

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1685–S1762

Measures Introduced: Eleven bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2192–2202, and S. Res. 397–398. **Pages S1733–34**

Measures Passed:

HALE Scouts Act: Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 473, to provide for the conveyance of approximately 140 acres of land in the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma to the Indian Nations Council, Inc., of the Boy Scouts of America, and the bill was then passed. **Page S1760**

United States Marshals Service 225th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 886, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 225th anniversary of the establishment of the Nation's first Federal law enforcement agency, the United States Marshals Service, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S1760–61**

Reid (for Boozman/Pryor) Amendment No. 1847, to improve the bill. **Page S1761**

191st Anniversary of the Independence of Greece: Senate agreed to S. Res. 398, recognizing the 191st anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating Greek and American democracy. **Page S1761**

Measures Considered:

Reopening American Capital Markets to Emerging Growth Companies Act—Agreement: Senate 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, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S1693–96, S1714–29**

Pending:

Reid (for Reed) Amendment No. 1833, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S1693**

Reid Amendment No. 1834 (to Amendment No. 1833), to change the enactment date. **Page S1693**

Reid Amendment No. 1835 (to Amendment No. 1834), of a perfecting nature. **Page S1693**

Reid (for Cantwell) Amendment No. 1836 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 1833), to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States. **Pages S1693–94**

Reid Amendment No. 1837 (to Amendment No. 1836), to change the enactment date. **Page S1694**

Reid motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, with instructions, Reid Amendment No. 1838, to change the enactment date. **Page S1694**

Reid Amendment No. 1839 (to (the instructions) Amendment No. 1838), of a perfecting nature. **Page S1694**

Reid Amendment No. 1840 (to Amendment No. 1839), of a perfecting nature. **Page S1694**

A motion was entered to close further debate on Reid (for Reed) Amendment No. 1833 (listed above), and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Tuesday, March 20, 2012. **Page S1693**

A motion was entered to close further debate on Reid (for Cantwell) Amendment No. 1836 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 1833) (listed above), and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of Reid (for Reed) Amendment No. 1833. **Page S1694**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of Reid (for Cantwell) Amendment No. 1836 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 1833). **Page S1694**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, March 19, 2012, Senate resume consideration of the bill, and that the filing deadline for first-degree amendments

to Reid (for Reed) Amendment No. 1833 and the bill be at 4 p.m. on Monday, March 19, 2012.

Page S1761

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 95 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. EX. 49), Gina Marie Groh, of West Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia. Pages S1711–14, S1762

By 91 yeas to 6 nays (Vote No. EX. 50), Michael Walter Fitzgerald, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California. Pages S1711–14, S1762

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

Pages S1685, S1733

Executive Communications: Page S1733

Additional Cosponsors: Page S1734

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S1734–41

Additional Statements: Pages S1731–32

Amendments Submitted: Pages S1741–60

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: Page S1760

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S1760

Privileges of the Floor: Page S1760

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—50) Pages S1713–14

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 4:33 p.m., until 2 p.m. on Monday, March 19, 2012. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S1761.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

RISK MANAGEMENT AND COMMODITIES

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine risk management and commodities in the 2012 farm bill, after receiving testimony from Michael Scuse, Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services; Hope Hills, Spicebush Creek Farms, Bangor, Michigan; Bob Carden, Carden and Associates, Winter Haven, Florida; Steve Rutledge, Approved Insurance Providers, West Des Moines, Iowa; Steve Wellman, American Soybean Association, Syracuse, Nebraska; Pam Johnson, National Corn Growers Association, Floyd, Iowa; Erik Younggren, National Association of Wheat Growers, Hallock, Minnesota; Jimbo Grissom, Western Peanut Growers Association, Seminole, Texas; Travis

Henry Satterfield, U.S. Rice Producers Association, Benoit, Mississippi; Chuck Coley, National Cotton Council, Vienna, Georgia; Roger Johnson, National Farmers Union, and Bob Stallman, American Farm Bureau Federation, both of Washington, D.C.; Ryan W. Best, National FFA Organization, Portales, New Mexico; and Jarvis Garetson, Copeland, Kansas.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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 Transportation, after receiving testimony from Ray LaHood, Secretary of Transportation.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, after receiving testimony from Eric K. Shinseki, Secretary, Robert A. Petzel, Under Secretary for Health, Allison Hickey, Under Secretary for Benefits, Steve L. Muro, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, Roger W. Baker, Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology, and W. Todd Grams, Executive in Charge, Office of Management, and Chief Financial Officer, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

APPROPRIATIONS: FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies concluded open and closed hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, after receiving testimony from Robert S. Mueller III, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

APPROPRIATIONS: GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE, GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Government Accountability Office, Government Printing Office, and the Congressional Budget Office, after receiving testimony from Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office; Davita Vance-Cooks, Acting Public Printer, Government Printing Office;

and Douglas W. Elmendorf, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy, Admiral Jonathan Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations, and General James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, all of the Department of Defense.

STRENGTHENING THE HOUSING MARKET

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation and Community Development concluded a hearing to examine strengthening the housing market and minimizing losses to taxpayers, after receiving testimony from John C. Dilorio, 1st Alliance Lending, East Hartford, Connecticut; Mark A. Calabria, Cato Institute, Washington, D.C.; and Laurie S. Goodman, Amherst Securities Group, New York, New York.

ENHANCING NUCLEAR REACTOR SAFETY

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee with the Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety concluded a joint hearing to examine lessons from Fukushima one year later, focusing on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's implementation of recommendations for enhancing nuclear reactor safety in the 21st century, after receiving testimony from Gregory B. Jaczko, Chairman, and Kristine L. Svinicki, George Apostolakis, William D. Magwood IV, and William C. Ostendorff, each a Commissioner, all of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

RUSSIA'S WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION ACCESSION—IMPLICATIONS

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Russia's World Trade Organization accession—implications for the United States, after receiving testimony from Samuel R. Allen, Deere and Company, Moline, Illinois; Ronald J. Pollett, GE Russia and CIS, Moscow, Russia; Watty Taylor, Montana Stockgrowers Association Inc., Helena; Paul Williams, American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, New York, New York; and Alan Larson, Covington and Burling LLP, Washington, D.C.

INDIAN WATER RIGHTS

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine Indian water rights, focusing on promoting the negotiation and implementation of water settlements in Indian country, after receiving testimony from David J. Hayes, Deputy Secretary, Mike Connor, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, and Del Laverdure, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, all of the Department of the Interior; John Echohawk, Native American Rights Fund, Boulder, Colorado; Maria O'Brien, Western States Water Council, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Judith V. Royster, University of Tulsa College of Law Native American Law Center, Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Michael Bogert, Crowell and Moring, Washington, D.C.

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.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 16, 2012 in pro forma session.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D242)

S. 1134, to authorize the St. Croix River Crossing Project with appropriate mitigation measures to pro-

mote river values. Signed on March 14, 2012. (Public Law 112–100)

S. 1710, to designate the United States courthouse located at 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska, as the James M. Fitzgerald United States Courthouse. Signed on March 14, 2012. (Public Law 112–101)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2012

(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, March 19

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Friday, March 16

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 4:30 p.m.), Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3606, Reopening American Capital Markets to Emerging Growth Companies Act, with the filing deadline for first-degree amendments to Reid (for Reed) Amendment No. 1833 and H.R. 3606 to be at 4 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Friday: To be announced.



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