

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

The House Passed H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2433–S2506

Measures Introduced: Seventeen bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 468–484, S.J. Res. 11, S. Res. 54–56, and S. Con. Res. 8.

Pages S2473–74

Measures Reported:

S. Res. 54, authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Finance.

Page S2473

Measures Passed:

Role of Enslaved African Americans in Construction of the Capitol Plaque: Committee on Rules and Administration was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 53, authorizing a plaque commemorating the role of enslaved African Americans in the construction of the Capitol, and the resolution was then agreed to.

Page S2500

Children's Health Month and Honoring the Memory of Deamonte Driver: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 8, expressing support for Children's Dental Health Month and honoring the memory of Deamonte Driver.

Page S2501

Measures Considered:

District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act: Senate continued consideration of S. 160, to provide the District of Columbia a voting seat and the State of Utah an additional seat in the House of Representatives, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S2434–61

Adopted:

Kyl Amendment No. 574, to provide for expedited judicial review for Members of Congress.

Page S2442

Rejected:

By 7 yeas to 91 nays (Vote No. 68), Coburn Amendment No. 581, in the nature of a substitute.

Pages S2458, S2460

Pending:

Ensign Amendment No. 575, to restore Second Amendment rights in the District of Columbia.

Pages S2442–44, S2456–60

Coburn Amendment No. 576 (to Amendment No. 575), of a perfecting nature.

Pages S2444–51

Thune Amendment No. 579, to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to allow citizens who have concealed carry permits from the State or the District of Columbia in which they reside to carry concealed firearms in another State or the District of Columbia that grants concealed carry permits, if the individual complies with the laws of the State or the District of Columbia.

Pages S2451–52

Kyl Amendment No. 585, to provide for the retrocession of the District of Columbia to the State of Maryland.

Pages S2452–54

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

By 36 yeas to 62 nays (Vote No. 67), Senate did not sustain the point of order raised by Senator McCain that the bill violates Article 1, Section 2 of the United States Constitution.

Page S2451

A motion was entered to close further debate on the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Friday, February 27, 2009.

Page S2461

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, February 26, 2009, and that the time until 10:30 a.m., be for debate relative to Kyl Amendment No. 585 (listed above), with the time equally divided and controlled between Senators Kyl and Lieberman, or their designees; and that no amendments be in order to the amendment prior to the vote; provided further, that at 10:30 a.m., Senate vote on or in relation to Kyl Amendment No. 585 (listed above).

Page S2501

Appointments:

Joint Committee on Taxation: The Chair, announced on behalf of the Committee on Finance, pursuant to section 8002 of title 26, U.S. Code, the designation of the following Senators as members of the Joint Committee on Taxation: Senators Baucus, Rockefeller, Conrad, Grassley, and Hatch. **Page S2500**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Jane Holl Lute, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.

Tony West, of California, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps. **Pages S2501–06**

Messages from the House: **Page S2471**

Measures Referred: **Page S2471**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S2471, S2501**

Executive Communications: **Pages S2472–73**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S2473**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S2474**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S2474–89

Additional Statements: **Pages S2469–71**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S2489–S2500**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S2500**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S2500**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—68) **Pages S2451, S2460**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 7:25 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 26, 2009. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2501.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATION

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be Chairman and Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senators Mikulski and Cardin and former Senator Sarbanes, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

Committee on Armed Services: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing to examine Afghanistan and Pakistan from Michele Flournoy, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy; Lieutenant General John M. Paxton, Jr., USMC, Director for Operations, J3, and Vice Admiral James A. Winnefeld, Jr., USN, Director for Strategic Plans and Policy, J5, both of the Joint Staff; and Rear Admiral Mark D. Harnitchek, USN, Director, Strategy, Policy, Programs and Logistics Directorate, J5/4, United States Transportation Command.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Capt. Brian P. Monahan, to be Rear Admiral and Attending Physician to the Congress, and Michael A. Brown, to be Rear Admiral, both of the Navy; and routine lists in the Air Force Reserve and the Navy.

LATEST GLOBAL WARMING SCIENCE

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine an update on the latest global warming science, after receiving testimony from Howard Frumkin, Director, National Center for Environmental Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Department of Health and Human Services; R.K. Pachauri, United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, New Delhi, India; Christopher B. Field, Carnegie Institution for Science, Stanford, California; and William Happer, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.

EXPANDING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine scoring health care reform, focusing on Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) budget options, including expanding health insurance coverage and making the health care system more efficient, after receiving testimony from Douglas W. Elmendorf, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Finance: Committee ordered favorably reported an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee.

Also, committee announced the following subcommittee assignments for the 111th Congress:

Subcommittee on Health Care: Senators Rockefeller (Chair), Bingaman, Kerry, Lincoln, Wyden, Schumer, Stabenow, Cantwell, Nelson (FL), Menendez,