

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS:

Senate passed H.R. 2744, Agriculture Appropriations.

Senate passed H.R. 2528, Military Construction/Veterans Affairs Appropriations.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S10327–S10393

Measures Introduced: Seventeen bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1750–1766, and S. Res. 247–250. **Page S10378**

Measures Passed:

Agriculture Appropriations: By 97 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. 241), Senate passed H.R. 2744, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, after taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S10327–32**

Rejected:

By 47 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 240), Dayton Modified Amendment No. 1844, to condition the use of funds for carrying out a provision relating to prevented planting payments, with an offset. **Pages S10327–28**

Withdrawn:

Bingaman (for Jeffords) Amendment No. 1796, to provide funds to carry out the historic barn preservation program, with an offset. **Page S10327**

A unanimous-consent request was granted permitting Senator Stevens to change his nay vote to a yea vote on Vote No. 237 changing the outcome of the vote to 69 yeas to 28 nays relative to Ensign Amendment No. 1753, as modified (adopted on September 20, 2005). **Page S10332**

Senate insisted on its amendment, requested a conference with the House thereon, and the Chair was authorized to appoint the following conferees on the part of the Senate: Senators Bennett, Cochran, Specter, Bond, McConnell, Burns, Craig, Brownback, Stevens, Kohl, Harkin, Dorgan, Feinstein, Durbin, Johnson, Landrieu, and Byrd. **Page S10332**

Military Construction/Veterans Affairs Appropriations: By a unanimous vote of 98 yeas (Vote No. 243), Senate passed H.R. 2528, making appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, 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, after taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S10335–60**

Adopted:

Hutchison (for Coburn) Amendment No. 1858, to require that any limitation, directive, or earmarking contained in either the House of Representatives or Senate report accompanying this bill be included in the conference report or joint statement accompanying the bill in order to be considered as having been approved by both Houses of Congress. **Page S10353**

Hutchison (for Carper) Amendment No. 1859, to provide that, of the amount made available by title I for military construction for the Air National Guard and available for planning and design, \$1,440,000 shall be made available for planning and design for a replacement C-130 maintenance hangar at Air National Guard New Castle County Airport, Delaware. **Page S10353**

Hutchison (for Boxer) Amendment No. 1860, to require a report on housing assistance to low-income veterans. **Page S10353**

Hutchison (for Chambliss/Isakson) Amendment No. 1861, to provide that, of the amount appropriated by this title under the heading "Military Construction, Army", \$4,550,000 shall be made available for the construction of a military police complex at Fort Gordon, Georgia, and to provide an offset. **Pages S10353–54**

Hutchison (for Feinstein) Amendment No. 1862, to increase by \$25,000,000 the amount made available by title I for the Department of Defense Base Closure Account 1990, and to provide an offset.

Page S10354

Hutchison (for Feingold/Salazar) Amendment No. 1863, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to report to Congress on a plan to provide veterans benefits handbooks to all county veterans service officers.

Page S10354

Hutchison (for Durbin/Murray) Amendment No. 1864, to place conditions on the use of appropriated funds for reviewing or revoking approved disability claims for post-traumatic stress disorder and to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from using Federal funds for certain investigations until after the submission of a detailed implementation plan to the Committee on Appropriations.

Page S10354

Hutchison (for Durbin) Amendment No. 1865, to instruct the Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct a veterans disability compensation information campaign.

Pages S10354–55, S10355–56

Hutchison (for Jeffords) Amendment No. 1866, to provide clinical training and protocols to meet the mental health care needs of servicemembers and veterans.

Page S10355

Hutchison (for Salazar) Amendment No. 1867, to require a report on any Department of Veterans Affairs budget shortfall totaling 2 percent or more of the Department's total discretionary funding budget for a fiscal year.

Page S10356

Craig (for Salazar) Amendment No. 1868, to assist rural veterans.

Pages S10356–59

Rejected:

By 48 yeas to 50 nays (Vote No. 242), Akaka Amendment No. 1852, to provide an additional \$10,000,000 for the Readjustment Counseling Service, with a corresponding offset from the HealthVet account.

Pages S10351–53, S10359–60

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 Hutchison, Burns, Craig, DeWine, Brownback, Allard, McConnell, Cochran, Feinstein, Inouye, Johnson, Landrieu, Byrd, Murray and Leahy.

Page S10360

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the earlier passage of the bill, the following amendments be agreed to:

Frist (for Hutchison) Amendment No. 1870, to provide funds for Phase 1a of a Permanent Party Barracks at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and for an Airfield Fire Station at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Page S10391

Frist (for Hutchison) Amendment No. 1871, to make funds available for a B–2 Conventional Muni-

tions Storage Facility at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri and for Phase 1 of Force Protection Enhancement at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma.

Page S10391

Children Displaced by Hurricane Katrina: Senate passed S. 1764, to provide for the continued education of students affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Pages S10387–88

Indian Financing Act Amendment: Senate passed S. 1758, to amend the Indian Financing Act of 1974, to provide for sale and assignment of loans and underlying security.

Pages S10388–89

Commending James Madison Council: Senate agreed to S. Res. 247, commending the Library of Congress's private-sector advisory body, the James Madison Council, and its Founding Chairman, John W. Kluge on 15 years of exemplary service to Congress and the Nation and looking forward to the Council's continued success in the years ahead.

Pages S10389–90

Commemorating West Oahu Little League Team: Senate agreed to S. Res. 248, commemorating the West Oahu Little League Team for winning the 2005 Little League World Series.

Page S10390

Commemorating Oahu All-Stars: Senate agreed to S. Res. 249, commemorating the Oahu All-Stars for winning the 2005 Cal Ripken World Series and the Hawaii Warriors for winning the 2005 Continental Amateur Baseball Association World Series (ages 9–under).

Pages S10390–91

Supporting Gold Star Mothers Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 250, supporting the goals and ideals of Gold Star Mothers Day.

Page S10391

Infant Mortality Awareness Month: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 239, supporting the goals and ideals of Infant Mortality Awareness Month, and the resolution was then agreed to.

Page S10391

Grain Standards Act Authorization: Senate passed S. 1752, to amend the United States Grain Standards Act to reauthorize that Act.

Page S10392

Roberts Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 1 p.m., on Monday, September 26, 2005, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of John G. Roberts, Jr., of Maryland, to be Chief Justice of the United States.

Page S10392

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

Robert B. Holland III, of Texas, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank

for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years. (Prior to this action, Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration.)

Page S10393

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Dorrance Smith, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Katherine Baicker, of New Hampshire, to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers.

Matthew Slaughter, of New Hampshire, to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers.

Benson K. Whitney, of Minnesota, to be Ambassador to Norway.

David M. Hale, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

John O. Agwunobi, of Florida, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, subject to the qualifications therefor as provided by law and regulations.

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

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Messages From the House: Page S10373

Measures Referred: Page S10373

Measures Placed on Calendar: Page S10373

Measures Read First Time: Page S10373

Enrolled Bills Presented: Page S10373

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Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S10379–83

Additional Statements: Pages S10372–73

Amendments Submitted: Pages S10383–86

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: Page S10386

Authority for Committees to Meet: Pages S10386–87

Privilege of the Floor: Page S10387

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—243) Pages S10328, S10332, S10359–60, S10360

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 7:28 p.m., until 1 p.m., on Monday, September 26, 2005. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S10392–93.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

IDENTITY THEFT

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the financial services industry's responsibilities and role in preventing identity theft and protecting sensitive financial information, after receiving testimony from Senator Pryor; Stuart K. Pratt, Consumer Data Industry Association, Edmund Mierzwinski, U.S. Public Interest Research Group, Ira D. Hammerman, Securities Industry Association, Gilbert T. Schwartz, Schwartz and Ballen LLP, on behalf of the American Council of Life Insurers, and Oliver I. Ireland, Morrison and Foerster, on behalf of the American Bankers Association, all of Washington, D.C.

COMMUNICATIONS IN DISASTER

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee held a hearing to examine the protection of critical communications infrastructure during a disaster, focusing on the impact on communications services in the area effected by Hurricane Katrina, a status report on the extent to which services have been restored, and steps the Federal Communications Commission has taken to facilitate the restoration of service and to provide support for evacuees, receiving testimony from Kevin J. Martin, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission; William L. Smith, BellSouth, and Paul Roth, Cingular Wireless, both of Atlanta, Georgia; Jeffrey A. Citron, Vonage Holdings Corporation, Edison, New Jersey; and Hossein Eslambolchi, AT&T Global Networking Technology Services and AT&T Labs, Bedminster, New Jersey.

Hearings will continue on Thursday, September 29.

LAND BILLS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks concluded a hearing to examine S. 435, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 1096, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate portions of the Musconetcong River in the State of New Jersey as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 1310, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to allow the Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation to increase the diameter of a natural gas