

Amendment No. 1810; Carper Amendment No. 1670; Hutchison Amendment No. 1568; McCain Amendment No. 1669, modified with changes at the desk; Alexander Amendment No. 1779; Boxer Amendment No. 1816; and Paul Amendment No. 1556; that on Thursday, March 8, 2012, at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, after consultation with the Republican Leader, Senate vote on or in relation to the amendments, in the order listed; that the following amendments be subject to a 60 affirmative vote threshold: Vitter Amendment No. 1535; Baucus, or designee, relative to rural schools; Collins Amendment No. 1660; Coburn Amendment No. 1738; Nelson (FL)-Shelby-Landrieu Amendment No. 1822; Wyden Amendment No. 1817; Hoeven Amendment No. 1537; McConnell, or designee, side-by-side to Stabenow Amendment No. 1812; Stabenow Amendment No. 1812; DeMint Amendment No. 1589; Menendez-Burr Amendment No. 1782; that there be no other amendments in order to the bill or the amendments listed other than a managers' package; and there be no points of order or motions in order to any of these amendments other than budget points of order and the applicable motions to waive; that it be in order for a managers' package to be considered and, if approved by the managers and the two Leaders, the managers' package be agreed to; provided further, the bill, as amended, then be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended; and if the bill is passed, it be held at the desk; and when the Senate receives the House companion to S. 1813, as determined by the two Leaders, it be in order for the Majority Leader to proceed to its immediate consideration; strike all after the enacting clause and insert the text of S. 1813, as passed by the Senate, in lieu thereof; that the House bill, as amended, be read a third time, a statutory PAYGO statement be read, if needed, and the bill, as amended, be passed; that upon passage, the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses; and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate. **Pages S1455–56**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, March 8, 2012, under the previous order. **Pages S1493–94**

Syria Democracy Transition Act—Referral Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. 2152, to promote United States policy objectives in Syria, including the departure from power of President Bashar Assad and his family, the effective transition to a democratic, free, and secure country, and the

promotion of a prosperous future in Syria, and the bill be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Page S1493

Signing Authority—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that on Wednesday, March 7, 2012, the Majority Leader be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

Page S1493

Messages from the House:

Page S1457

Measures Read the First Time:

Page S1457

Enrolled Bills Presented:

Page S1457

Executive Communications:

Pages S1457–59

Petitions and Memorials:

Page S1459

Additional Cosponsors:

Page S1460

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S1461–63

Additional Statements:

Pages S1456–57

Amendments Submitted:

Pages S1463–76

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Page S1476

Privileges of the Floor:

Page S1476

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:28 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 8, 2012. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1494.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

HEALTHY FOOD INITIATIVES, LOCAL PRODUCTION, AND NUTRITION

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine healthy food initiatives, local production, and nutrition, after receiving testimony from Thomas Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture; Dan Carmody, Eastern Market Corporation, Detroit, Michigan; Ronald G. McCormick, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., Bentonville, Arkansas; Jody Hardin, Hardin Farms, Grady, Arkansas; Anne Goodman, Cleveland Foodbank, Cleveland, Ohio; and John Weidman, Food Trust, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of Health and Human

Service, after receiving testimony from Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of the Navy, after receiving testimony from Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy, Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, USN, Chief of Naval Operations, and General James F. Amos, USMC, Commandant of the Marine Corps, all of the Department of Defense.

SITUATION IN SYRIA

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded open and closed hearings to examine the situation in Syria, after receiving testimony from Leon E. Panetta, Secretary, and General Martin E. Dempsey, USA, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, both of the Department of Defense.

SPACE PROGRAM

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine priorities, plans, and progress of the nation's space program, after receiving testimony from Charles F. Bolden, Jr., Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and Neil deGrasse Tyson, American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York.

U.S. COAST GUARD AND NOAA BUDGET

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2013 for the Coast Guard and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, after receiving testimony from Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr., Commandant, United States Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security; and Jane Lubchenco, Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, and Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce.

NATIONAL PARKS BILLS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks concluded a hearing to examine S. 29, to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area, S. 1150, to establish the Susquehanna Gateway National Heritage Area in the State of Pennsylvania, S. 1191, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a study regarding the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Naugatuck River Valley National Heritage Area

in Connecticut, S. 1198, to reauthorize the Essex National Heritage Area, S. 1215, to provide for the exchange of land located in the Lowell National Historical Park, S. 1589, to extend the authorization for the Coastal Heritage Trail in the State of New Jersey, S. 1708, to establish the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park, H.R. 1141, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating prehistoric, historic, and limestone forest sites on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as a unit of the National Park System, H.R. 2606, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to allow the construction and operation of natural gas pipeline facilities in the Gateway National Recreation Area, S. 2131, to reauthorize the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area, and the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, and S. 2133, to reauthorize the America's Agricultural Heritage Partnership in the State of Iowa, after receiving testimony from Senators Kerry and Reed; Stephanie Toothman, Associate Director, Cultural Resources, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; Michael J. Reagan, Solano County Board of Supervisors, Solano County, California; and Annie Harris, Essex National Heritage Commission, Salem, Massachusetts.

PRESIDENT'S TRADE AGENDA

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's 2012 trade agenda, after receiving testimony from Ron Kirk, United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President.

LENDING DISCRIMINATION PRACTICES AND FORECLOSURE ABUSES

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine lending discrimination practices and foreclosure abuses, after receiving testimony from Senator Cardin; Thomas E. Perez, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice; Eric Rodriguez, National Council of La Raza, and Hilary O. Shelton, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Washington Bureau, both of Washington, D.C.; and William K. Black, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS LEGISLATIVE PRESENTATION

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation from Veterans of Foreign Wars, after receiving testimony from Richard L. DeNoyer, Veterans of Foreign

Wars of the United States, Middleton, Massachusetts.

MOVING OBSTACLES FOR SMALL BUSINESS

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine opportunities for savings, focusing on removing obstacles for small business, and if better agency coordination can help small employers

address challenges to plan sponsorship, after receiving testimony from Phyllis C. Borzi, Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Employee Benefits Security Administration; Charles A. Jeszeck, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, Government Accountability Office; Bryan Fiene, Robert W. Baird and Co. Incorporated, Madison, Wisconsin; and John J. Kalamarides, Prudential Retirement, Hartford, Connecticut.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 15 public bills, H.R. 4150–4164; and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 107; and H. Res. 574–577, were introduced.

Pages H1272–73

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H1273–74

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

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

Page H1211

Recess: The House recessed at 11:09 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Page H1218

Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act: The House passed H.R. 2842, to authorize all Bureau of Reclamation conduit facilities for hydropower development under Federal Reclamation law, by a ye-and-nay vote of 265 yeas to 154 nays, Roll No. 100. Consideration of the measure began yesterday, March 6th.

Pages H1231–34

Rejected the Garamendi motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 182 ayes to 237 noes, Roll No. 99.

Pages H1232–34

Rejected:

Napolitano amendment (No. 1 printed in the Congressional Record of March 5, 2012) that was debated on March 6th that sought to strike the exemption for small conduit hydropower development from the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (by a recorded vote of 168 ayes to 253 noes, Roll No. 98).

Page H1231

H. Res. 570, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to yesterday, March 6th.

Reopening American Capital Markets to Emerging Growth Companies Act: The House began

consideration of H.R. 3606, to increase American job creation and economic growth by improving access to the public capital markets for emerging growth companies. Further proceedings were postponed.

Pages H1236–64

During the course of debate, exception was taken to certain words used and a request was made to have words taken down. The words were reported to the Committee of the Whole and the Chair subsequently announced that the Committee would rise. The Committee of the Whole rose and after review, the Chair ruled that the remarks constituted a personality directed toward an identifiable Member and announced that, without objection, said words would be stricken from the record. Subsequently, the Chair announced that the Committee of the Whole would resume its sitting.

Page H1240

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of the Rules Committee Print 112–17 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

Page H1245

Agreed to:

Fincher manager's amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 112–409) that makes technical changes to the underlying bill;

Page H1249

McIntyre amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 112–409) that adjusts the Emerging Growth Company definition for inflation, resulting in providing more flexibility for businesses;

Pages H1249–50

Jackson Lee (TX) amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 112–409) that adds a requirement that a company not be considered an "emerging growth