Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4469–S4525

Measures Introduced: Ten bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 838–847, and S. Res. 106–107.

Measures Passed:

Public Service Recognition Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 87, expressing the sense of the Senate that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the Nation during Public Service Recognition Week, May 4 through 10, 2009.

Celebrating Accomplishments of University of Findlay Men’s Basketball Team: Senate agreed to S. Res. 106, celebrating the outstanding athletic accomplishments of the University of Findlay men’s basketball team for winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II Championship.

Appointments:

United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 106–398, as amended by Public Law 108–7, in accordance with the qualifications specified under section 1238(b)(3)(E) of Public Law 106–398, and upon the recommendation of the Republican Leader, in consultation with the ranking members of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, appointed the following individuals to the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission:

Dennis Shea of Virginia, for a term expiring December 31, 2010, and
Robin Cleveland of Virginia, for a term expiring December 31, 2010, vice Mark Esper of Virginia.

Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the cloture motion relative to the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 386, to improve enforcement of mortgage fraud, securities fraud, financial institution fraud, and other frauds related to Federal assistance and relief programs, for the recovery of funds lost to these frauds, be withdrawn, and that at approximately 10:30 a.m., on Wednesday, April 22, 2009, Senate begin consideration of the bill.

Message From the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to the provisions of section 1512 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105–261), certification that the export of one continuous mixer, one jet mill, and one filament winding cell is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry, and that the material and equipment, including any indirect technical benefit that could be derived from these exports, will not measurably improve the missile or space launch capabilities of the People’s Republic of China; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (PM–14)

Sanchez Nomination Referral—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the nomination of Francisco J. Sanchez, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, received in the Senate on April 20, 2009, be jointly referred to the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

Christopher R. Hill, of Rhode Island, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq.

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:
Jonathan Steven Adelstein, of South Dakota, to be Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture.

Thomasina Rogers, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission for a term expiring April 27, 2015.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy.

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

Executive Communications:

Executive Reports of Committees:

Additional Cosponsors:

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements:

Amendments Submitted:

Notices of Hearings/Meetings:

Authorities for Committees To Meet:

Privileges of the Floor:

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—159)

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:06 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2009. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S4524.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Cameron Kerry, of Massachusetts, to be General Counsel, and April S. Boyd, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Commerce, who were introduced by Senator Kerry, Dana G. Gresham, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Commerce, who were introduced by Senator Durbin, all of the Department of Transportation, and Sherburne B. Abbott, of Texas, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine reforming America’s health care delivery system, after receiving testimony from Glenn M. Hackbarth, Chairman, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission; Lewis Morris, Chief Counsel, Office of Counsel to the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services; Paul Diaz, Kindred Healthcare, Inc., Louisville, KY; Allan M. Korn, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, Mark B. McClellan, Brookings Institute, Debra Ness, National Partnership for Women and Families, and Richard J. Umbdenstock, American Hospital Association, all of Washington, DC; Peter V. Lee, Pacific Business Group on Health, San Francisco, CA; Mary D. Naylor, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, and John Tooker, American College of Physicians, both of Philadelphia, PA; Frank G. Opelka, Louisiana State University Health Science Center, New Orleans; Glenn Steele, Jr., Geisinger Health System, Danville, PA; and Ron Williams, Aetna Inc., Hartford, CT.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Finance: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Kathleen Sebelius, of Kansas, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

U.S. DIPLOMATIC CAPACITY IN AFRICA

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on African Affairs concluded a hearing to examine U.S. diplomatic capacity in Africa, after receiving testimony from Thomas R. Pickering, former Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Princeton N. Lyman, Council on Foreign Relations, and Howard Wolpe, Woodrow Wilson Center, all of Washington, DC.

COUNTERNARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Ad Hoc Subcommittee on State, Local, and Private Sector Preparedness and Integration concluded a hearing to examine counternarcotics enforcement, focusing on coordination at the Federal, State, and local level, after receiving testimony from John Leech, Acting Director, Office of Counternarcotics Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security; Frances Flener, Arkansas State Drug Director, Little Rock; and Douglas C. Gillespie, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Las Vegas, NV, on behalf of Major Cities’ Chiefs Association.
CONTRACTING FRAUD

GREEN SKILLS TRAINING FOR WORKERS
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine empowering workers to rebuild America’s economy and long-term competitiveness, focusing on green skills training for workers, after receiving testimony from Hilda D. Solis, Secretary of Labor; Joan K. Evans, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, Cheyenne; Lee Lambert, Shoreline Community College, Shoreline, WA; Dean Allen, McKinstry Company, Seattle, WA; Mark H. Ayers, AFL-CIO, Washington, DC; and Phil Lou, Vashon, WA.

TERRORISM INFORMATION SHARING
Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Terrorism and Homeland Security concluded a hearing to examine protecting national security and civil liberties, focusing on strategies for terrorism information sharing, after receiving testimony from former Senator Gorton; J. Thomas Manger, Montgomery County Chief of Police, Rockville, MD; Zoe Baird, Markle Foundation Task Force on National Security in the Information Age, New York, NY; and Caroline Frederickson, American Civil Liberties Union Washington Legislative Office, Washington, DC.

INTELLIGENCE
Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.
Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H4579–82

Reports Filed: Pages H4582–84

H.R. 1580, to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to award grants for electronic waste reduction research, development, and demonstration projects, with amendments (H. Rept. 111–75);

H.R. 1145, to implement a National Water Research and Development Initiative, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–76);

H.R. 749, to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to permit candidates for election for Federal office to designate an individual who will be authorized to disburse funds of the authorized campaign committees of the candidate in the event of the death of the candidate (H. Rept. 111–77);

H.R. 1139, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–78);

H. Res. 269, supporting the goals of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month (H. Rept. 111–79);

H. Res. 313, supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Works Week (H. Rept. 111–80); and

H.R. 1747, to authorize appropriations for the design, acquisition, and construction of a combined buoy tender-icebreaker to replace icebreaking capacity on the Great Lakes (H. Rept. 111–81).

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Larsen (WA) to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today.

Commission To Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino: As voting members: Mr. Luis Cancel of San Francisco, CA; Ms. Eva Longoria Parker of San Antonio, TX; and Mr. Henry Munoz of San Antonio, TX; and as a nonvoting
member: Ms. Lorraine Garcia-Nakata of San Francisco, CA. Pages H4527

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Battlefield Protection Act: H.R. 1694, amended, to amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to establish a battlefield acquisition grant program for the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812; Pages H4528–30

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To authorize the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 under the American Battlefield Protection Program.”.

Page H4530

Crane Conservation Act of 2009: H.R. 388, to assist in the conservation of cranes by supporting and providing, through projects of persons and organizations with expertise in crane conservation, financial resources for the conservation programs of countries the activities of which directly or indirectly affect cranes and the ecosystems of cranes, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 288 yeas to 116 nays, Roll No. 193; Pages H4530–33, H4548–49

Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2009: H.R. 411, amended, to assist in the conservation of rare felids and rare canids by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of nations within the range of rare felid and rare canid populations and projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of rare felid and rare canid populations, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 290 yeas to 118 nays, Roll No. 194;

Pages H4533–37, H4450


Pages H4537–38, H4551

Repealing section 10(f) of Public Law 93–531, commonly known as the “Bennett Freeze”: S. 39, to repeal section 10(f) of Public Law 93–531, commonly known as the “Bennett Freeze”;

Pages H4538–39

Honoring the Life and Achievements of Dr. John Hope Franklin: H. Res. 320, to honor the Life and Achievements of Dr. John Hope Franklin;

Page H4539

Recognizing the designation of March 2009 as Irish American Heritage Month: H. Res. 254, amended, to recognize the designation of March 2009 as Irish American Heritage Month and to honor the significance of Irish Americans in the history and progress of the United States;

Pages H4543–44

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “Recognizing the contributions of Irish-Americans in the history and progress of the United States.”.

Page H4544

Recognizing the efforts of the countless volunteers who helped the Commonwealth of Kentucky recover from the ice storm of January 2009: H. Res. 214, to recognize the efforts of the countless volunteers who helped the Commonwealth of Kentucky recover from the ice storm of January 2009; and

Page H4544–47

Sergeant Marcus Mathes Post Office Designation Act: H.R. 1516, to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 37926 Church Street in Dade City, FL, as the “Sergeant Marcus Mathes Post Office”.

Pages H4547–48

Recess: The House recessed at 4:02 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

Page H4548

Oath of Office—Fifth Congressional District of Illinois: Representative-elect Mike Quigley presented himself in the well of the House and was administered the Oath of Office by the Speaker. Earlier, the Clerk of the House transmitted a facsimile copy of a letter from Mr. Daniel White, Executive Director, Illinois State Board of Elections, indicating that, according to the unofficial returns of the Special Election held April 7, 2009, the Honorable Mike Quigley was elected Representative to Congress for the Fifth Congressional District, State of Illinois.

Pages H4549, H4576

Whole Number of the House: The Speaker announced to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Quigley, the whole number of the House is adjusted to 433.

Page H4550

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in honor of Bill Orton, former Member of Congress.

Page H4551

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President certifying that export of certain items to the People’s Republic of China is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered printed (H. Rept. 111–32).

Page H4548

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on pages H4527, H4549.
Senate Referrals: S. 735 was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and S. Con. Res. 13 was held at the desk.
Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4548–49, H4550, H4551. There were no quorum calls.
Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

Committee Meetings
NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE AND NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Select Intelligence Oversight Panel met in executive session to hold a hearing on the National Reconnaissance Office, NRO, and the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, NGA. Testimony was heard from MG Ellen Pawlikowski, USAF, Acting Director, NRO; and ADM Robert B. Murrett, USN, Director, NGA, Department of Defense.

AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2009
Hearings continue tomorrow.

BAYER’S FATAL CHEMICAL PLANT EXPLOSION
Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Secrecy in the Response to Bayer’s Fatal Chemical Plant Explosion.” Testimony was heard from John Bresland, Chairman, Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board; RADM James Watson, USCG, Director, Prevention Policy and Marine Safety, Security and Stewardship, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security; the following officials of West Virginia: Michael Dorsey, Chief, Homeland Security and Emergency Response; and Pamela Nixon, Environmental Advocate, both with the Department of Environment Protection; and Joseph Crawford, Chief of Police, St. Albans; and public witnesses.

NEWSPAPER COMPETITION
Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy held a hearing on A New Age for Newspapers: Diversity of Voices, Competition and the Internet. Testimony was heard from Carl Shapiro, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Economics, Antitrust Division, Department of Justice; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings
SYSTEMIC THREATS OF LARGE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
Joint Economic Committee: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the systemic threats of large financial institutions, after receiving testimony from Joseph E. Stiglitz, Columbia University, former Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers, New York, NY; Simon Johnson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management, Cambridge; and Thomas M. Hoenig, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Kansas City, MO.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2009
(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate
Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine environmental management stimulus funding, 9:30 a.m., SR–222.
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold hearings to examine the current readiness of U.S. ground forces, with the possibility of a closed session following in SVC–217, 10 a.m., SR–232A.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine S. 548, to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish a Federal energy efficiency resource standard for retail electricity and natural gas distributors, 10 a.m., SD–366.
Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the General Services Administration and energy efficiency in public buildings, 10 a.m., SD–406.
Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine global climate change, focusing on U.S. leadership for a new global agreement, 9:30 a.m., SD–419.
Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Susan Flood Burk, of Virginia, to be Special Representative of the President, with the rank of Ambassador, and Ivo H. Daalder, of Virginia, to be U.S. Permanent Representative on the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, both of the Department of State, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of William Craig Fugate, of Florida, to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nomination of John Morton, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, both of the Department of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., SD–342.
Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International
Security, to hold hearings to examine eliminating waste and fraud in Medicare and Medicaid, 3 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: to hold hearings to examine pending health related legislation, 2:30 p.m., SR–418.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, hearing to review producers’ views on the effectiveness and operations of the Federal crop insurance program, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, on Member Requests, 10 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Defense, executive, on Supplemental Request, 10 a.m., H–140 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, on Members Requests, 10 a.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Homeland Security, on U.S. Coast Guard: Measuring Mission Needs, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, on Bureau of Indian Affairs: Law Enforcement and Violence, 9:30 a.m., and on Member Requests, 1:30 p.m., B–308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, on U.S. Capitol Police, and GPO, 1 p.m., H–144 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, on Base Realignment and Closure, 10 a.m., H–143 Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Readiness, on Air Sovereignty Alert Operations, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.


Committee on Financial Services, to consider H.R. 627, Credit Cardholders’ Bill of Rights Act of 2009, 9:30 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, hearing on New Beginnings: Foreign Policy Priorities in the Obama Administration, 9:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.


Committee on Natural Resources, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 31, Lumbee Recognition Act; H.R. 1385, Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2009; H.R. 860, Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization and Enhancement Amendments of 2009; and H.R. 934, To convey certain submerged lands to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in order to give that territory the same benefits in its submerged lands as Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa have in their submerged lands, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service and the District of Columbia, hearing entitled “Public Service in the 21st Century: An Examination of the State of the Federal Workforce,” 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, to consider H.R. 1145, National Water Research and Development Initiative Act of 2009, 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science and Technology, hearing on Monitoring, Measurement and Verification of Greenhouse Gas Emissions II: The Role of Federal and Academic Research and Monitoring Programs, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, hearing entitled “The Importance of Technology in an Economic Recovery,” 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing on Oversight of Helicopter Medical Services, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, hearing on Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Program, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, to continue hearings on reforming the health insurance market, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, executive, briefing on AFRICOM Update, 1:30 p.m., and, executive, briefing on FBI Update, 4 p.m., 304–HVC.

Subcommittee on Intelligence Community Management, executive, briefing on Global Climate Change, 2:30 p.m., 304 HVC.
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