Chamber Action


Senate continued in the session that began on Thursday, March 26, 2015. See next volume of the Congressional Record.

Measures Introduced: Twenty-seven bills and eight resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 868–894, and S. Res. 116–123. (See next issue.)

Measures Reported:

S. 125, to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2020.

S. 665, to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in order to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, is missing in connection with the officer’s official duties, or an imminent and credible threat that an individual intends to cause the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer is received. (See next issue.)

Measures Considered:

Budget Resolution: Senate continued consideration 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, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: Pages S1960–S2008, continued next issue.

Adopted:

By 61 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. 98), Sanders (for Murray) Amendment No. 798, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund for legislation to allow Americans to earn paid sick time. Pages S1960, S1986

By a unanimous vote of 100 yeas (Vote No. 99), Moran Amendment No. 356, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing health care to veterans who reside more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs that provides the care sought by the veteran. Pages S1960, S1987

Collins Amendment No. 810, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing access to higher education for low-income Americans through the Federal Pell Grant program. Pages S1969–70, S1987–88

Wyden (for Murray) Amendment No. 1026, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to transparency health premium billing. Page S1988

By 56 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. 102), Scott Amendment No. 692, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to transparency in health premium billing. Page S1989

By 58 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 103), Blunt/Thune Amendment No. 928, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to protect the United States from an energy tax. Pages S1989–90

By 54 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. 105), Vitter Amendment No. 515, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to requiring the Federal Government to allow states to opt out of Common Core without penalty. Pages S1990–91

Bennet Amendment No. 947, to ensure that small businesses are provided relief as part of tax reform by permanently increasing the maximum amount of the section 179 small business expensing allowance to $1,000,000 and the investment limitation to $2,500,000 and indexing them both for inflation. Pages S1991

By 51 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. 106), Murkowski/Sullivan Amendment No. 838, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to the disposal of certain Federal land. Pages S1991–92

By 59 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. 108), Inhofe/Moran Modified Amendment No. 649, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to prohibiting funding of international organizations during the implementation of the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty prior to Senate ratification and adoption of implementing legislation. Page S1993

By a unanimous vote of 100 yeas (Vote No. 109), Enzi (for Kirk) Modified Amendment No. 545, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to re-imposing waived sanctions and imposing new sanctions against Iran for violations of the Joint Plan of Action or a comprehensive nuclear agreement. Pages S1993–94
Isakson/Menendez Amendment No. 839, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting United States citizens held hostage in the United States embassy in Tehran, Iran, between November 3, 1979, and January 20, 1981.

By 59 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. 112), Portman Amendment No. 689, to improve the dynamic scoring provision.

By a unanimous vote of 100 yeas (Vote No. 113), Casey Amendment No. 632, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing reasonable accommodations for pregnant workers.

By 54 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. 114), Murkowski (for Thune) Amendment No. 607, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to allow for the permanent elimination of the Federal estate tax.

By 53 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. 115), Enzi (for Bennet) Amendment No. 1014, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to responding to the economic and national security threats posed by human-induced climate change, as highlighted by the Secretary of Defense, the Director of National Intelligence, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

By 57 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 116), Enzi (for McConnell/Paul) Amendment No. 836, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency of greenhouse gas emissions, which may include a prohibition on withholding highway funds from States that refuse to submit State Implementation Plans required under the Clean Power Plan of the Agency.

By 59 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. 118), Gardner Amendment No. 443, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting privately held water rights and permits.

Blumenthal Amendment No. 825, to expand the deficit-neutral reserve fund for veterans and servicemembers.

By 51 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. 120), Flake/Vitter Amendment No. 665, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to prohibiting awarding of construction contracts based on awardees entering or not entering into agreements with labor organizations.

Enzi (for Sanders) Amendment No. 475, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to strengthening the United States Postal Service by establishing a moratorium to protect mail processing plants, reinstating overnight delivery standards, and protecting rural service.

Enzi (for Hatch) Amendment No. 1029, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to prevent American jobs from being moved overseas by reducing the corporate income tax rate.

By 57 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 121), Enzi (for Schatz) Modified Amendment No. 1063, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring all legally married same-sex spouses have equal access to the Social Security and veterans benefits they have earned and receive equal treatment under the law pursuant to the Constitution of the United States.

By 57 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 122), Enzi (for Kirk) Amendment No. 1038, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to increase wages for American workers.

By 58 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 124), McCain/Flake Modified Amendment No. 360, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to deterring the migration of unaccompanied children from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

By 73 yeas to 27 nays (Vote No. 125), Enzi (for Wyden) Amendment No. 968, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to enacting middle class tax relief, including extending and expanding refundable tax credits, such as tax provisions and policies included in legislation like the Working Families Tax Relief Act, American Opportunity Tax Credit Permanence and Consolidation Act, Helping Working Families Afford Child Care Act, or the 21st Century Worker Tax Cut Act, among other legislation.

By 56 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 126), Enzi (for Lee) Modified Amendment No. 750, to modify the spending-neutral reserve fund reauthorizing funding for payments to counties and other units of local government to include the option of payment at levels roughly equivalent to property tax revenues lost due to the presence of Federal land.

By 52 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 128), Enzi (for Cotton) Amendment No. 659, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to prohibiting the designation of critical habitat.

Sanders (for Menendez) Amendment No. 993, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to strengthening the national do-not-call registry.

Rejected:

By 48 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 93), Sanders/Murray Amendment No. 881, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting a substantial increase in the minimum wage.
By 46 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 94), Stabenow Amendment No. 523, to prevent United States companies from getting tax benefits for moving jobs overseas, to end offshore tax loopholes including inversions, and to provide incentives for United States companies to relocate overseas jobs to the United States.

Pages S1971–72, S1984

By 47 yeas to 53 nays (Vote No. 95), Sanders (for Wyden) Amendment No. 1012, to strike more than $1.2 trillion in cuts to Medicaid, preserving a critical source of comprehensive, affordable health and long-term care coverage for millions of otherwise uninsured low-income adults, parents, and seniors, including millions of nonelderly low-income adults in States that expanded Medicaid as part of health reform.

Pages S1985

By 45 yeas to 55 nays (Vote No. 100), Baldwin Amendment No. 432, to provide additional resources to create the opportunity for more Americans to obtain a higher education and advanced job skills by supporting two free years of community college paid for by raising revenue through requiring millionaires and billionaires to pay their fair share.

Pages S1987

By 46 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 101), Franken Amendment No. 828, to provide additional resources to save student financial aid and keep college affordable for more than 8,000,000 low- and middle-income students by restoring the $89,000,000,000 in cuts to Federal Pell Grants in the Republican budget.

Pages S1988

By 46 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 104), Sanders (for Durbin) Amendment No. 817, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to provide tax benefits to patriot employers that invest in American jobs and provide fair pay and benefits to workers and to eliminate tax benefits for corporations that ship jobs or profits overseas.

Pages S1990

By 47 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 107), Whitehouse/Udall Amendment No. 867, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to making it more difficult for corporations and billionaires to secretly influence elections by making unlimited undisclosed campaign expenditures, and to prevent such entities from evading campaign finance law, including through making false statements to government agencies.

Pages S1992

By 46 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 110), Coons/Sanders Modified Amendment No. 966, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to offsetting the costs of operations against the Islamic State.

Pages S1994

By 46 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 111), Enzi (for Stabenow/Cantwell) Amendment No. 1072, to provide additional resources to reject the Senate Republicans’ proposed $435 billion in cuts to Medicare.

By 46 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 117), Merkley/Coons Amendment No. 842, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to consumer financial protection.

Pages S2002

By 46 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 119), Sanders (for Murray) Amendment No. 951, to establish and fund a new Federal-State partnership to expand access to high-quality preschool programs for children from low- and moderate-income families, offset with revenue from closing loopholes.

Pages S2003

By 44 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 127), Enzi (for Reed/Whitehouse) Amendment No. 919, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to eliminating deductions for corporate compensation in excess of $1,000,000.

Pages S1996, (continued next issue)

Withdrawn:

Enzi (for Graham) Amendment No. 763, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to subjecting all Federal spending to sequestration.

Pages S1995, S2003

Pending:

Rounds/Inhofe Amendment No. 412, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service from engaging in closed-door settlement agreements that ignore impacted States and counties.

Pages S1960

Daines Amendment No. 388, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the designation of national monuments.

Pages S1960

Daines Amendment No. 389, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to holding Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives accountable for failing to pass a balanced budget.

Pages S1960

Roberts/Flake Amendment No. 352, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to Federal employee performance awards.

Pages S1960

Roberts Amendment No. 462, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to over-the-counter medications.

Pages S1960

Vitter Amendment No. 811, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ending Washington’s illegal exemption from Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Pages S1960

Coats/ Warner Amendment No. 595, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve cybersecurity.

Pages S1960

Coats Amendment No. 368, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing States the Medicaid flexibility they need to implement innovative reforms to improve care and enhance access for our Nation’s most vulnerable.

Pages S1960
Daines Amendment No. 465, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to Second Amendment rights.

Page S1960

Daines Amendment No. 387, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to postal reform.

Page S1960

Wyden/Crapo Amendment No. 434, to provide for an adjustment to committee allocations for wildfire suppression funding.

Page S1960

Sanders (for Murray/Alexander) Amendment No. 697, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund for legislation that reforms and strengthens elementary and secondary education.

Page S1960

Sanders (for Cantwell) Amendment No. 800, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to a comprehensive approach to crude-by-rail safety.

Page S1960

Sanders (for Murray) Amendment No. 812, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to provide women with affordable access to comprehensive health care, including preventative services (such as contraception and breast cancer screenings), improve maternal health, and ensure that a woman has the same benefits and services no matter what part of the United States she lives in, all of which is critical to improving the health and well-being of women, children, their families, and society as a whole, and is an essential part of a woman's economic security and opportunity.

Page S1960

Sanders (for Durbin/Coons) Amendment No. 345, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing funding for Federal investments in biomedical and basic scientific research.

Page S1961

Wyden/Bennet Amendment No. 708, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to simplifying and expanding tax incentives for higher education to boost student attendance and completion.

Page S1961

Wyden Amendment No. 791, to strike reconciliation instructions to the Committees on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and Finance and require regular order.

Page S1961

Wyden Amendment No. 870, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to extending tax provisions expiring in 2013 or 2014 for 2 years, such as those contained in the EXPIRE Act of 2014.

Page S1961

Heller Amendment No. 453, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that the Secretary of Transportation prioritizes the construction of projects that are of national and regional significance and projects in high priority corridors on the National Highway System, which will improve the safe, secure, and efficient movement of people and goods through the United States and facilitate economic development and create jobs in the United States.

Page S1961

Heller Amendment No. 452, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that the Secretary of the Interior enters into candidate conservation agreements with each of the relevant 11 Western States before the United States Fish and Wildlife Service makes a listing determination on the greater sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Page S1961

Heller Amendment No. 457, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to prohibition of Veterans Benefits Administration executive bonuses until the backlog of disability claims for veterans is eliminated.

Page S1961

Heller Amendment No. 456, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs meet the privacy, dignity, and safety needs of women veterans.

Page S1961

Coons/Bennet Amendment No. 343, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to preserving mandatory appropriations for agricultural conservation programs.

Page S1961

Coons Amendment No. 391, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the expansion of access to the income tax credit for employee health insurance expenses of small employers.

Page S1961

Coons/Rubio Amendment No. 392, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting the use of college savings accounts while students are in elementary school and secondary school.

Page S1961

Coons Amendment No. 394, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to special treatment of the income tax credit for research expenditures for startup companies.

Page S1961

Coons Amendment No. 802, to offset the costs of the war against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

Page S1961

Baldwin Amendment No. 436, to preserve the point of order against the reconciliation legislation that would increase the deficit or reduce a surplus.

Page S1961

Manchin Amendment No. 694, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to investing in advanced fossil energy technology research and development.

Page S1961

Manchin Amendment No. 578, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to addressing methamphetamine abuse in the United States.

Page S1961

Whitehouse Amendment No. 700, to ensure high-income earners pay a fair share in taxes and to use the revenue to invest in repairing our Nation's bridges, coastal infrastructure, and damage from wildfires.

Page S1961

Whitehouse Amendment No. 895, to prohibit budget resolutions that support cutting over
$1,000,000,000,000 in spending without identifying specific programmatic effects. Page S1961

Casey Amendment No. 633, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to enhancing the child and dependent care tax credit. Page S1961

Merkley Amendment No. 843, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to restoring reductions in the Republican budget to the Stafford loan program that would mandate that students currently in college pay interest on their loans before they have received their education benefits, to make college more affordable, to reduce the debt burden of students, and to help graduates afford to pay back student loans. Page S1961

Merkley/Brown Amendment No. 952, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to establishing a more level playing field in trade agreements. Page S1961

Merkley Amendment No. 953, to save student financial aid and reduce the student loan debt levels in the Republican budget by 15 percent by eliminating new mandated interest charged while students are still in school. Page S1961

Cassidy Amendment No. 341, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to the promotion of United States offshore energy production. Page S1961

Cassidy Amendment No. 539, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving Medicaid based on successful and bipartisan State demonstration projects. Page S1961

Cassidy Amendment No. 795, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to authorizing Federal permitting for manufacturing and energy construction projects relating to national primary or secondary ambient air quality standard for ozone lower than a certain existing standard. Page S1961

Coons (for Bennet) Amendment No. 715, to create clean energy jobs through predictable and fair incentives for renewable energy. Page S1961

Merkowski Amendment No. 770, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the construction of Arctic polar icebreakers. Page S1961

Gardner (for Ayotte) Amendment No. 485, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to provide equity in the tax treatment of public safety officer death benefits. Page S1961

Gardner (for Ayotte) Amendment No. 490, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to address the disproportionate regulatory burdens on community bankers. Page S1961

Gardner (for Ayotte) Amendment No. 852, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing small business regulatory relief and preventing duplicative regulations for investment advisors. Page S1961

Capito Amendment No. 415, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to a requirement that any new environmental agreement signed by the United States with any foreign country or countries not result in serious harm to the economy of the United States. Page S1964

Capito Amendment No. 416, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting the reliability of the electricity grid. Page S1964

Peters Amendment No. 437, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to enhancing and improving the United States Patent and Trademark Office in order to reduce the patent application backlog. Pages S1964–65

Peters Amendment No. 521, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to investing in science, technology, and basic research in the United States. Page S1965

Peters Amendment No. 639, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting trade and travel at ports of entry. Pages S1965–66

Cardin Amendment No. 364, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving oral health care for children and pregnant women under Medicaid. Page S1966

Cardin Amendment No. 367, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing a funding stream for a voter reinfranchisement initiative. Page S1966

Cardin Amendment No. 439, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to mandating a
higher threshold that the Small Business Administration may guarantee, through the Surety Bond Guarantee Program, of the bonds that small businesses are required to obtain so that they may be able to better compete successfully for Federal Government contracts.

Cardin/Risch Amendment No. 440, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing the Family Funds limit of the Small Business Investment Company Program from $225,000,000 to $350,000,000, as passed by the Committee in 2013, which is zero subsidy and funded entirely through fees paid by investors and businesses. Pages S1966–67

Cardin Amendment No. 899, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the importance of financial literacy education to allow individuals to make informed and effective decisions with their financial resources.

Cardin Amendment No. 900, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the importance of civics and government education.

Portman Amendment No. 681, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to demolishing vacant and abandoned homes.

Collins Amendment No. 346, to modify the deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting jobs in the United States through international trade to include the reauthorizaton or extension of trade adjustment assistance programs.

Collins Amendment No. 425, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving retirement security.

Collins/Casey Amendment No. 426, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting economic growth and job creation for small businesses.

Collins/Moran Amendment No. 427, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to investment in Alzheimer’s disease research.

Collins Amendment No. 442, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to restore a sensible definition of full-time employee for purposes of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Hirono Amendment No. 877, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing college completion, which may include expanding Federal Pell Grant eligibility by allowing college students to use Federal Pell Grants for more than 2 semesters in an academic year.

Hirono Amendment No. 878, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to investing in clean energy and preserving the environment.

Gardner Amendment No. 445, to prevent labor disputes at seaports in the United States from caus-
Markey Amendment No. 896, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving the safety of offshore oil drilling in the United States.

Markey Amendment No. 897, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting consumers in the United States from price increases due to large-scale natural gas exports.

Markey Amendment No. 573, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting the repair and replacement of natural gas distribution pipelines and infrastructure no longer fit for service.

Sanders (for Menendez) Amendment No. 435, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to support for Ukraine, which should include the provision of lethal defensive articles.

Sanders (for Menendez) Amendment No. 473, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing funding to combat anti-Semitism in Europe.

Sanders (for Menendez/Stabenow) Amendment No. 593, to require consideration of long-term deficits for any legislation relating to repealing or replacing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the health care-related provisions of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.

Flake/Roberts Amendment No. 677, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to preventing political targeting by the Internal Revenue Service of individuals and social welfare organizations exercising free-speech rights.

Flake/McCain Amendment No. 678, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to prosecution of first-time illegal border crossers.

Flake/Manchin Amendment No. 667, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that individuals do not simultaneously receive unemployment compensation and disability insurance benefits.

Flake Amendment No. 666, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to reducing the level of Federal premium support for crop insurance policies, which may include eliminating premium support for crop insurance for agricultural producers with an adjusted gross income of more than $750,000 in fiscal year 2016.

Flake Amendment No. 668, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to government reform and efficiency.

Enzi (for Sullivan) Amendment No. 504, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to limiting the ability of Environmental Protection Agency personnel to carry guns.

Enzi (for Sullivan) Amendment No. 505, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting programs related to the ground-based mid-course defense and the long-range discrimination radar programs of the Department of Defense.

Enzi (for Sullivan/Inhofe) Amendment No. 506, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting vulnerable families from job killing regulations.

Enzi (for Sullivan) Amendment No. 1011, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to providing an exemption from certain permitting requirements for routine maintenance activities relating to transportation infrastructure.

Isakson/Shaheen Amendment No. 321, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to establishing a biennial budget and appropriations process.

Isakson Amendment No. 611, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to subject all fees collected by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to the annual appropriations process.

Enzi (for Lee) Amendment No. 855, to prohibit increasing the public debt limit under reconciliation.

Enzi (for Lee) Amendment No. 749, to ensure that the reserve fund relating to affordable healthcare choices for all is used to repeal and not further empower the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Enzi (for Lee) Amendment No. 856, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund to support legislation preventing the Federal Communications Commission from reclassifying broadband providers as common carriers under title II of the Communications Act of 1934 and from implementing other “net neutrality” provisions.

Enzi (for Lee) Amendment No. 759, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to clarifying Federal jurisdiction with respect to intrastate species.

Tillis Amendment No. 925, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the United States civil courts system.

Tillis Amendment No. 926, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Sanders (for Cardin) Amendment No. 729, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to invest in surface transportation projects.
Sanders (for Schatz) Amendment No. 342, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the National Guard State Partnership Program.  

Page S1980

Sanders (for Schatz) Amendment No. 588, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at air ports of entry.  

Page S1980

Enzi (for Johnson/Baldwin) Amendment No. 402, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to improving information sharing by the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to investigations relating to substandard health care, delayed and denied health care, patient deaths, other findings that directly relate to patient care, and other management issues of the Department.  

Pages S1980–81

Enzi (for Johnson) Amendment No. 596, to convey clear information in graphic form about projected deficits.  

Page S1981

Enzi (for Johnson) Amendment No. 597, to convey clear information to Congress and the public about projected Federal outlays, revenues, and surpluses, and deficits.  

Page S1981

Enzi (for Johnson) Amendment No. 865, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund to accommodate legislation that would stop the Federal government from forcing States to pay unemployment compensation benefits to millionaires.  

Page S1981

Cochran/Mikulski Amendment No. 932, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to establishing a biennial budget resolution process.  

Page S1981

Booker Amendment No. 720, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to supporting workforce development through apprenticeship programs.  

Page S1982

Booker/Fischer Amendment No. 721, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to encourage freight planning and investment that incorporates all modes of transportation, including rail, waterways, ports, and highways to promote national connectivity.  

Pages S1982–83

Booker Amendment No. 722, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to prohibiting payments for conversion therapy or treatments that purport to change the gender identity or sexual orientation of an individual under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.  

Pages S1982–83

Heinrich Amendment No. 1024, to create a point of order against legislation that would provide for the sale of Federal land to reduce the Federal deficit.  

Page S1983

Enzi (for Brown/Vitter) Amendment No. 994, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to end “too big to fail” bailouts for Wall Street mega-banks (over $500 billion in total assets).  

Pages S1996–97

Enzi (for Hatch) Amendment No. 827, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to reforming the Federal regulatory process by enabling retrospective review of existing regulations, improving the process by which new regulations are created, ensuring fair and effective judicial review, and securing an effective role for Congress in the Federal regulatory process through legislation and oversight.  

Page S1997

Enzi (for Hatch) Amendment No. 1025, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to H–1B visas.  

Page S1997

Enzi (for Hatch/Murkowski) Amendment No. 533, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that Department of Justice attorneys comply with disclosure obligations in criminal prosecutions.  

Page S1997

Enzi (for Hatch) Amendment No. 984, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that patients, including military members and veterans, have access to new antibacterial drugs that treat serious or life-threatening infections through the creation by the Food and Drug Administration of a limited population approval pathway for antibacterial drugs.  

Page S1997

Enzi (for Hatch) Amendment No. 535, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to balancing the Federal budget.  

Pages S1997–98

Sanders (for Cardin/McCain) Amendment No. 1044, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to imposing sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights or significant acts of corruption.  

Page S1998

Sanders (for Kaine) Amendment No. 1047, to provide for sequestration replacement.  

Page S1998

Sanders (for Kaine) Amendment No. 724, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing United States exports and improving the competitiveness of United States businesses.  

Page S1998

Sanders (for Murphy/Cassidy) Amendment No. 713, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to comprehensive mental health reform.  

Page S1998

Sanders (for Murphy/Graham) Amendment No. 1005, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to expanding United States counter-propaganda communications to combat misinformation from the Russian Federation or terrorist groups like ISIS and al Qaeda.  

Page S1998

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:
By 32 yeas to 68 nays (Vote No. 96), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to waive all applicable budgetary discipline pursuant to Section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, with respect to Rubio Modified Amendment No. 423, to increase new budget authority fiscal years 2016 and 2017 and modify outlays for fiscal years 2016 through 2022 for National Defense (budget function 050). Subsequently, the point of order that the amendment was in violation of section 312(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, was sustained, and the amendment was ruled out of order. Pages S1985–86

By 4 yeas to 96 nays (Vote No. 97), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to waive all applicable budgetary discipline pursuant to Section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, with respect to Paul Modified Amendment No. 940, to increase new budget authority for fiscal years 2016 and 2017 and modify outlays for fiscal years 2016 through 2022 for National Defense (budget function 050) with offsets. Subsequently, the point of order that the amendment was in violation of section 312(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, was sustained, and the amendment was ruled out of order. Pages S1986

By 51 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. 123), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to waive all applicable budgetary discipline with respect to Nelson/Schatz Amendment No. 944, to create a point of order against legislation that would use tax dollars to censor publicly-funded climate science. Subsequently, the point of order that the amendment was in violation of section 305(b)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, was sustained, and the amendment was ruled out of order. Pages S1986

By 49 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. 129), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to waive all applicable budgetary discipline with respect to Enzi (for Cotton) Amendment No. 664, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to construction of new facilities and improvements to existing facilities at the detention facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Subsequently, the point of order that the amendment was in violation of section 305(b)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, was sustained, and the amendment was ruled out of order. Pages S1996, (continued next issue)
Education, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Labor, after receiving testimony from Thomas E. Perez, Secretary of Labor.

**DIPLOMACY, DEVELOPMENT, AND NATIONAL SECURITY**

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs concluded a hearing to examine diplomacy, development, and national security, after receiving testimony from Ben Affleck, Eastern Congo Initiative, and Bill Gates, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, both of Seattle, Washington; Scott Ford, Westrock Group, LLC, Little Rock, Arkansas; John Megrue, Born Free Africa, New York, New York; and Admiral James Stavridis, USN (Ret.), Tufts University Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Medford, Massachusetts.

**DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM**


**BUSINESS MEETING**

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported lists in the Foreign Service.

**SECURING THE BORDER**

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine securing the border, focusing on defining the current population living in the shadows and addressing future flows, after receiving testimony from Jeffrey S. Passel, Pew Research Center, Randel K. Johnson, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and Marc R. Rosenblum, Migration Policy Institute, all of Washington, D.C.; Daniel Garza, The LIBRE Initiative, Mission, Texas; and Madeline Zavodny, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Georgia.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

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

- S. 665, to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in order to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, is missing in connection with the officer’s official duties, or an imminent and credible threat that an individual intends to cause the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer is received; and

**EXAMINE VETERANS’ AFFAIRS OPIOID PRESCRIPTION POLICY**

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Veterans’ Affairs opioid prescription policy, practice and procedures, after receiving testimony from Carolyn Clancy, Interim Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration, and John D. Daigh, Jr., Assistant Inspector General for Healthcare Inspections, Office of Inspector General, both of the Department of Veterans Affairs; John Gadea, Jr., Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection State Drug Control Division Director, Hartford; G. Caleb Alexander, Johns Hopkins Center for Drug Safety and Effectiveness, Baltimore, Maryland; and Carol Forster, Kaiser Permanente Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group, Oak Hill, Virginia.

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**House of Representatives**

**Chamber Action**

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 90 public bills, H.R. 1641–1730; and 21 resolutions, H.J. Res. 39–41; H. Con. Res. 30–33; and H. Res. 175–188, were introduced.

Additional Cosponsors:

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Reverend James Stoeger, S. J., President, Jesuit Secondary Education Association, Washington, DC.
Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal by a voice vote. Pages H2037, H2083

Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015: The House passed H.R. 2, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and strengthen Medicare access by improving physician payments and making other improvements, and to reauthorize the Children’s Health Insurance Program, by a yea-and-nay vote of 392 yeas to 37 nays, Roll No. 144.

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment printed in H. Rept. 114–50 shall be considered as adopted.

H. Res. 173, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2), was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 402 yeas to 12 nays with five answering “present”, Roll No. 143, after the previous question was ordered.

Providing for the reappointment of David M. Rubenstein as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution: The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass H.J. Res. 10, providing for the reappointment of David M. Rubenstein as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

E lecting Members to the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library and the Joint Committee on Printing: The House agreed to discharge from committee and agree to H. Res. 10, providing for the reappointment of David M. Rubenstein as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.


Adjournment Resolution: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 32, providing for a conditional recess or an adjournment of the Senate.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 1 p.m. on Monday, March 30th, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in H. Con. Res. 31, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

Committee Meetings

IMPLEMENTING THE AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 2014: COMMODITY POLICY AND CROP INSURANCE

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management held a hearing on implementing the Agricultural Act of 2014: commodity policy and crop insurance. Testimony was heard from Brandon Willis, Administrator, Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency; and Val Dolcini, Administrator, Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing on Department of Homeland Security budget. Testimony was heard from Jeh Johnson, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security.

APPROPRIATIONS—ARMY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing on Army budget. Testimony was heard from John M. McHugh, Secretary, United States Army; and General Raymond T. Odierno, Chief of Staff, United States Army.
FEDERAL INVESTMENTS IN NEUROSCIENCE AND NEUROTECHNOLOGY OVERSIGHT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Federal Investments in Neuroscience and Neurotechnology oversight. Testimony was heard from Jo Handelsman, Associate Director for Science, Office of Science and Technology Policy; James Olds, Assistant Director for Biological Sciences, National Science Foundation; and public witnesses.

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE’S READINESS POSTURE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness held a hearing entitled “The Department of Defense’s Readiness Posture”. Testimony was heard from General Daniel Allyn, Vice Chief of Staff, Army; Admiral Michelle Howard, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Navy; General Larry Spencer, Vice Chief of Staff, Air Force; and General John Paxton, Assistant Commandant, Marine Corps.

COMBAT AVIATION MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS AND THE FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET REQUEST

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces held a hearing entitled “Combat Aviation Modernization Programs and the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Request”. Testimony was heard from Vice Admiral Paul A. Grosklags, USN, Principal Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development, and Acquisition); Navy; Lieutenant General Jon M. Davis, USMC, Deputy Commandant of the Marine Corps for Aviation, Marine Corps; Rear Admiral Michael C. Manazir, USN, Director of the Air Warfare Division, Navy; Major General Timothy M. Ray, USAF, Director, Global Power Programs, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force; and Lieutenant General James M. “Mike” Holmes, USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff, Strategic Plans and Requirements, Air Force.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FISCAL YEAR 2016 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS: LAYING THE GROUNDWORK TO MAINTAIN TECHNOLOGICAL SUPERIORITY

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities held a hearing entitled “Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2016 Science and Technology Programs: Laying the Groundwork to Maintain Technological Superiority”. Testimony was heard from Alan Shaffer, Principal Deputy, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering; Mary Miller, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research and Technology; Rear Admi-
THE ADMINISTRATION’S STRATEGY TO CONFRONT ISIS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Administration’s Strategy to Confront ISIS”. Testimony was heard from General John Allen, USMC, Retired, Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL, Department of State; Brigadier General Michael Fantini, USAF, Middle East Principal Director, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, Department of Defense; and Brigadier General Gregg Olson, USMC, Deputy Director for Middle East, Joint Staff Strategic Plans and Policy, Department of Defense.

LEADERSHIP CHALLENGES AT THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a business meeting to consider rules change and a hearing entitled “Leadership Challenges at the Department of Homeland Security”. The committee agreed to a committee resolution amending the rules of the Committee on Homeland Security. Testimony was heard from John Roth, Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security; and Maria M. Odom, Ombudsman, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

EFFECT OF THE PRESIDENT’S FY 2016 BUDGET AND LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE’S ENERGY AND MINERALS PROGRAMS ON PRIVATE SECTOR JOB CREATION, DOMESTIC ENERGY AND MINERALS PRODUCTION AND DEFICIT REDUCTION

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled “Effect of the President’s FY 2016 Budget and Legislative Proposals for the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service’s Energy and Minerals Programs on Private Sector Job Creation, Domestic Energy and Minerals Production and Deficit Reduction”. Testimony was heard from Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management; and Tom Tidwell, Chief, Forest Service.

DESTRUCTION OF RECORDS AT EPA—WHEN RECORDS MUST BE KEPT

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Oversight; and Subcommittee on Environment, held a joint hearing entitled “Destruction of Records at EPA—When Records Must Be Kept”. Testimony was heard from Paul M. Wester, Jr., Chief Records Officer, National Archives and Records Administration; Kevin Christensen, Assistant Inspector General for Audit, Office of Inspector General, Environmental Protection Agency; and a public witness.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1560, the “Protecting Cyber Networks Act”. H.R. 1560 was ordered reported, as amended. This markup was closed.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2015

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.
Next Meeting of the SENATE

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate continued in the session that began on Thursday, March 26, 2015. See next volume of the Congressional Record.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1 p.m., Monday, March 30

House Chamber

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

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(SENATE PROCEEDINGS FOR TODAY WILL BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE RECORD.)