

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1591–S1635.

Measures Introduced: Twenty-eight bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 768–795, S.J. Res. 10–11, and S. Res. 103–104.

Pages S1628–29

Measures Reported:

S. 792, to expand sanctions imposed with respect to Iran and to impose additional sanctions with respect to Iran. **Page S1628**

Measures Considered:

Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking, taking action on the following amendments and motions proposed thereto: **Pages S1596–S1625**

Pending:

Portman Amendment No. 270, to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to enable State child protective services systems to improve the identification and assessment of child victims of sex trafficking. **Pages S1596–S1625**

Portman Amendment No. 271, to amend the definition of “homeless person” under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to include certain homeless children and youth. **Pages S1596–S1625**

Vitter Amendment No. 284 (to Amendment No. 271), to amend section 301 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify those classes of individuals born in the United States who are nationals and citizens of the United States at birth. **Pages S1596–S1625**

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

The motion to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on March 17, 2015, was agreed to. **Page S1614**

The motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on March 17, 2015, was agreed to. **Page S1614**

By 57 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. 74), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate upon reconsideration rejected the motion to close further debate on the

committee-reported substitute amendment to the bill. **Page S1614**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 11 a.m., on Thursday, March 19, 2015, with the time until the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the committee-reported substitute amendment to the bill at 12 noon equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees.

Pages S1634–35

Messages from the House: **Page S1626**

Measures Referred: **Page S1626**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S1626, S1634**

Executive Communications: **Pages S1626–28**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1629–30**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1630–33**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S1633–34**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S1634**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S1634**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—74) **Page S1614**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 5:24 p.m., until 11 a.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2015. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on pages S1634–35.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: FOREST SERVICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Forest Service, after receiving testimony from Tom Tidwell, Chief, and Tony Dixon, Director, Strategic Planning, Budget and Accountability, both of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

APPROPRIATIONS: MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Missile Defense Agency, after receiving testimony from Vice Admiral J.D. Syring, USN, Director, Missile Defense Agency, Department of Defense.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on SeaPower concluded a hearing to examine Navy shipbuilding programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Sean J. Stackley, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition, Vice Admiral William H. Hilarides, USN, Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command, and Vice Admiral Joseph P. Mulloy, USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Integration of Capabilities and Resources (N8), all of the Department of Defense.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the postures of the Department of the Army and the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from John M. McHugh, Secretary of the Army, Deborah Lee James, Secretary of the Air Force, General Raymond T. Odierno, USA, Chief of Staff of the Army, and General Mark A. Welsh III, USAF, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, all of the Department of Defense.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Budget: Committee began consideration of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2016, but did not complete action thereon, and recessed subject to the call and will meet again on Thursday, March 19, 2015.

FCC OVERSIGHT

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Communications Commission, after receiving testimony from Tom Wheeler, Chairman, and Mignon L. Clyburn, Michael O'Rielly, Ajit Pai, and Jessica Rosenworcel, each a Commissioner, all of the Federal Communications Commission.

TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 697, to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to reauthorize and modernize that Act, after receiving testimony from Senator Udall; James Jones, Assistant Administrator, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, Environmental Protection Agency; Brian Frosh, Maryland Attorney General, Baltimore; Richard A. Denison, Environmental Defense Fund, Lynn R. Goldman, George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health, and Kenneth Cook, Environmental Working Group, all of Washington, D.C.; Edward R.B. McCabe, March of Dimes Foundation, White Plains, New York; and Bonnie Lautenberg, New York, New York.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 35, to extend the Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana;

S. 438, to provide for the repair, replacement, and maintenance of certain Indian irrigation projects, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 465, to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe; and

The nomination of Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri, of Arizona, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 710, to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, after receiving testimony from Karen R. Diver, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Cloquet, Minnesota; Gary Cooper, Cherokee Nation Housing Authority, Washington, D.C., on behalf of the National American Indian Housing Council; and Russell Sossamon, The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Housing Authority, Hugo.

PATENT LITIGATION PRACTICES

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the impact of patent litigation practices on the American economy, including H.R. 9, to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act to make improvements and technical corrections, after receiving testimony from Brad Powers, Kinze Manufacturing, Inc.,

Williamsburg, Iowa; Hans Sauer, Biotechnology Industry Association, Washington, D.C.; Steven E. Anderson, Culver Franchising System, Inc., Prairie du

Sac, Wisconsin; Michael R. Crum, Iowa State University, Ames; and Krish Gupta, EMC Corporation, Hopkington, Massachusetts.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 42 public bills, H.R. 1415–1456; and 6 resolutions, H. Res. 154–159, were introduced. **Pages H1767–70**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H1771**

Reports Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H.R. 1021, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the integrity of the Medicare program, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–46, Part 1). **Page H1767**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Hardy to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1725**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:41 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Pages H1729–30**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Reverend Dr. Mark Gooden, Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church, Johnson City, Tennessee. **Page H1730**

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 155, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. **Page H1730**

Secret Science Reform Act of 2015: The House passed H.R. 1030, to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible, by a recorded vote of 241 ayes to 175 noes, Roll No. 125. **Pages H1733–48**

Rejected the Takai motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 181 ayes to 239 noes, Roll No. 124.

Pages H1746–48

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114–11 shall be considered as read.

Page H1742

Rejected:

Edwards amendment (No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 114–37) that authorizes \$250 million for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019, by a re-

corded vote of 164 ayes to 254 noes, Roll No. 122; and

Pages H1742–43, H1744–45

Kennedy amendment (No. 2 printed in part B of H. Rept. 114–37) that allows the EPA to use all peer-reviewed scientific publications, by a recorded vote of 184 ayes to 231 noes, Roll No. 123.

Pages H1743–44, H1745–46

H. Res. 138, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1029) and (H.R. 1030) was agreed to yesterday, March 17th.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, March 19. **Page H1748**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1745, H1745–46, H1747–48, and H1748. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

Committee Meetings

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRADE TO U.S. AGRICULTURE

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing on the importance of trade to U.S. agriculture. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

APPROPRIATIONS—INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES PUBLIC AND OUTSIDE WITNESS DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing for public and outside witnesses. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education held an oversight hearing on closing the achievement gap in higher education. Testimony was heard from Aaron Thompson, Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education; and public witnesses.