Thursday, March 1, 2012

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1159–S1370

Measures Introduced: Seven bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2145–2151, S. Res. 385–388, and S. Con. Res. 35–36.

Pages S1194–95

Measures Passed:

Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 35, to establish the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies for the inauguration of the President-elect and Vice President-elect of the United States on January 21, 2013. **Page S1368**

Authorize the Use of the Rotunda and Emancipation Hall: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 36, to authorize the use of the rotunda and Emancipation Hall of the Capitol by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies conducted for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States. **Page S1368**

Black History Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 387, celebrating Black History Month.

Pages S1368–69

200th Anniversary of the War of 1812 and "The Star Spangled Banner": Senate agreed to S. Res. 388, commemorating the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 and "The Star Spangled Banner", and recognizing the historical significance, heroic human endeavor, and sacrifice of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Revenue Marine Service, and State militias, during the War of 1812.

Page S1369

Measures Considered:

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of S. 1813, to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S1162–73, S1179–89

Rejected:

Reid (for Blunt) Amendment No. 1520 (to Amendment No. 1730), to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to protect rights of conscience with regard to requirements for coverage of specific items and services. (By 51 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. 24), Senate tabled the amendment.)

Pages S1162–73

Withdrawn:

Reid Amendment No. 1730, of a perfecting nature. **Pages S1162–73**

Pending:

Reid Amendment No. 1761, of a perfecting nature. **Pages S1179–89**

Reid Amendment No. 1762 (to Amendment No. 1761), to change the enactment date. **Page S1179**

Reid motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with instructions, Reid Amendment No. 1763, to change the enactment date. **Page S1179**

Reid Amendment No. 1764 (to (the instructions) Amendment No. 1763), of a perfecting nature.

Page S1179

Reid Amendment No. 1765 (to Amendment No. 1764), of a perfecting nature. **Page S1179**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10 a.m. on Friday, March 2, 2012.

Page S1369

Messages from the House: **Page S1193**

Measures Referred: **Page S1193**

Executive Communications: **Pages S1193–94**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S1194**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1195–96**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S1196–S1209

Additional Statements: Pages S1192–93

Amendments Submitted: Pages S1209–S1367

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Pages S1367–68

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—24) Page S1173

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:40 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Friday, March 2, 2012. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1369.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, after receiving testimony from Shaun Donovan, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

APPROPRIATIONS: OFFICE OF THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE, AND OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year for 2013 for the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, the Library of Congress, the Office of Compliance, and the Open World Leadership Center, after receiving testimony from Stephen T. Ayers, Architect of the Capitol; James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress; Tamara E. Chrisler, Executive Director, Office of Compliance; and John O'Keefe, Executive Director, Open World Leadership Center.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND THE FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine United States European Command and United States Africa Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Admiral James G. Stavridis, USN, Commander, United States European Command, and General Carter Ham, USA, Commander, United States Africa Command, both of the Department of Defense.

SEMIANNUAL MONETARY POLICY REPORT TO THE CONGRESS

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 S. Bernanke, Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

TAX REFORM

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine tax reform to encourage growth, reduce the deficit, and promote fairness, after receiving testimony from Leonard E. Burman, Syracuse University Maxwell School, Syracuse, New York; Diane Lim Rogers, Concord Coalition, Arlington, Virginia; and Daniel Mitchell, Cato Institute, Washington, D.C.

CRUISE SHIP INDUSTRY REGULATIONS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the cruise ship industry, focusing on if current regulations are sufficient to protect passengers and the environment, after receiving testimony from Vice Admiral Brian M. Salerno, Deputy Commandant for Operations, United States Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security; Bill Johnson, Miami-Dade County PortMiami, Miami, Florida; William H. Doherty, Nexus Consulting Group, Centerville, Massachusetts; Ross A. Klein, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada; and Christine Duffy, Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), Arlington, Virginia.

SYRIA

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Syria, focusing on the crisis and its implications, after receiving testimony from Jeffrey D. Feltman, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs, and Robert Ford, Ambassador of the United States to Syria, both of the Department of State.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Andrew David Hurwitz, of Arizona, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

INTELLIGENCE

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

Committee recessed subject to the call.