

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S15083–S15156

Measures Introduced: Ten bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2442–2451, S.J. Res. 27, and S. Res. 400–401. **Page S15138**

Measures Reported:

S. 2445, to provide for the flexibility of certain disaster relief funds, and for improved evacuation and sheltering during disasters and catastrophes. (S. Rept. No. 110–240)

S. 2135, to prohibit the recruitment or use of child soldiers, to designate persons who recruit or use child soldiers as inadmissible aliens, to allow the deportation of persons who recruit or use child soldiers, with an amendment. **Pages S15137–38**

Measures Passed:

Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act: Committee on Environment and Public Works was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 365, to provide for a research program for remediation of closed methamphetamine production laboratories, and the bill was then passed, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S15152**

Reauthorization of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act: Senate passed S. 793, to provide for the expansion and improvement of traumatic brain injury programs, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S15152–54**

Reid (for Kennedy) Amendment No. 3831, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S15152–54**

Measures Considered:

Farm Bill Extension Act: Senate continued consideration of H.R. 2419, to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S15090–S15128**

Rejected:

By 37 yeas to 58 nays (Vote No. 417), Chambliss (for Lugar) Amendment No. 3711 (to Amendment No. 3500), relative to traditional payments and loans. **Pages S15090–95, S15107**

Withdrawn:

Baucus/Crapo Amendment No. 3660 (to Amendment No. 3500), relative to agricultural supply. **Pages S15095–97**

Pending:

Harkin Amendment No. 3500, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S15090**

Harkin (for Dorgan/Grassley) Modified Amendment No. 3695 (to Amendment No. 3500), to strengthen payment limitations and direct the savings to increase funding for certain programs. **Pages S15090, S15125**

Brown Amendment No. 3819 (to Amendment No. 3500), to increase funding for critical Farm Bill programs and improve crop insurance. **Pages S15090, S15107–08**

Klobuchar Amendment No. 3810 (to Amendment No. 3500), to improve the adjusted gross income limitation and use the savings to provide additional funding for certain programs and reduce the Federal deficit. **Page S15090**

Chambliss (for Cornyn) Amendment No. 3687 (to Amendment No. 3500), to prevent duplicative payments for agricultural disaster assistance already covered by the Agricultural Disaster Relief Trust Fund. **Page S15090**

Chambliss (for Coburn) Amendment No. 3807 (to Amendment No. 3500), to ensure the priority of the farm bill remains farmers by eliminating wasteful Department of Agriculture spending on casinos, golf courses, junkets, cheese centers, and aging barns. **Page S15090**

Chambliss (for Coburn) Amendment No. 3530 (to Amendment No. 3500), to limit the distribution to deceased individuals, and estates of those individuals, of certain agricultural payments. **Page S15090**

Chambliss (for Coburn) Amendment No. 3632 (to Amendment No. 3500), to modify a provision relating to the Environmental Quality Incentive Program. **Page S15090**

Salazar Amendment No. 3616 (to Amendment No. 3500), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for the production of all cellulosic biofuels. **Page S15090**

Thune (for McConnell) Amendment No. 3821 (to Amendment No. 3500), to promote the nutritional health of school children, with an offset. **Page S15090**

Craig Amendment No. 3640 (to Amendment No. 3500), to prohibit the involuntary acquisition of farmland and grazing land by Federal, State, and local governments for parks, open space, or similar purposes. **Page S15090**

Thune (for Roberts/Brownback) Amendment No. 3549 (to Amendment No. 3500), to modify a provision relating to regulations. **Page S15090**

Domenici Amendment No. 3614 (to Amendment No. 3500), to reduce our Nation's dependency for foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable, and alternative energy resources. **Page S15090**

Thune (for Gregg) Amendment No. 3674 (to Amendment No. 3500), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude charges of indebtedness on principal residences from gross income. **Pages S15090, S15108–11, S15117**

Thune (for Gregg) Amendment No. 3673 (to Amendment No. 3500), to improve women's access to health care services in rural areas and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the delivery of obstetrical and gynecological services. **Pages S15090, S15111**

Thune (for Gregg) Amendment No. 3671 (to Amendment No. 3500), to strike the section requiring the establishment of a Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network. **Pages S15090, S15108–11, S15127**

Thune (for Gregg) Amendment No. 3672 (to Amendment No. 3500), to strike a provision relating to market loss assistance for asparagus producers. **Pages S15090, S15108–11, S15116–17**

Thune (for Gregg) Amendment No. 3822 (to Amendment No. 3500), to provide nearly \$1,000,000,000 in critical home heating assistance to low-income families and senior citizens for the 2007–2008 winter season, and reduce the Federal deficit by eliminating wasteful farm subsidies. **Page S15090**

Thune (for Grassley/Kohl) Amendment No. 3823 (to Amendment No. 3500), to provide for the review of agricultural mergers and acquisitions by the Department of Justice. **Page S15090**

Thune (for Sessions) Amendment No. 3596 (to Amendment No. 3500), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a pilot program under which agricultural producers may establish and contribute to tax-exempt farm savings accounts in lieu of obtaining federally subsidized crop insurance or noninsured crop assistance, to provide for contributions to such accounts by the Secretary of Agriculture, to specify the situations in which amounts may be paid to producers from such ac-

counts, and to limit the total amount of such distributions to a producer during a taxable year. **Pages S15090, S15125–26**

Thune (for Stevens) Amendment No. 3569 (to Amendment No. 3500), to make commercial fishermen eligible for certain operating loans. **Page S15090**

Thune (for Alexander) Amendment No. 3551 (to Amendment No. 3500), to increase funding for the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems, with an offset. **Pages S15090, S15111–13, S15127**

Thune (for Alexander) Amendment No. 3553 (to Amendment No. 3500), to limit the tax credit for small wind energy property expenditures to property placed in service in connection with a farm or rural small business. **Pages S15090, S15113–16, S15126–27**

Thune (for Bond) Amendment No. 3771 (to Amendment No. 3500), to amend title 7, United States Code, to include provisions relating to rule-making. **Page S15090**

Salazar (for Durbin) Amendment No. 3539 (to Amendment No. 3500), to provide a termination date for the conduct of certain inspections and the issuance of certain regulations. **Page S15090**

Tester Amendment No. 3666 (to Amendment No. 3500), to modify the provision relating to unlawful practices under the Packers and Stockyards Act. **Page S15095**

Schumer Amendment No. 3720 (to Amendment No. 3500), to improve crop insurance and use resulting savings to increase funding for certain conservation programs. **Pages S15097–98**

Gregg Amendment No. 3825 (to Amendment No. 3673), to change the enactment date. **Page S15111**

Sanders Amendment No. 3826 (to Amendment No. 3822), to provide for payments under subsections (a) through (e) of section 2604 of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, and restore supplemental agricultural disaster assistance from the Agricultural Disaster Relief Trust Fund. **Pages S15118–22**

Wyden Amendment No. 3736 (to Amendment No. 3500), to modify a provision relating to bio-energy crop transition assistance. **Pages S15122–25**

Harkin/Kennedy Amendment 3830 (to Amendment No. 3500), relative to public safety officers. **Page S15126**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 12 noon, on Wednesday, December 12, 2007, and that there be 2 minutes equally divided and controlled for debate on Thune (for Gregg) Amendment No. 3671 (listed above), and that Senate vote on or in relation to the amendment, and following the vote, Senate vote on Thune (for Gregg) Amendment No. 3672 (listed above), and that there

be 2 minutes, equally divided and controlled for debate, and Senate vote on or in relation to the amendment; provided further, that the second vote be 10 minutes in duration, and that there be time limitations of debate on the following amendments: Thune (for Alexander) Amendment Nos. 3551 and 3553 (to Amendment No. 3500) (listed above), 30 minutes, equally divided and controlled for debate between Senators Alexander, Bingaman, and Salazar; Chambliss (for Cornyn) Amendment No. 3687 (to Amendment No. 3500) (listed above), 30 minutes, equally divided and controlled for debate; Harkin (for Dorgan/Grassley) Modified Amendment No. 3695 (to Amendment No. 3500) (listed above), 2 hours equally divided and controlled for debate; Klobuchar Amendment No. 3810 (to Amendment No. 3500) (listed above), 60 minutes equally divided and controlled for debate; Thune (for Gregg) Amendment No. 3673 (to Amendment No. 3500) (listed above), 2 hours equally divided and controlled for debate; Thune (for Sessions) Amendment No. 3596 (to Amendment No. 3500) (listed above), 40 minutes equally divided and controlled for debate (20 minutes for the proponent and 20 minutes for the opposition); Chambliss (for Coburn) Amendments Nos. 3807, 3530, and 3632 (to Amendment No. 3530) (listed above), 90 minutes equally divided and controlled for debate; provided further, that Senate vote on or in relation to Harkin (for Dorgan/Grassley) Modified Amendment No. 3695 (to Amendment No. 3500), at 9:15 a.m., on Thursday, December 13, 2007; that Amendment Nos. 3695, 3673, and 3810 (listed above) each receive a minimum of 60 votes in the affirmative to be agreed to, and that if Senate fails to agree to the amendment with a minimum of 60 affirmative votes, the amendment be withdrawn; provided further, that there be 2 minutes, equally divided and controlled, for debate prior to each vote, and that each vote following the first be 10 minutes in duration in any "stacked" sequence ordered. **Page S15128**

Renewable Fuels, Consumer Protection, and Energy Efficiency Act—House Message: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that any cloture motions presented on the motion to concur in the House amendments to the Senate amendments to accompany H.R. 6, to move the United States toward greater energy independence and security, to increase the production of clean renewable fuels, to protect consumers from price gouging, to increase the energy efficiency of products, buildings, and vehicles, to promote research on and deploy greenhouse gas capture and storage options, and to improve the energy performance of the Federal Government, on Wednesday, December 12, 2007, be

considered to have been presented on Tuesday, December 11, 2007. **Page S15128**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Yousif Boutrous Ghafari, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia.

James K. Glassman, of Connecticut, to be Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy with the rank of Ambassador.

Douglas H. Shulman, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue for the term prescribed by law.

Stanley C. Suboleski, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Fossil Energy).

Jon Wellingshoff, of Nevada, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2013.

Glenn T. Suddaby, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York.

G. Murray Snow, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

Gregory G. Katsas, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Kevin J. O'Connor, of Connecticut, to be Associate Attorney General.

6 Air Force nominations in the rank of general. Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Navy.

Pages S15154–56

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

James K. Glassman, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2010, which was sent to the Senate on April 26, 2007. **Page S15156**

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

Pages S15084, S15133

Executive Communications: **Pages S15133–37**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S15138–40**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S15140–44**

Additional Statements: **Pages S15132–33**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S15144–51**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S15151**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S15151–52**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S15152**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—417) **Page S15107**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:21 p.m., until 9 a.m. on Wednesday, December 12, 2007. (For Senate's program, see the

remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S15154.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING TO COMPREHENSIVELY UNDERSTAND AND RESPONSIBLY ENHANCE (SECURE) WATER ACT

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 2156, to authorize and facilitate the improvement of water management by the Bureau of Reclamation, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Energy to increase the acquisition and analysis of water resources for irrigation, hydroelectric power, municipal, and environmental uses, after receiving testimony from Robert W. Johnson, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, and Robert M. Hirsch, Associate Director for Water, United States Geological Survey, both of the Department of the Interior; John D'Antonio, New Mexico State Engineer, Santa Fe, on behalf of the Western States Water Council; Jon C. Lambeck, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Los Angeles; David R. Wunsch, National Groundwater Association, Concord, New Hampshire; Patrick O'Toole, Family Farm Alliance, Savery, Wyoming; and Brian Richter, Nature Conservancy, Charlottesville, Virginia.

PROMOTING AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL AND MEDICAL EXPORTS TO CUBA ACT

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 1673, to facilitate the export of United States agricultural products to Cuba as authorized by the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000, to remove impediments to the export to Cuba of medical devices and medicines, to allow travel to Cuba by United States citizens, to establish an agricultural export promotion program with respect to Cuba, after receiving testimony from Colonel Lawrence B. Wilkerson, USA (Ret.), New America Foundation, and Frank Calzon, Center for a Free Cuba, both of Washington, D.C.; Jaime Suchlicki, University of Miami Institute for Cuban-American Studies, Miami, Florida; David McClure, Montana Farm Bureau Federation, Bozeman; and Carlos Lazo, Lynnwood, Washington.

IRAN

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing to examine the national intelligence estimate on Iran, focusing on nuclear intentions and capabilities, from Stephen S. Kaplan, Vice Chairman, National Intelligence Coun-

cil; and Vann Van Diepen, National Intelligence Officer for Weapons of Mass Destruction and Proliferation, and Leslie Ireland, Issue Manager for Iran, both of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

E-GOVERNMENT REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine e-government 2.0, focusing on improving innovation, collaboration, and access, including S. 2321, to amend the E-Government Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-347) to reauthorize appropriations, after receiving testimony from Karen Evans, Administrator, Electronic Government and Information Technology, Office of Management and Budget; John Lewis Needham, Google, Inc., Mountain View, California; Ari Schwartz, Center for Democracy and Technology (CDT), Washington, D.C.; and Jimmy Wales, Wikipedia, and Wikimedia Foundation, St. Petersburg, Florida.

CRUDE OIL PRICES

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations concluded a joint hearing with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy to examine the role of speculation in recent crude oil prices, after receiving testimony from Guy Caruso, Administrator, U.S. Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy; Edward N. Krapels, Energy Security Analysis, Inc., Wakefield, Massachusetts; Philip K. Verleger, Jr., PKVerleger LLC, Aspen, Colorado; and Fadel Gheit, Oppenheimer and Co., Inc., New York, New York.

GLOBAL CHALLENGE OF AIDS, TB, AND MALARIA

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the global challenge of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, focusing on the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), after receiving testimony from Mark Dybul, Ambassador, United States Global AIDS Coordinator, Department of State; Julie L. Gerberding, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services; Kasune Zulu, World Vision, Federal Way, Washington; Norman Hearst, University of California, San Francisco; Helen L. Smits, National Academies, Washington, D.C.; and Peter Piot, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Geneva, Switzerland.