

Daily Digest

Senate

Routine Proceedings, pages S2227–S2258

Measures Introduced: Thirty-nine bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 968–1006, S. Res. 136–139, and S. Con. Res. 12.

Pages S2244–45

Measures Passed:

Roosevelt University 70th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 137, congratulating the administration, staff, students, and alumni of Roosevelt University on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the University.

Page S2255

Congratulating Providence College Men's Ice Hockey Team: Senate agreed to S. Res. 138, congratulating the Providence College Men's Ice Hockey team for winning the 2015 NCAA Division I National Championship.

Page S2255

Attack on Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building 20th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 139, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the attack on the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

Page S2257

Measures Considered:

Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S2229–34, S2234–40

Pending:

McConnell (for Cornyn) Amendment No. 1120, to strengthen the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act by incorporating additional bipartisan amendments.

Page S2229

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motion to invoke cloture on McConnell (for Cornyn) Amendment No. 1120 (listed above), be withdrawn.

Page S2232

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 2 p.m., on Monday, April 20, 2015, Senate resume consideration of the bill.

Page S2256

Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at a time to be determined by the

Majority Leader with the concurrence of the Democratic Leader, Senate vote on the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and that if the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill is agreed to, Senator Corker, or his designee, be recognized to offer a substitute amendment that is the text of S. 615, to provide for congressional review and oversight of agreements relating to Iran's nuclear program, as reported by the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Pages S2239–40

Hanks Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 5 p.m., on Monday, April 20, 2015, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of George C. Hanks, Jr., of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, 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 or debate, on confirmation of the nomination; and that no further motions be in order.

Page S2255

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 95 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. EX. 154), Russell C. Deyo, of New Jersey, to be Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security.

Pages S2234, S2258

Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri, of Arizona, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission for the term of three years.

Pages S2234, S2258

Messages from the House:

Page S2242

Measures Referred:

Pages S2242–43

Measures Read the First Time:

Page S2243

Petitions and Memorials:

Pages S2243–44

Executive Reports of Committees:

Page S2244

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S2245–46

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S2246–55

Additional Statements: Page S2242

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S2255

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—154) Page S2234

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:48 p.m., until 2 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2015. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2256.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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 and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Education, after receiving testimony from Arne Duncan, Secretary, and Thomas Skelly, Chief Financial Officer, both of the Department of Education.

APPROPRIATIONS: NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, after receiving testimony from Charles F. Bolden, Jr., Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces Korea in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Admiral Samuel J. Locklear III, USN, Commander, U.S. Pacific Command, and General Curtis M. Scaparrotti, USA, Commander, United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, and U.S. Forces Korea, both of the Department of Defense.

REGULATORY BURDENS TO OBTAINING MORTGAGE CREDIT

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine regulatory burdens to obtaining mortgage credit, including S. 682, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to

modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage, S. 351, to prevent homeowners from being forced to pay taxes on forgiven mortgage loan debt, S. 812, to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, H.R. 685, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to improve upon the definitions provided for points and fees in connection with a mortgage transaction, and H.R. 1210, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to provide a safe harbor from certain requirements related to qualified mortgages for residential mortgage loans held on an originating depository institution's portfolio, after receiving testimony from Tom Woods, National Association of Home Builders, Blue Springs, Missouri; Chris Polychron, National Association of REALTORS, Hot Springs, Arkansas; J. David Motley, Colonial Savings, F.A., Fort Worth, Texas, on behalf the Mortgage Bankers Association; and Julia Gordon, Center for American Progress, Washington, D.C.

ANNUAL ENERGY OUTLOOK FOR 2015

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Energy Information Administration's Annual Energy Outlook for 2015, after receiving testimony from Adam Sieminski, Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy.

CONGRESS AND THE UNITED STATES TARIFF POLICY

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Congress and the United States tariff policy, after receiving testimony from Jacob Lew, Secretary of the Treasury; Thomas Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture; and Michael Froman, United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

An original bill entitled, "Every Child Achieves Act of 2015";

An original bill entitled, "WIOA Technical Amendments Act"; and

The nominations of Ericka M. Miller, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, and Michael Keith Yudin, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, both of the Department of Education,

INTELLIGENCE

Committee recessed subject to the call.

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 59 public bills, H.R. 1830–1888; 1 private bill, H.R. 1889; and 7 resolutions, H.J. Res. 45; H. Con. Res. 37–39; and H. Res. 207–209, were introduced.

Pages H2305–08

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H2310–11

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015: The House passed H.R. 1105, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, by a recorded vote of 240 yeas to 179 nays, Roll No. 161.

Pages H2275–86, H2290–92

Rejected the Nolan motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 186 yeas to 232 nays, Roll No. 160.

Pages H2285–86, H2290–91

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part B of H. Rept. 114–74, shall be considered as adopted.

Page H2275

H. Res. 200, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 622), (H.R. 1105), and (H.R. 1195) was agreed to yesterday, April 15th.

State and Local Sales Tax Deduction Fairness Act of 2015: The House passed H.R. 622, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction of State and local general sales taxes, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 272 yeas to 152 nays, Roll No. 159.

Pages H2286–90

Rejected the Neal motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 179 yeas to 243 nays, Roll No. 158.

Pages H2288–90

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, modified

by the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 114–74, shall be considered as adopted.

Page H2286

H. Res. 200, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 622), (H.R. 1105), and (H.R. 1195) was agreed to yesterday, April 15th.

Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress—Reappointment: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Clerk of the House, pursuant to 44 United States Code 2702, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Dr. Sharon Leon, Fairfax, Virginia.

Page H2292

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, April 17th and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, April 19th and that the order of the House of January 6, 2015, regarding morning-hour debate not apply on that day.

Page H2298

Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: Representative Huizenga (MI), Chairman.

Page H2301

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H2292.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yeas-and-nays votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2289–90, H2290, H2290–91, and H2291–92. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MEDICARE POST ACUTE CARE DELIVERY AND OPTIONS TO IMPROVE IT

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Medicare Post Acute Care Delivery and Options to Improve It”. Testimony was heard from Mark E. Miller, Executive Director, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade held a hearing entitled “H.R. _____, Targeting Rogue and Opaque Letters (TROL) Act”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE FUTURE OF HOUSING IN AMERICA: INCREASING PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance held a hearing entitled “The Future of Housing in America: Increasing Private Sector Participation in Affordable Housing”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE WORST PLACES TO WORK IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing entitled “The Worst Places to Work in the Federal Government”. Testimony was heard from David S. Ferriero, Archivist, National Archives and Records Administration; Manuel Ehrlich, Board Member, Chemical Safety Board; Catherine V. Emerson, Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Homeland Security; and Robert Goldenkoff, Director of Strategic Issues, Government Accountability Office.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Space held a hearing entitled “An Overview of the Budget Proposal for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for Fiscal Year 2016”. Testimony was heard from Charles F. Bolden, Jr., Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a markup on H.R. 473, the “Increasing the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability to Veterans Act of 2015”; H.R. 475, the “GI Bill Processing Improvement Act of 2015”; H.R. 476, the “GI Bill Education Quality Enhancement Act of 2015”; H.R. 1382, the “Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act”; H.R. 456, the “Reducing Barriers for Veterans Education Act of 2015”; H.R. 474, the “Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2015”; H.R. 643, the “Veterans Education Survey Act of 2015”; H.R. 1038, the “Ensuring VA Employee Accountability Act”; H.R. 1141, the “GI Bill Fairness Act of 2015”; H.R. 1187, to amend title 38, United States Code, to adjust certain limits on the guaranteed amount of a home loan under the home loan program of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and H.R. 1313, the “Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Relief Act”. The following bills were forwarded to the full committee, as amended: H.R. 473, H.R. 475, and H.R. 476. The following bills were forwarded to the full committee, without amendment: H.R. 456, H.R. 474, H.R. 643, H.R. 1038, H.R. 1141, H.R. 1187, and H.R. 1313.

NRO BUDGET

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Subcommittee on Department of Defense Intelligence and Overhead Architecture held a hearing on NRO budget. This hearing was closed.

NGA BUDGET

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Subcommittee on Department of Defense Intelligence and Overhead Architecture held a hearing on NGA budget. This hearing was closed.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

2 p.m., Monday, April 20

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10:30 a.m., Friday, April 17

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of S. 178, Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act.

At 5 p.m., Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of George C. Hanks, Jr., of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, with a vote on confirmation of the nomination at 5:30 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 10:30 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Aderholt, Robert B., Ala., E523
 Bishop, Sanford D., Jr., Ga., E524, E526
 Blumenauer, Earl, Ore., E512
 Brady, Robert A., Pa., E524, E526
 Brown, Corrine, Fla., E513, E518
 Bucshon, Larry, Ind., E524
 Carson, André, Ind., E517, E520, E522, E524
 Cleaver, Emanuel, Mo., E521
 Cohen, Steve, Tenn., E511
 Connolly, Gerald E., Va., E511, E514
 Conyers, John, Jr., Mich., E524
 Cuellar, Henry, Tex., E514

Curbelo, Carlos, Fla., E522
 Engel, Eliot L., N.Y., E521
 Farr, Sam, Calif., E511
 Frankel, Lois, Fla., E516
 Griffith, H. Morgan, Va., E520, E523, E526
 Grijalva, Raúl M., Ariz., E523
 Guinta, Frank C., N.H., E515
 Hoyer, Steny H., Md., E517
 Hurt, Robert, Va., E515
 Kennedy, Joseph P., III, Mass., E513
 Messer, Luke, Ind., E518, E525
 Miller, Candice S., Mich., E521
 Miller, Jeff, Fla., E520
 Olson, Pete, Tex., E521, E525

Pascarell, Bill, Jr., N.J., E512
 Pittenger, Robert, N.S., E521
 Poliquin, Bruce, Me., E521
 Price, David E., N.C., E524
 Richmond, Cedric L., La., E511
 Sanchez, Loretta, Calif., E513
 Smith, Christopher H., N.J., E514, E516, E519
 Swalwell, Eric, Calif., E513
 Thompson, Bennie G., Miss., E515, E519, E521, E522, E525
 Torres, Norma J., Calif., E525
 Upton, Fred, Mich., E515



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