

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S11111–S11238

Measures Introduced: Eight bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4075–4082, S. Res. 622–623, and S. Con. Res. 122. **Page S11194**

Measures Reported:

S. 1531, to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to expand and intensify programs with respect to research and related activities concerning elder falls, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 109–362)

S. 2322, to amend the Public Health Service Act to make the provision of technical services for medical imaging examinations and radiation therapy treatments safer, more accurate, and less costly, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 109–363)

Report to accompany S. 3569, to implement the United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement. (S. Rept. No. 109–364)

H.R. 3675, to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to increase civil penalties for violations involving unfair or deceptive acts or practices that exploit popular reaction to an emergency or major disaster, and to authorize the Federal Trade Commission to seek civil penalties for such violations in actions brought under section 13 of that Act.

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Measures Passed:

Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act: Senate passed S. 3678, to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to public health security and all-hazards preparedness and response, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the following amendment proposed thereto:

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Burr/Kennedy Amendment No. 5210, in the nature of a substitute.

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Agriculture Appropriations: Senate began consideration of the H.R. 5384, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S11127–56

By 57 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. 271), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to waive section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95, Congressional Budget Resolution, with respect to the emergency designation provision in Conrad Amendment No. 5205, to provide emergency agricultural disaster assistance. Subsequently, a point of order that the emergency designation provision would violate section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 was sustained, and the provision was stricken. Also, the Chair sustained a point of order that the amendment would exceed the subcommittee's 302(b) allocation and the amendment thus fell.

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Bill Referral—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 4048, to prohibit Federal funding for the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the bill then be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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Appointments:

Medal of Valor Review Board: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 107–12, the appointment of William Pickle, of Virginia, to serve as a member of the Medal of Valor Review Board.

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Nomination: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Andrew von Eschenbach, of Texas, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

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A motion was filed to close further debate on the nomination and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a cloture vote will occur on Thursday, December 7, 2006.

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Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for consideration of the nomination of Robert M. Gates, of Texas, to be Secretary of Defense at 11:30 a.m., on Wednesday, December 6, 2006.

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Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Jill E. Sommers, of Kansas, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for the remainder of the term expiring April 13, 2009.

Jeffrey Robert Brown, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Social Security Advisory Board for a term expiring September 30, 2008 (Recess Appointment).

Stanley Davis Phillips, of North Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Estonia.

Sam Fox, of Missouri, to be Ambassador to Belgium.

Gregory B. Cade, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, Department of Homeland Security.

Heidi M. Pasichow, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Frederick J. Kapala, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Michael W. Tankersley, of Texas, to be Inspector General, Export-Import Bank.

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Messages From the House:

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Measures Discharged:

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Measures Read First Time:

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Executive Communications:

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Additional Statements:

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Amendments Submitted:

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Authorities for Committees to Meet:

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Privileges of the Floor:

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Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—271)

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Adjournment: Senate convened at 12 noon, and adjourned at 8:16 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday,

December 6, 2006. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S11238.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATION

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Robert M. Gates, of Texas, to be Secretary of Defense.

Prior to this action, committee concluded open and closed hearings on the nomination of Mr. Gates, after the nominee, who was introduced by former Senators Dole and Boren, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Scott Wallace Stucky, of Maryland, and Margaret A. Ryan, of Virginia, both to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, and 1,023 routine military nominations.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing on the nominations of Steven R. Chealander, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, and Charles E. Dorkey III, of New York, to be a Member of the Advisory Board of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

HIGHER EDUCATION TAX EXEMPTIONS

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine a report card on tax exemptions and incentives for higher education, including whether any changes should be made in the government's overall strategy for providing such assistance or to the individual programs and tax provisions that provide the assistance, after receiving testimony from Michael Brostek, Director, Tax Issues, Strategic Issues Team, Government Accountability Office; Daniel Golden, Wall Street Journal, Boston, Massachusetts; Bridget Terry Long, Harvard Graduate School of Education, and Susan M. Dynarski, Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government and National Bureau of Economics, both of Cambridge, Massachusetts; James J. Duderstadt, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; and Patricia A. McGuire, Trinity (Washington) University, Washington, D.C.