Thursday, September 15, 2005

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 2862, Commerce/Justice/Science Appropriations.

Senate passed H.R. 3768, Hurricane Katrina Tax Relief Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S10057–S10163

Measures Introduced: Eleven bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1706–1716, and S. Res. 239–244. **Page S10119**

Measures Reported:

S. 360, to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 109–137) **Page S10119**

Measures Passed:

Hurricane Katrina Tax Relief Act: Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of S. 1696, to provide tax relief for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, to provide incentives for charitable giving, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S10066–67**

Grassley/Baucus Amendment No. 1722, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S10067**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the bill be held at the desk. **Page S10067**

Subsequently, the passage of the bill was vitiated and ordered placed on the Senate Calendar. **Page S10147**

Sportfishing and Recreational Boating Safety Amendments Act: Senate passed H.R. 3649, to ensure funding for sportfishing and boating safety programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund through the end of fiscal year 2005, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S10067**

Grassley (for Bond/Murray) Amendment No. 1723, to make technical corrections to Public Law 109–59. **Page S10067**

Commerce/Justice/Science Appropriations: By a vote of 91 yeas to 4 nays (Vote No. 235), Senate passed H.R. 2862, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, after taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S10058, S10070–79**

Adopted:

By a unanimous vote of 99 yeas (Vote. 231), Grassley Modified Amendment No. 1713, to provide that funds must be used in a manner consistent with the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002. **Pages S10064–65**

Shelby (for Kyl) Amendment No. 1719, to provide $5,000,000 in the Southwest United States for hiring officers dedicated to the investigation of manufacturers of fraudulent Federal identity documents, Federal travel documents, or documents allowing access to Federal programs. **Page S10065**

Shelby (for Baucus) Amendment No. 1720, to provide funds for economic adjustment and development to areas impacted by Hurricane Katrina. **Page S10065**

Shelby (for Durbin/Coburn) Amendment No. 1721, to permit certain health professionals who are displaced by Hurricane Katrina to provide health-related services under the Medicare, Medicaid, SCHIP, and Indian Health Service programs in States to which such professionals relocate. **Pages S10065–66**

By a unanimous vote of 96 yeas (Vote No. 233), Shelby (for Snowe/Vitter) Amendment No. 1717, to provide assistance for small businesses damaged by Hurricane Katrina. **Pages S10070–71**

Shelby (for Inouye) Amendment No. 1716, to extend the provisions on an expiring provision of the Universal Service Antideficiency Temporary Suspension Act. **Page S10072**

Shelby (for Kerry) Modified Amendment No. 1724, to reduce fees on loans to small businesses. **Page S10072**

Shelby (for Reid) Amendment No. 1725, to provide additional funding for the Federal Bureau of Investigation for processing of background checks for petitions and applications pending before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. **Page S10072**

Rejected:

By 39 yeas to 60 nays (Vote No. 232), Dorgan Amendment No. 1665, to prohibit weakening any law that provides safeguards from unfair foreign trade practices. **Pages S10061–65**

Withdrawn:

Kerry/Landrieu Amendment No. 1695, to strengthen the loan, procurement assistance, and management education programs of the Small Business Administration in order to help small businesses and home owners hurt by Hurricane Katrina meet their existing obligations, finance their businesses, and maintain and create jobs, thereby providing stability to the national economy. **Page S10071**

Bingaman Amendment No. 1706, to provide funds for educational assistance to individuals and schools impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

Pages S10060–61, S10071–72

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

Chair sustained a point of order that Kyl Amendment No. 1718, to prevent the use of certain payment instruments, credit cards, and fund transfers for unlawful Internet gambling, violates Rule XVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, which constitutes general legislation on an appropriations bill, and therefore was ruled out of order. **Pages S10059–60**

By 43 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 234), two-thirds of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to suspend Rule XVI, pursuant to notice previously given in writing, relative to Lieberman Amendment No. 1678, to provide financial relief for individuals and entities affected by Hurricane Katrina. Subsequently, the Chair sustained the point of order that the amendment was in violation of Rule XVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate which prohibits legislation on appropriations matters, and the amendment thus fell. **Page S10073**

Senate insisted on its amendments, requested a conference with the House thereon, and the Chair was authorized to appoint the following conferees on the part of the Senate: Senators Shelby, Gregg, Stevens, Domenici, McConnell, Hutchison, Brownback, Bond, Cochran, Mikulski, Inouye, Leahy, Kohl, Murray, Harkin, Dorgan, and Byrd. **Page S10079**

Hurricane Katrina Tax Relief Act: Senate passed H.R. 3768, to provide emergency tax relief for persons affected by Hurricane Katrina, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S10147**

Frist (for Grassley/Baucus) Amendment No. 1728, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S10147**

Supporting the Pledge of Allegiance: Senate agreed to S. Res. 243, expressing support for the Pledge of Allegiance. **Pages S10147–48**

Supporting the Pledge of Allegiance: Senate agreed to S. Res. 244, expressing support for the Pledge of Allegiance. **Page S10148**

Pell Grant Hurricane and Disaster Relief Act: Senate passed H.R. 3169, to provide the Secretary of Education with waiver authority for students who are eligible for Pell Grants who are adversely affected by a natural disaster, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S10149**

Student Grant Hurricane and Disaster Relief Act: Senate passed H.R. 3668, to provide the Secretary of Education with waiver authority for students who are eligible for Federal student grant assistance who are adversely affected by a major disaster, clearing the measure for the President.

Page S10149

TANF Emergency Response and Recovery Act: Senate passed H.R. 3672, to provide assistance to families affected by Hurricane Katrina, through the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families, clearing the measure for the President. **Pages S10149–50**

Recognizing American Academy of Pediatrics 75th Anniversary: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 204, recognizing the 75th anniversary of the American Academy of Pediatrics and supporting the mission and goals of the organization, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S10150**

Opposing Anti-Semitism: Senate agreed to S. Res. 240, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding manifestations of anti-Semitism by United Nations member states and urging action against anti-Semitism by United Nations officials, United Nations member states, and the Government of the United States. **Pages S10150–51**

Leukemia, Lymphoma, and Myeloma Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 241, designating September 2005, as "Leukemia, Lymphoma, and Myeloma Awareness Month"; **Page S10151**

Agriculture Appropriations: Senate began consideration of H.R. 2744, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute,

which will be considered as original text for the purpose of further amendment, and taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S10080–S10103

Pending:

Bennett/Kohl Amendment No. 1726, to amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936.

Pages S10101–03

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for consideration of the bill at 3 p.m. on Monday, September 19, 2005. **Page S10154**

Messages From the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, the recommendations of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services. (PM–22) **Page S10117**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Michael R. Arietti, of Connecticut, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Rwanda.

Karan K. Bhatia, of Maryland, to be Deputy United States Trade Representative, with the Rank of Ambassador.

Edwin G. Foulke, Jr., of South Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Richard Stickler, of West Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health.

2 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy. **Pages S10155–63**

Messages From the House: **Pages S10117–18**

Measures Referred: **Page S10118**

Measures Placed on Calendar: **Page S10118**

Measures Read First Time: **Page S10118**

Executive Communications: **Pages S10118–19**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S10119–21**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S10121–31**

Additional Statements: **Pages S10115–17**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S10131–45**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S10146**

Authority for Committees to Meet: **Page S10146**

Privilege of the Floor: **Page S10147**

Record Votes: Five record votes were taken today. (Total—235) **Pages S10064–65, S10071, S10073, S10079**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 8:39 p.m., until 2 p.m., on Monday, September 19, 2005. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S10155.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch concluded a hearing to examine the progress of Capitol Visitor Center construction, focusing on the Architect of the Capitol's progress in managing the project's schedule since the Subcommittee's last hearing on the project, estimate of a general time frame for completing the construction, and the costs and funding, including the potential impact of scheduling issues on cost, after receiving testimony from Alan Hartman, Architect of the Capitol; Bernard L. Ungar, Director, and Terrell Dorn, Assistant Director, both of Physical Infrastructure Issues, Government Accountability Office.

NOMINATIONS:

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Keith E. Gottfried, of California, to be General Counsel, Kim Kendrick, of the District of Columbia, who was introduced by Senator Santorum, Keith A. Nelson, of Texas, and Darlene F. Williams, of Texas, each to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Israel Hernandez, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service, Darryl W. Jackson, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary, Franklin L. Lavin, of Ohio, to be Under Secretary for International Trade, who was introduced by Senator DeWine, and David H. McCormick, of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary for Export Administration, who was introduced by Senator Santorum, all of the Department of Commerce, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

U.S.-INDONESIA RELATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs concluded a hearing to examine U.S.-Indonesia relations, focusing on a bilateral relationship with Indonesia, after receiving testimony from Eric G. John, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs; James R. Kunder, Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Asia and the Near East, U.S. Agency for International Development; Hadi Soesastro, Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Jakarta, Indonesia; Randolph Martin, Mercy Corps, Washington, D.C.; and Paul M. Cleveland, Arlington, Virginia.