

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2185–S2226

Measures Introduced: Twenty-eight bills were introduced, as follows: S. 940–967. **Pages S2220–21**

Measures Reported:

Report to accompany S. 754, to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats. (S. Rept. No. 114–32) **Page S2220**

House Messages:

Budget Resolution—Motions to Instruct Conferees: Senate began consideration of the message from the House of Representatives to accompany S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025, taking action on the following motion and motions to instruct conferees proposed thereto:

Pages S2193–99, S2199–S2201, S2202–12

Adopted:

By 54 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 145) Motion to disagree in the amendment of the House to the concurrent resolution, agree to the request by the House for a conference, and authorize the Presiding Officer to appoint conferees. **Pages S2193–98**

By 86 yeas to 11 nays (Vote No. 146), Brown Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report include the deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ending “Too Big to Fail” bailouts for Wall Street mega-banks with over \$500,000,000,000 in total assets, as set forth in amendment 994 to S. Con. Res. 11 (as agreed to by the Senate). **Pages S2200–01, S2202–08**

By 85 yeas to 11 nays (Vote No. 147), Sanders Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report include the provision in the concurrent resolution as agreed to by the Senate that provides for the establishment of a deficit-neutral reserve fund related to strengthening the United States Postal Service by establishing a moratorium to protect mail processing plants, reinstating overnight delivery standards, protecting rural service, allowing

the Postal Service to innovate and adapt to compete in a digital age, or improving the financial condition of the Postal Service. **Pages S2202–08**

By a unanimous vote of 97 yeas (Vote No. 148), Enzi (for Burr) Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report include a provision relating to addressing student loan debt, which may include reducing overlapping student loan repayment programs and creating a simplified income-driven student loan repayment option, as included in section 358 of S. Con. Res. 11, as agreed to by the Senate. **Pages S2203–09**

By 84 yeas to 13 nays (Vote No. 150), Sanders Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report include a deficit-neutral reserve fund for legislation related to retirement benefits, which may not include legislation cutting benefits under the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program established under title II of the Social Security Act, increasing the retirement age, or privatizing the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program. **Pages S2199–S2201, S2202–10**

Schatz Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report include the deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring all legally married same-sex spouses have equal access to the Social Security and veterans’ benefits they have earned and receive equal treatment under the law pursuant to the Constitution of the United States in the concurrent resolution as agreed to by the Senate. **Pages S2200–01, S2202–10**

Bennet Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report include provisions in the concurrent resolution as agreed to by the Senate for the establishment of deficit-neutral reserve funds relating to climate change. **Pages S2204–10**

By 57 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. 151), Fischer Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report include a provision relating to promoting equal pay, which may include preventing discrimination on the basis of sex and preventing retaliation against employees for seeking or discussing wage information, as included in section 356 of S. Con. Res. 11, as agreed to by the Senate. **Pages S2207–10**

Fischer Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report include a provision relating to a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to tax credits for employers providing paid family and medical leave. **Pages S2207–11**

Sanders (for Murray) Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report include the deficit-neutral reserve fund for legislation to allow Americans to earn paid sick time in the concurrent resolution as agreed to by the Senate. **Pages S2205–11**

Rejected:

By 45 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 149), Warren Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report include a provision to make college more affordable for middle-class families by allowing borrowers with outstanding Federal and private student loans to refinance at the equivalent interest rates that were offered to Federal student loan borrowers during the 2013–2014 school year and to fully offset the cost of such a program by requiring millionaires to pay at least a 30 percent effective Federal tax rate. **Pages S2201–09**

By 44 yeas to 53 nays (Vote No. 152), Mikulski Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report include a provision relating to amending the Equal Pay Act of 1963 to allow for punitive damages, limit the any factor “other than sex” exception, and prohibit retaliation against employees who share salary information, as included in amendment 362 to S. Con. Res. 11 (as not agreed to by the Senate). **Pages S2204–11**

Sanders (for Murray) Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report include a provision to build on the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 and provide sequester relief in 2016 and 2017 by closing tax loopholes. **Pages S2205–11**

By 45 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 153), Stabenow Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report not include the Medicare cuts in the concurrent resolution as agreed to by the Senate, which would substantially increase out-of-pocket healthcare expenses for senior citizens, and not include the Medicare cuts in the concurrent resolution as agreed to by the House of Representatives, which would end Medicare as it currently exists by turning it into a voucher-based premium support system and eliminate the guaranteed healthcare benefits earned by the people of the United States. **Pages S2206–12**

The Chair was authorized to appoint the following conferees on the part of the Senate: Senators Enzi, Grassley, Sessions, Crapo, Graham, Portman, Toomey, Johnson, Ayotte, Wicker, Corker, Perdue, Sanders, Murray, Wyden, Stabenow, Whitehouse, Warner, Merkley, Baldwin, Kaine, and King.

Page S2212

Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, April 16, 2015, Senate resume consideration of S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking, with the time equally divided in the usual form; and that the filing deadline for all second-degree amendments to McConnell (for Cornyn) Amendment No. 1120 to the bill be at 10:30 a.m.

Page S2224

Deyo and Chaudhuri Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 2 p.m., on Thursday, April 16, 2015, Senate begin consideration of the nominations of Russell C. Deyo, of New Jersey, to be Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security, and Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri, of Arizona, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission for the term of three years; Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations, without intervening action or debate; and that no further motions be in order. **Pages S2223–24**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Linda Struyk Millsaps, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term expiring September 14, 2018.

Thomas Edgar Rothman, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2016.

Wilhelmina Marie Wright, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

Routine lists in the Foreign Service.

Pages S2224–26

Messages from the House: **Page S2215**

Measures Referred: **Page S2215**

Executive Communications: **Pages S2215–20**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2221–22**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2222–23**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2213-15**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S2223**

Record Votes: Nine record votes were taken today. (Total—153) **Pages S2198, S2208–12**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 7:34 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 16, 2015. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S2224.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING FOR SELECT COMBATANT COMMANDERS AND SELECT DEFENSE AGENCIES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for military construction and military family housing for select combatant commanders and select defense agencies, after receiving testimony from Major General Stephen A. Clark, USAF, Director of Force Structure, Requirements, Resources, and Strategic Assessments (J8), U.S. Special Operations Command, Major General Michael G. Dana, USMC, Director for Strategic Planning and Policy (J5), U.S. Pacific Command, Joseph B. Marshal, Jr., Director, Business Support Directorate, Defense Health Agency, and Brigadier General Kenneth E. Todarov, USAF, Deputy Director, Missile Defense Agency, all of the Department of the Defense.

APPROPRIATIONS: NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE PROGRAMS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense concluded a closed hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the national intelligence and military intelligence programs, after receiving testimony from James Clapper, Director of National Intelligence; and Michael Vickers, Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence.

FUNDING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY'S ROLE IN CYBERSECURITY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security concluded a hearing to examine funding the Department of Homeland Security's role in cybersecurity, focusing on protection to partnership, after receiving testimony from Andy Ozment, Assistant Secretary for Cybersecurity and Communication, National Protection and Programs Directorate, and Luke McCormack, Chief Information Officer, both of the Department of Homeland Security; and Greg Garcia, Financial Services Sector Coordinating Council, Reston Virginia.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on SeaPower received a closed briefing on the major threats facing Navy forces and the Navy's current and projected capabilities to meet those threats in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Charles P. Werchado, Deputy Director, Assessment Division (OPNAV N81), Vice Admiral Joseph P. Aucoin, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfare Systems (OPNAV N9), and Margaret G. Palmieri, Director, Integrated Fires (OPNAV N2/N6F3), Office of Chief of Naval Operations, all of the Department of the Navy, Department of Defense.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces concluded a hearing to examine the National Nuclear Security Administration plans and programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Frank G. Klotz, Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, and Administrator, Donald L. Cook, Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, Anne M. Harrington, Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, and Admiral John M. Richardson, USN, Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion, and Office of Naval Reactors, all of the National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy; and David C. Trimble, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, Government Accountability Office.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION BUDGET

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, after receiving testimony from Stephen G. Burns, Chairman, and Kristine Svinicki, William Ostendorff, and Jeff Baran, each a Commissioner, all of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

AMERICAN FOOD AID

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine American food aid, focusing on why reform matters, after receiving testimony from Dina Esposito, Director, Food for Peace, United States Agency for International Development; David Ray, CARE USA, Washington, D.C.; Vincent H.