Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1023–S1076

Measures Introduced: Eight bills and seven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 422–429, and S. Res. 80–86. **Page S1060**

Measures Reported:

S. Res. 81, authorizing expenditures by committees of the Senate for the periods March 1, 2011, through September 30, 2011, and October 1, 2011, through September 30, 2012, and October 1, 2012, through February 28, 2013. **Page S1060**

Measures Passed:

Pay During Government Shutdown: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 388, to prohibit Members of Congress and the President from receiving pay during Government shutdowns, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S1051–52**

Read Across America Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 83, designating March 2, 2011, as ''Read Across America Day''. **Page S1075**

Expressing Support for Sri Lanka: Senate agreed to S. Res. 84, expressing support for internal rebuilding, resettlement, and reconciliation within Sri Lanka that are necessary to ensure a lasting peace. **Page S1075**

Condemning the Human Rights Violations in Libya: Senate agreed to S. Res. 85, strongly condemning the gross and systematic violations of human rights in Libya, including violent attacks on protesters demanding democratic reforms. **Pages S1075–76**

Measures Considered:

Patent Reform Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of S. 23, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S1030–51, S1052–53**

Adopted:

By 97 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. 27), Leahy Modified Amendment No. 121, to improve the bill. **Pages S1032, S1034–44, S1050**

Rejected:

Vitter/Toomey Modified Amendment No. 112, to require that the Government prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public in the event that the debt limit is reached, provided that the Government give equal priority to payment of social security benefits. (By 52 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. 28), Senate tabled the amendment.) **Pages S1030, S1044, S1050–51**

Withdrawn:

DeMint (for Vitter) Modified Amendment No. 113, to require that the Government give equal priority to payment of social security benefits and payment of all obligations on the debt held by the public in the event that the debt limit is reached. **Pages S1032–33**

Pending:

Leahy Amendment No. 114, to improve the bill. **Page S1030**

Bennet Amendment No. 116, to reduce the fee amounts paid by small entities requesting prioritized examination under Three-Track Examination. **Page S1030**

Bennet Amendment No. 117, to establish additional USPTO satellite offices. **Page S1030**

Lee Amendment No. 115, to express the sense of the Senate in support of a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. **Page S1030**

Kirk/Pryor Amendment No. 123, to provide a fast lane for small businesses within the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to receive information and support regarding patent filing issues. **Pages S1033–34**

Menendez Amendment No. 124, to provide for prioritized examination for technologies important to American competitiveness. **Pages S1052–53**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill, upon disposition of H.J. Res. 44, on Wednesday, March 2, 2011. **Page S1076**

Further Continuing Appropriations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 11 a.m., on Wednesday, March 2, 2011, Senate begin consideration of H.J. Res. 44, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2011; that the Senate then vote on passage of the resolution, with no intervening action or debate; provided further, that the cloture motion on the motion to proceed to H.R. 359, be vitiated. **Page S1075**

Messages from the House: **Pages S1057–58**

Measures Referred: **Page S1058**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S1023, S1058**

Executive Communications: **Pages S1058–60**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1060–61**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1061–70**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1056–57**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S1070–74**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S1074**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S1074–75**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—28) **Pages S1050, S1050–51**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:32 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 2, 2011. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1076.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense concluded a hearing to examine the impacts of a long-term continuing resolution on the Department of Defense and proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2012 for the Department of Defense, after receiving testimony from William J. Lynn, III, Deputy Secretary, and Robert F. Hale, Under Secretary, Comptroller, Chief Financial Officer, both of the Department of Defense.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded open and closed hearings to examine U.S. Special Operations Command and U.S. Central Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2012 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Admiral Eric T. Olson, USN, Commander, United States Special Operations Command, and General James N. Mattis, USMC, Commander, U.S. Central Command, both of the Department of Defense.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee adopted its rules of procedure for the 112th Congress.

SEMIANNUAL MONETARY POLICY REPORT

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine The Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress, after receiving testimony from Ben Bernanke, Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BUDGET

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2012 for the Department of Education, after receiving testimony from Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments for the 112th Congress:

Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security: Senators Cantwell (Chair), Inouye, Boxer, Nelson (FL), Lautenberg, Klobuchar, Udall (NM), Warner, Begich, DeMint, Ensign, Thune, Wicker, Isakson, Blunt, Boozman, and Toomey.

Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet: Senators Kerry (Chair), Inouye, Boxer, Nelson (FL), Cantwell, Lautenberg, Pryor, McCaskill, Klobuchar, Udall (NM), Warner, Begich, Ensign, Snowe, DeMint, Thune, Wicker, Isakson, Blunt, Boozman, Toomey, Rubio, and Ayotte.

Subcommittee on Competitiveness, Innovation, and Export Promotion: Senators Klobuchar (Chair), Kerry, Cantwell, Pryor, Udall (NM), Warner, Begich, Blunt, Ensign, DeMint, Thune, Boozman, and Ayotte.

Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance: Senators Pryor (Chair), Kerry, Boxer, McCaskill, Klobuchar, Udall (NM), Wicker, Ensign, Thune, Boozman, and Toomey.