF THE NATIONAL PROTECTION AND PROGRAMS DIRECTORATE

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies held a hearing entitled “Examining the Mission, Structure, and Reorganization Effort of the National Protection and Programs Directorate”. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Homeland Security officials: Suzanne Spaulding, Under Secretary, National Protection and Programs Directorate; Phyllis Schneck, Deputy Under Secretary, Cybersecurity and Communications, National Protections and Programs Directorate; and Ronald J. Clark, Deputy Under Secretary, National Protections and Programs Directorate; and Chris P. Currie, Director, Emergency Management National Preparedness and Critical Infrastructure Protection Homeland Security and Justice Team, Government Accountability Office.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee began a markup on H.R. 974, the “Yellowstone and Grand Teton Paddling Act”; H.R. 1107, the “Bureau of Reclamation Transparency Act”; H.R. 1452, to authorize Escambia County, Florida, to convey certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument and that was conveyed to

Escambia County subject to restrictions on use and reconveyance; H.R. 1820, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to retire coal preference right lease applications for which the Secretary has made an affirmative commercial quantities determination, and for other purposes; H.R. 2212, to take certain Federal lands located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, and for other purposes; H.R. 2270, the “Billy Frank Jr. Tell Your Story Act”; H.R. 2406, the “SHARE Act”; and H.R. 3382, the “Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2015”.

NATIVE AMERICAN ENERGY ACT; BILL TO ADAPT TO CHANGING CRUDE OIL MARKET CONDITIONS

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 538, the “Native American Energy Act”; and H.R. 702, to adapt to changing crude oil market conditions. The committee granted, by voice vote, a structured rule for H.R. 538. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule makes in order as original text for the purpose of amendment an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114–30 and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in part A of the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in part A of the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Additionally, the rule grants a structured rule for H.R. 702. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule makes in order as original text for the purpose of amendment an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114–29 and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order

against that amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in part B of the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Chairman Bishop of Utah, and Representatives Polis, Young of Alaska, Barton, Rush, Gene Green of Texas, Curbelo of Florida, and Jackson Lee.

THE EMV DEADLINE AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The EMV Deadline and What It Means for Small Businesses”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ENSURING AVIATION SAFETY IN THE ERA OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing entitled “Ensuring Aviation Safety in the Era of Unmanned Aircraft Systems”. Testimony was heard from Michael G. Whitaker, Deputy Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration; James Hubbard, Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry, U.S. Forest Service; and public witnesses.

A CALL FOR SYSTEM-WIDE CHANGE: EVALUATING THE INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “A Call for System-Wide Change: Evaluating the Independent Assessment of the Veterans Health Administration”. Testimony was heard from Robert A. McDonald, Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

RISING COSTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TAX POLICY

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Oversight held a hearing on the rising costs of higher education and tax policy. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2015

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine Russian strategy and military operations, 9:30 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security, to hold hearings to examine consumer product safety and the recall process, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine H.R. 2898, to provide drought relief in the State of California, S. 1894, to provide short-term water supplies to drought-stricken California, S. 1936, to provide for drought preparedness measures in the State of New Mexico, S. 1583, to authorize the expansion of an existing hydroelectric project, S. 2046, to authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to issue an order continuing a stay of a hydroelectric license for the Mahoney Lake hydroelectric project in the State of Alaska, and S. 2083, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project, 9:30 a.m., SD-366.

Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining, to hold hearings to examine S. 414, to provide for conservation, enhanced recreation opportunities, and development of renewable energy in the California Desert Conservation Area, S. 872, to provide for the recognition of certain Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, S. 1295 and H.R. 1324, bills to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, S. 1448, to designate the Frank Moore Wild Steelhead Sanctuary in the State of Oregon, S. 1592, to clarify the description of certain Federal land under the Northern Arizona Land Exchange and Verde River Basin Partnership Act of 2005 to include additional land in the Kaibab National Forest, S. 1941 and H.R. 2223, bills to authorize, direct, expedite, and facilitate a land exchange in El Paso and Teller Counties, Colorado, S. 1942 and H.R. 1554, bills to require a land conveyance involving the Elkhorn Ranch and the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado, S. 1955, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide for equitable allotment of land to Alaska Native veterans, S. 1971, to expand the boundary of the California Coastal National Monument, and S. 2069, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify provisions relating to certain land exchanges in the Mt. Hood Wilderness in the State of Oregon, 2:30 p.m., SD-366.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider S. 2152, to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop and appropriate mix of power solutions, including renewable energy, for more broadly distributed electricity access in order to support poverty reduction, promote development outcomes, and

drive economic growth, S. 1789, to improve defense cooperation between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, S. Res. 274, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the peaceful and democratic reunification of Germany, S. Res. 278, welcoming the President of the Republic of Korea on her official visit to the United States and celebrating the United States-Republic of Korea relationship, S. Res. 148, condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights, and the nominations of Jennifer Ann Haverkamp, of Indiana, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Roberta S. Jacobson, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the United Mexican States, Robert Porter Jackson, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Ghana, Harry K. Thomas, Jr., of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Zimbabwe, Julie Furuta-Toy, of Wyoming, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, and Dennis B. Hankins, of Minnesota, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea, all of the Department of State, 9:45 a.m., SD-419.

Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development, to hold hearings to examine ensuring an efficient and effective diplomatic security training facility for the twenty-first century, 2:30 p.m., SD-419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine threats to the homeland, 10 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 2123, to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions, and the nomination of Edward L. Gilmore, of Illinois, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Illinois for the term of four years, Department of Justice, 10:30 a.m., S-216, Capitol.

Subcommittee on the Constitution, to hold hearings to examine eminent domain ten years after *Kelo v. City of New London*, 2 p.m., SD-226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry, hearing to review the 2015 fire season and long-term trends, 10 a.m., 1302 Longworth.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled "U.S. Strategy in Afghanistan", 9:30 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled "Update on Military Suicide Prevention Programs", 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Reviewing the Juvenile Justice

System and How It Serves At-Risk Youth", 10 a.m., HVC-210.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "Volkswagen Emissions Cheating Allegations: Initial Questions", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Examining Legislative Proposals to Combat our Nation's Drug Abuse Crisis", 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, hearing entitled "Examining the Syrian Humanitarian Crisis from the Ground, Part I", 10:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, hearing entitled "Protecting Maritime Facilities in the 21st Century: Are Our Nation's Ports at Risk for a Cyber-Attack?", 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Transportation Security, hearing entitled "Reform and Improvement: Assessing the Path Forward for the Transportation Security Administration", 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Planned Parenthood Exposed: Examining Abortion Procedures and Medical Ethics at the Nation's Largest Abortion Provider", 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 974, the "Yellowstone and Grand Teton Paddling Act"; H.R. 1107, the "Bureau of Reclamation Transparency Act"; H.R. 1452, to authorize Escambia County, Florida, to convey certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument and that was conveyed to Escambia County subject to restrictions on use and reconveyance; H.R. 1820, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to retire coal preference right lease applications for which the Secretary has made an affirmative commercial quantities determination, and for other purposes; H.R. 2212, to take certain Federal lands located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, and for other purposes; H.R. 2270, the "Billy Frank Jr. Tell Your Story Act"; H.R. 2406, the "SHARE Act"; and H.R. 3382, the "Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2015" (continued), 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 3033, the "Research Excellence and Advancements for Dyslexia (READ) Act"; and H.R. 3293, the "Scientific Research in the National Interest Act", 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations, hearing entitled "The Consequences of DOL's One-Size-Fits-All Overtime Rule for Small Businesses and their Employees", 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Thursday, October 8

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, October 8

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 10:45 a.m.), Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 2028, Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. At 12:45 p.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill.

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 538—Native American Energy Act (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Bishop, Sanford D., Jr., Ga., E1442, E1445
Bordallo, Madeleine Z., Guam, E1440
Buchanan, Vern, Fla., E1446
Capuano, Michael E., Mass., E1447
Carney, John C., Jr., E1440
Cartwright, Matt, Pa., E1441, E1444
Coffman, Mike, Colo., E1439, E1445
Costa, Jim, Calif., E1441, E1443
Davis, Danny K., Ill., E1443

Israel, Steve, N.Y., E1440
Jenkins, Evan H., W.Va., E1442, E1444
Keating, William R., Mass., E1440
Kelly, Mike, Pa., E1448
King, Steve, Iowa, E1443
Lance, Leonard, N.J., E1444
Lee, Barbara, Calif., E1442, E1444
Lipinski, Daniel, Ill., E1441
Marchant, Kenny, Tex., E1442
Meehan, Patrick, Pa., E1445, E1447
Neugebauer, Randy, Tex., E1444

Olson, Pete, Tex., E1445, E1446, E1447, E1448
Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana, Fla., E1443
Royce, Edward R., Calif., E1439
Ryan, Tim, Ohio, E1439
Sires, Albio, N.J., E1441
Takano, Mark, Calif., E1446
Webster, Daniel, Fla., E1440
Wilson, Joe, S.C., E1445, E1446
Young, David, Iowa, E1446



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