

# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Bills Introduced:** 13 public bills, H.R. 1142–1154; and 2 private bills, H.R. 1155 and 1156 were introduced. Pages H2810–11

**Reports Filed:** The following reports were filed as follows:

H. Res. 93, providing for the consideration of H.R. 450, to ensure economy and efficiency of Federal Government operations by establishing a moratorium on regulatory rulemaking actions (H. Rept. 104–45). Pages H2735–40

**Speaker Pro Tempore:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designates Representative Waldholtz to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H2721

**Recess:** House recessed at 10:28 a.m. and reconvened at 11:00 a.m. Page H2729

**Attorney Accountability Act:** By a recorded vote of 232 ayes to 193 noes, Roll No. 207, the House passed H.R. 988, to reform the Federal civil justice system. Pages H2735–49

Rejected the Conyers motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Judiciary with instructions to report it back forthwith containing an amendment that inserts new language in section 2 that requires courts to award reasonable costs and legal fees to the prevailing party if it determines that (1) the losing party's position was not justified, (2) imposing fees and expenses on the losing party would be just, and (3) the prevailing parties costs of such fees and expenses is substantially burdensome and unjust; requires the plaintiffs and or their attorneys in class actions to post a security for payment of the defendant's costs and legal fees; requires a party seeking reimbursement to apply within 30 days of final judgment; that permits courts to use their discretion in determining how much to award; places no limits on the courts' ability to award costs pursuant to other provisions of law; requires the court to award the prevailing parties reasonable fees and expenses in discovery proceedings unless special circumstances make such an award unjust; and prohibits plaintiffs from withdrawing from or voluntarily dismissing an action in order to evade the "loser pays" provisions. Pages H2747–49

Agreed to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. Page H2747

Rejected:

The Burton of Indiana amendment that sought to reduce from 100 percent to 25 percent the prevailing party's cost and legal fee requirement under the

"loser pays" provision; and to increase the portion of liability the court may increase the reimbursement above 25 percent if it considers the loser was unreasonable in rejecting the last offer (rejected by a recorded vote of 202 ayes to 214 noes, Roll No. 204); Pages H2735–40

The Conyers amendment that sought to exempt civil rights cases from the mandatory sanctions on attorneys for making frivolous arguments (rejected by a recorded vote of 194 ayes to 229 noes, Roll No. 205); and Pages H2740–44

The Bryant of Texas amendment that sought to limit the "loser pays" provisions to cases brought against small businesses as defined under section 3 of the Small Business Act (rejected by a recorded vote of 177 ayes to 244 noes, Roll No. 206). Pages H2745–46

**Securities Litigation Reform Act:** House completed all general debate on and began consideration of amendments on H.R. 1058, to reform Federal securities litigation. Consideration of amendments will resume on Wednesday, March 8. Pages H2760–79

Agreed To:

The Cox of California amendment that prohibits the use of the RICO statute, which provides for treble damages in cases where patterns of violations exist in any civil case involving securities fraud (agreed to by a recorded vote of 292 ayes to 124 noes, with 1 voting "present", Roll No. 209); and Pages H2770–79

The Fields of Texas technical amendment. Page H2779

H. Res. 105, the rule under which the bill is being considered, was agreed to earlier by a recorded vote of 257 ayes to 155 noes, with 1 voting "present," Roll No. 208. Pages H2750–59

**Committees To Sit:** The following committees and their subcommittees received permission to sit on Wednesday, March 8, during the proceedings of the House under the 5-minute: Committees on Banking and Financial Services, Economic and Educational Opportunities, Government Reform and Oversight, House Oversight, International Relations, National Security, and Transportation and Infrastructure. Page H2780

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Six recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H2739–40, H2744, H2746, H2749, H2759, and H2778–79.

**Adjournment:** Met at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 11:13 p.m.

## *Committee Meetings*

### COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS AND FOOD STAMP PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

*Committee on Agriculture:* Began markup of H.R. 1135, to improve the Commodity Distribution Programs of the Department of Agriculture, to reform and simplify the Food Stamp Program.

### AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the USDA: Patricia A. Jensen, Acting Assistant Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory Programs; and Lonnie J. King, Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development held a hearing on the Secretary of Energy. Testimony was heard from Hazel R. O'Leary, Secretary of Energy.

### FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Agencies held a hearing on the Agency for International Development and the Peace Corps. Testimony was heard from J. Brian Atwood, Administrator, AID, U.S. International Development Cooperation Agency; and Carol Bellamy, Director, Peace Corps.

### INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies held a hearing on the Office of Surface Mining. Testimony was heard from Robert Uram, Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior.

### LABOR—HHS—EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies held a hearing on Howard University, Special Institutions, and on Inspector General, Department of Education. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Education: Judith Heumann, Assistant Secretary, Special Education and Rehabilitative Services; Tuck Tinsley III, President, American Printing House for the Blind; I.

King Jordan, President, Gallaudet University; Joyce A. Ladner, Interim President, Howard University; James J. DeCaro, Dean and Interim Director, National Technical Institute for the Deaf; and Grechen C. Schwarz, Acting Inspector General.

### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Military Construction held a hearing on Air Force Military Construction. Testimony was heard from Ronald A. Colman, Assistant Secretary, U.S. Air Force.

### NATIONAL SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on National Security held a hearing on Personnel/Quality of Life Issues. Testimony was heard from Fred F.Y. Pang, Assistant Secretary (Force Management), Department of Defense.

The Subcommittee also met in executive session to hold a hearing on the U.S. Atlantic Command. Testimony was heard from Gen. John J. Sheehan, USMC, Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Command, Department of Defense.

### TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Transportation, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Research and Special Programs Administration. Testimony was heard from Dharmendra K. Sharma, Administrator, Department of Transportation.

### VA, HUD AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies held a hearing on the Department of Veterans Affairs. Testimony was heard from Jessie Brown, Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

### FINANCIAL SERVICES COMPETITIVENESS ACT

*Committee on Banking and Financial Services:* Continued hearings on the following: H.R. 1062, Financial Services Competitiveness Act of 1995; Glass-Steagall Reform; and related issues. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### ECONOMIC FORECASTS—ROLES OF DEFICIT REDUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY

*Committee on the Budget:* Held a hearing on Economic Forecasts and the Roles of Deficit reduction and Productivity. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Hearings continue tomorrow.