

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 21, Congressional Budget Resolution.

The House passed H.R. 1591, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S3659–S3725

Measures Introduced: Eight bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 975–982, S. Res. 121–122, and S. Con. Res. 24. **Page S3706**

Measures Passed:

Congressional Budget Resolution: By 52 yeas and 47 nays (Vote No. 114), Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 21, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 and 2009 through 2012, after taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S3659–S3702**

Adopted:

Gregg Amendment No. 622, point of order against using reconciliation to create new mandatory programs and 20% limitation on spending reconciliation. **Page S3662**

Pryor/Nelson (FL) Amendment No. 601, to establish a reserve fund to provide additional training for physicians and attract more physicians in States that face a shortage of physicians in training. **Page S3663**

Brownback Amendment No. 581, to provide funds for a Commission on Budgetary Accountability and Review of Federal Agencies. **Page S3663**

Conrad Amendment No. 623, to clarify the treatment of certain provisions in conference reports. **Pages S3663–64**

Bunning Amendment No. 621, to provide for a deficit-neutral reserve fund for a repeal of the 1993 increase in the income tax on Social Security Benefits. **Page S3665**

Dole Amendment No. 553, to extend financial relief for our reservists and national guard deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq by allowing them to make

penalty-free withdrawals of their retirement funds through the year 2012. **Page S3665**

Feinstein/Boxer Amendment No. 574, to provide an additional \$543,000,000 for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program. **Page S3666**

By 59 yeas and 40 nays (Vote No. 105), Smith Modified Amendment No. 510, to provide for the consideration of an increase in the tobacco products user fee rate, but only to the extent that such rate increase does not result in an increase of more than 61 cents per pack of cigarettes, with all revenue generated by such increase dedicated to the reauthorization and expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program. **Pages S3672–73**

Conrad (for Lieberman/Collins) Amendment No. 519, to increase funding for vital first responder homeland security programs, including \$400,000,000 to establish a dedicated interoperability grant program and \$331,000,000 for Emergency Management Performance Grants. **Page S3673**

Conrad (for Burr) Amendment No. 499, to develop biodefense medical countermeasures by fully funding the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) in a fiscally responsible manner. **Page S3673**

Conrad (for Biden) Amendment No. 528, to increase funding by \$100 million for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) programs administered by the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services, with an offset of an unallocated reduction to non-defense discretionary spending and/or reduction to administrative expenses. **Page S3673**

Conrad (for Thune) Amendment No. 546, to provide for a total of \$99,000,000 in COPS Hot Spots funding, as authorized in the Combat Meth Act. **Page S3673**

Conrad (for Kennedy) Amendment No. 602, to increase funding for drug safety oversight at the Food and Drug Administration by \$40,000,000 in fiscal year 2008. **Page S3673**

Conrad (for Chambliss) Amendment No. 619, to provide Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program funding, as authorized in the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005. **Page S3673**

Conrad (for Reid/Sanders) Modified Amendment No. 490, to provide funding to eliminate the offset between military retirement pay and disability compensation for America's veterans. **Pages S3673, S3678**

Conrad (for Kerry/Snowe) Amendment No. 616, to increase funding for small business programs at the Small Business Administration such as microloans, Women's Business Centers, and Small Business Development Centers. **Pages S3673, S3675-77**

Conrad (for Warner) Amendment No. 620, to provide funding for NASA aeronautics at the fiscal year 2007 levels.

Conrad (for Kerry/Rockefeller) Amendment No. 615, to include in the veterans' reserve fund services for low-vision and blinded veterans. **Page S3674**

Conrad (for Graham) Amendment No. 614, to increase the budgetary totals for the Department of Commerce to provide additional trade enforcement capability and to provide an offset. **Pages S3674-75**

Specter Modified Amendment No. 613, to create a deficit-neutral reserve for asbestos reform legislation. **Pages S3677-79**

Gregg (for Thune) Amendment No. 465, to provide for a budget point of order against legislation that increases income tax rates on small businesses, family farms, or family ranches. **Page S3679**

By 65 yeas and 33 nays (Vote No. 110), Biden Amendment No. 529, to increase funding for the COPS Program to \$1.15 billion for FY 2008 to provide state and local law enforcement with critical resources necessary to prevent and respond to violent crime and acts of terrorism and is offset by an unallocated reduction to non-defense discretionary spending and/or reduction to administrative expenses. **Pages S3682-83**

DeMint Amendment No. 530, to save Social Security first, not discretionary spending. **Page S3683**

DeMint Amendment No. 534, to prevent the adding of earmarks for spinach producers to an emergency war supplemental appropriations bill. **Page S3683**

Coleman Amendment No. 522, to extend a provision allowing veterans to qualify for low interest mortgage programs. **Page S3685**

Conrad (for Gregg/Conrad) Amendment No. 638, to create a point of order against increasing mandatory spending in appropriation bills. **Pages S3686-87**

Conrad (for Smith) Amendment No. 518, to fund the State Department, USAID, and other foreign affairs agencies and their programs at the level requested by the President. **Pages S3687-98**

Conrad (for Obama) Amendment No. 599, to add \$200 million for Function 270 (Energy) for the demonstration and monitoring of carbon capture and sequestration technology by the Department of Energy. **Page S3698**

Conrad (for Nelson (FL)) Amendment No. 580, to make funds available to ensure that Survivor Benefit Plan annuities are not reduced by the amount of veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation received by military families. **Page S3698**

Conrad (for Levin) Amendment No. 632, to provide for a deficit-neutral reserve fund for manufacturing initiatives. **Page S3698**

Conrad (for Casey) Amendment No. 617, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund for extending preschool opportunities to children. **Pages S3698-99**

Conrad (for Carper/Coburn) Amendment No. 540, to reduce the deficit through the use of recovery audits. **Pages S3698, S3699**

Conrad (for Pryor) Modified Amendment No. 611, to increase the budgeting totals for the National Nanotechnology Initiative for environmental, health, and safety research and development for fiscal years 2008 through 2012. **Pages S3698, S3699**

Conrad (for Dorgan) Amendment No. 544, to provide for the use of the deficit-neutral reserve fund for tax relief for enhancing charitable giving from individual retirement accounts. **Pages S3698, S3699**

Conrad (for Obama) Amendment No. 524, to provide \$100 million for the Summer Term Education Program supporting summer learning opportunities for low-income students in the early grades to lessen summer learning losses that contribute to the achievement gaps separating low-income students from their middle-class peers. **Pages S3698, S3699**

Conrad (for Reed) Amendment No. 596, to increase LIHEAP spending by \$703 million in FY2008 for a total LIHEAP level of \$3.2 billion, divided between the regular and contingency grant funds at FY2006 levels. **Pages S3698, S3699, S3701**

Conrad (for Bingaman) Amendment No. 600, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to provide for a delay in the implementation of a proposed rule relating to the Federal-State financial partnerships under Medicaid and SCHIP. **Pages S3698, S3699**

Conrad (for Webb) Amendment No. 537, to include in the veterans' reserve fund a provision for GI educational benefits. **Pages S3698, S3699**

Conrad (for Pryor/Klobuchar) Amendment No. 627, to provide additional funding for the Consumer Product Safety Commission to enhance its mission of

protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from consumer products.

Pages S3698, S3699

Conrad (for Baucus) Amendment No. 639, to establish a reserve fund to improve the health care system.

Pages S3698, S3699–S3700

Conrad (for Dorgan/Snowe) Amendment No. 589, to establish a reserve fund for the safe importation of FDA-approved prescription drugs.

Pages S3698, S3700

Conrad (for Voinovich) Modified Amendment No. 470, to require disclosure of the interest costs of legislation.

Pages S3698, S3700

Conrad (for Coleman) Amendment No. 572, to increase funds for the implementation of the forest management plans developed for the States of Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin, with an offset.

Pages S3698, S3700

Conrad (for Murkowski/Stevens) Modified Amendment No. 551, to increase funding for geothermal, ocean (wave, current, tidal) and small hydroelectric energy assistance.

Pages S3698, S3700

Conrad (for Snowe/Rockefeller) Modified Amendment No. 629, to provide the use of the deficit-neutral reserve fund for tax relief for reauthorizing the new markets tax credit for an additional 5 years.

Pages S3698, S3700

Conrad (for Grassley) Amendment No. 636, to establish a reserve fund to improve payment accuracy for hospitals under the Medicare program.

Pages S3698, S3700

Conrad (for Dole) Amendment No. 633, to provide the Secretary of Agriculture with the necessary funding to effectively address the critical water and waste water needs of rural communities in the United States.

Pages S3698, S3700

Conrad (for Enzi) Amendment No. 635, to provide for a deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve health insurance.

Pages S3698, S3700, S3701–02

Conrad (for Specter) Amendment No. 506, to increase funding for the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the health professions.

Pages S3698, S3700

Conrad (for Grassley) Amendment No. 548, to ensure that Medicare payments to physicians include incentives to improve the quality and efficiency of care furnished to Medicare beneficiaries.

Pages S3698, S3700

Conrad (for Dole) Amendment No. 640, to provide the Secretary of Agriculture with the necessary funding to implement a pilot program authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to study the elimination of the reduced-price category for school lunches.

Pages S3698, S3700–01

Rejected:

By 38 yeas and 61 nays (Vote No. 99), DeMint Amendment No. 513, to provide for true deficit reduction in appropriations bills.

Pages S3664–66

By 46 yeas and 53 nays (Vote No. 100), Sessions/DeMint Amendment No. 473, to save families from the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) first by permitting a deduction for personal exemptions for purposes of computing the AMT.

Pages S3666–67

By 25 yeas and 74 nays (Vote No. 101), Nelson (NE) Amendment No. 626, to reform the estate tax to avoid subjecting thousands of families, family businesses, and family farms and ranches to the estate tax, and to promote continued economic growth and job creation.

Pages S3667–68

By 48 yeas and 51 nays (Vote No. 102), Kyl/Thune Amendment No. 583, to reform the death tax by setting the exemption at \$5 million per estate, indexed for inflation, and the top death tax rate at no more than 35% beginning in 2010, to avoid subjecting an estimated 119,200 families, family businesses, and family farms to the death tax each and every year, to promote continued economic growth and job creation, and to make the enhanced teacher deduction permanent.

Pages S3668–69

By 49 yeas and 50 nays (Vote No. 103), Hatch Amendment No. 508, to establish a reserve fund for protecting coverage choices, additional benefits, and lower cost-sharing for Medicare beneficiaries.

Pages S3670–71

By 39 yeas and 59 nays (Vote No. 106), Thomas Amendment No. 515, to prevent the adding of extraneous earmarks to an emergency war supplemental.

Page S3677

By 46 yeas and 52 nays (Vote No. 107), Graham Amendment No. 478, to extend the 35, 33, 28, and 25 percent income tax rate structure and protect nearly 28,000,000 families and individuals, including small business owners, from having their tax rates increase to 39.6, 36, 31, or 28 percent.

Page S3678

By 44 yeas and 53 nays (Vote No. 108), Grassley Amendment No. 471, to amend the budget resolution for fiscal year 2008 in order to accommodate the full repeal of the Alternative Minimum Tax preventing 23 million families and individuals from being subject to the AMT in 2007, and millions of families and individuals in subsequent years.

Pages S3679–80

By 44 yeas and 55 nays (Vote No. 109), DeMint/Kyl Amendment No. 578, to repeal the death tax.

Pages S3681–82

By 44 yeas and 55 nays (Vote No. 111), Bunning Modified Amendment No. 594, to provide a deficit-neutral reserve fund for protecting State flexibility in Medicaid.

Pages S3683–84

By 44 yeas and 55 nays (Vote No. 112), Chambliss/Isakson Amendment No. 536, to provide a deficit-neutral reserve fund for the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) that eliminates enhanced Federal matching payments for coverage of nonpregnant adults and permits States to offer supplemental dental and mental health benefits for children enrolled in SCHIP.

Pages S3684–85

By 49 yeas and 50 nays (Vote No. 113), Lott Amendment No. 606, to repeal section 13202 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 by restoring the Alternative Minimum Tax rates that had been in effect prior thereto.

Pages S3685–86

Withdrawn:

Bingaman Amendment No. 587, to prohibit the scoring of any amount realized from the sale or lease of land or interests in land that are part of the National Park System, the National Forest System, or the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Pages S3680–81

DeMint Amendment No. 576, to prevent the adding of earmarks for farmland damaged by freezing temperatures to an emergency war supplemental appropriations bill.

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

By 39 yeas to 60 nays (Vote No. 104), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to waive pursuant to section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, with respect to Allard/Gregg Amendment No. 521, to improve the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of Federal programs and reduce the Federal debt by eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse. Subsequently, the point of order that the amendment was in violation of section 305(b)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, was sustained, and the amendment thus fell.

Pages S3671–72

Honoring George C. Springer, Sr.: Senate agreed to S. Res. 47, honoring the life and achievements of George C. Springer, Sr., the Northeast regional director and a former vice president of the American Federation of Teachers.

Pages S3722–23

50th Anniversary of Alaska's Statehood: Senate agreed to S. Res. 49, recognizing and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the entry of Alaska into the Union as the 49th State.

Page S3723

National Autism Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 78, designating April 2007 as "National Autism Awareness Month" and supporting efforts to increase funding for research into the causes and treatment of autism and to improve

training and support for individuals with autism and those who care for individuals with autism.

Page S3723

Abolition of British Slave Trade Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 84, observing February 23, 2007, as the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in the British Empire, honoring the distinguished life and legacy of William Wilberforce, and encouraging the people of the United States to follow the example of William Wilberforce by selflessly pursuing respect for human rights around the world.

Pages S3723–24

NAACP 98th Anniversary: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 44, honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 98th anniversary.

Page S3724

Senate Legal Counsel: Senate agreed to S. Res. 121, to direct the Senate Legal Counsel to appear as amicus curiae in the name of the Senate in support of the appellee in Office of Senator Mark Dayton v. Brad Hanson.

Page S3724

Vietnam Veterans Memorial 25th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 122, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the construction and dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Pages S3724–25

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 3 p.m., on Monday, March 26, 2007, Senate begin consideration of H.R. 1591, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007.

Page S3725

Appointments:

United States Capitol Preservation Commission: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 100–696, appointed the following Senators as members of the United States Capitol Preservation Commission: Senators Durbin and Landrieu.

Page S3722

United States Capitol Preservation Commission: The Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to Public Law 100–696, announced the appointment of Senator Allard as a member of the United States Capitol Preservation Commission.

Page S3722

Messages From the House:

Page S3705

Measures Referred:

Page S3705

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

Page S3705

Measures Read the First Time:

Page S3705

Petitions and Memorials:

Pages S3705–06

Executive Communications:

Page S3705

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S3706–08
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
 Pages S3708–18
Additional Statements: Pages S3704–05
Amendments Submitted: Pages S3719–22
Notices of Hearings/Meetings: Page S3722
Record Votes: Sixteen record votes were taken today. (Total—114) Pages S3664–65, S3667, S3668,

S3669, S3671, S3672, S3672–73, S3677, S3678, S3680, S3682, S3682–83, S3684, S3685, S3686, S3702

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9 a.m., and adjourned at 4:25 p.m., until 2:30 p.m. on Monday, March 26, 2007. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3725.)

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 13 public bills, H.R. 1662–1674; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 263–265 were introduced. Pages H3016–17

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H3017–18

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1562, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and expand certain rules with respect to housing in the GO Zones, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–66);

H.R. 1429, to reauthorize the Head Start Act, to improve program quality, to expand access, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–67);

H.R. 1538, to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the management of medical care, personnel actions, and quality of life issues for members of the Armed Forces who are receiving medical care in an outpatient status, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–68, Pt. 1); and

H. Con. Res. 99, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for the fiscal year 2007, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2009 through 2012 (H. Rept. 110–69).

Page H3016

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Hooley to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. Page H2959

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Dr. Alan Keiran, Senate Chaplain's Office.

Page H2959

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by a yea-and-nay vote of 263 yeas to 146 nays, with 2 voting "present", Roll No. 185.

Pages H2959, H2961

Making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007: The House passed H.R. 1591, amended, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, by a yea-and-nay vote of 218 yeas to 212 nays, with 1 voting "present", Roll No. 186. Debate began on Thursday, March 22nd.

Pages H2961–99

H. Res. 261, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to on Thursday, March 22nd.

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, March 26th for Morning Hour debate.

Page H3001

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed by unanimous consent to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, March 28th. Page H3001

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2961 and H2999. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

Committee Meetings

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVES

Committee on Armed Services: Held a hearing on the Second Report to Congress by the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves. Testimony was heard from MG Arnold Punaro, USMC (Ret.), Chairman, Commission on the National Guard and Reserves.