

at 1:45 p.m., on Thursday, July 30, 2015, Senate begin consideration of the bill and vote on passage, with no intervening action of debate, and that there be a 60 affirmative vote threshold for passage of the bill. **Page S6144**

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

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13441 with respect to Lebanon; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM-22) **Page S6132**

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Allison Beck, of the District of Columbia, to be Federal Mediation and Conciliation Director. **Page S6146**

Carol Fortine Ochoa, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, General Services Administration. **Page S6146**

Jeffrey Michael Prieto, of California, to be General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture. **Page S6146**

1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general. **Page S6146**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

2 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force and Army. **Pages S6145-46**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S6132**

**Measures Referred:** **Page S6132**

**Measures Placed on the Calendar:** **Page S6132**

**Enrolled Bills Presented:** **Page S6132**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S6132-34**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Pages S6134-36**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S6136-38**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S6138-43**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S6130-32**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Pages S6143-44**

**Privileges of the Floor:** **Page S6144**

**Record Votes:** Two record votes were taken today. (Total—259) **Page S6092**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:28 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 30, 2015. (For Senate's program, see the re-

marks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6145.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the impacts of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on United States interests and the military balance in the Middle East, after receiving testimony from John F. Kerry, Secretary of State; Ashton B. Carter, Secretary, and General Martin E. Dempsey, USA, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, both of the Department of Defense; Jacob J. Lew, Secretary of the Treasury; and Ernest J. Moniz, Secretary of Energy.

### PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SHIPYARDS

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support concluded a hearing to examine best practices at public and private shipyards, after receiving testimony from Ray Bagley, Huntington Ingalls Industries Newport News Shipbuilding, Newport News, Virginia; and Paul O'Connor, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Maine.

### BANKRUPTCY REFORM

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection concluded a hearing to examine the role of bankruptcy reform in addressing too-big-to-fail, including S. 1840, to amend title 11, United States Code, to provide for the liquidation, reorganization, or recapitalization of a covered financial corporation, after receiving testimony from Randall D. Guynn, Davis Polk and Wardwell LLP, New York, New York, on behalf of the Bipartisan Policy Center Financial Regulatory Reform Initiative Failure Resolution Task Force; John B. Taylor, Stanford University Hoover Institution, Palo Alto, California; Thomas H. Jackson, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York; and Simon Johnson, MIT Sloan School of Management, Cambridge, Massachusetts, on behalf of the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

### WIRELESS BROADBAND

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine wireless broadband and the future of spectrum policy, after receiving testimony from Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission; Meredith Attwell Baker, CTIA—The Wireless Association, and Thomas M. Lenard, Technology Policy

Institute, both of Washington, D.C.; J. Pierre de Vries, University of Colorado Silicon Flatirons Center for Law, Technology and Entrepreneurship Spectrum Policy Initiative, Boulder; and Blair Levin, Brookings Institute Metropolitan Policy Program, Chevy Chase, Maryland.

#### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Committee continued consideration of an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, but did not complete action thereon, and will meet again on Thursday, July 30, 2015.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

#### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Vanessa Lorraine Allen Sutherland, of Virginia, to be Chairperson of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, Kristen Marie Kulinowski, of New York, to be a Member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, Gregory Guy Nadeau, of Maine, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, and Eric Martin Satz, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

#### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 284, to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, with an amendment;

S. 1632, to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1875, to support enhanced accountability for United States assistance to Afghanistan, with an amendment; and

The nominations of Michele Thoren Bond, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary (Consular Affairs), Sarah Elizabeth Mendelson, of the District of Columbia, to be Representative on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to be an Alternate Representative to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Sheila Gwaltney, of California, to be Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic, Perry L. Holloway, of South Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, Laura Farnsworth Dogu, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Nicaragua, Peter F. Mulrean, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Haiti, Kathleen Ann Doherty, of New York, to be Amba-

sador to the Republic of Cyprus, James Desmond Melville, Jr., of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Estonia, Samuel D. Heins, of Minnesota, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway, Hans G. Klemm, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to Romania, Paul Wayne Jones, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Poland, all of the Department of State, Gayle Smith, of Ohio, to be Administrator, and Thomas O. Melia, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator, both of the United States Agency for International Development, and routine lists in the Foreign Service.

#### JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, after receiving testimony from Mark Dubowitz, Foundation for Defense of Democracies Center of Sanctions and Illicit Finance, Washington, D.C.; and Nicholas Burns, Harvard Kennedy School, Boston, Massachusetts.

#### FINANCIAL CRISIS IN GREECE

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation concluded a hearing to examine the financial crisis in Greece, focusing on implications and lessons learned, after receiving testimony from John B. Taylor, Stanford University Hoover Institution, Stanford, California; and Robert B. Kahn, Council on Foreign Relations, Washington, D.C.

#### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1864, to improve national security by developing metrics to measure the effectiveness of security between ports of entry, at points of entry, and along the maritime border;

S. 1846, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to secure critical infrastructure against electromagnetic threats, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1869, to improve federal network security and authorize and enhance an existing intrusion detection and prevention system for civilian federal networks, with amendments;

S. 1073, to amend the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012, including making changes to the Do Not Pay initiative, for improved detection, prevention, and recovery of improper payments to deceased individuals, with amendments;

S. 1868, to extend by 15 years the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to conduct the quarterly financial report program, with an amendment;

S. 1808, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a Northern Border threat analysis, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 779, to provide for Federal agencies to develop public access policies relating to research conducted by employees of that agency or from funds administered by that agency, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1170, to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research;

H.R. 1531, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide a pathway for temporary seasonal employees in Federal land management agencies to compete for vacant permanent positions under internal merit promotion procedures;

S. 1596, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2082 Stringtown Road in Grove City, Ohio, as the “Specialist Joseph W. Riley Post Office Building”;

S. 1826, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 99 West 2nd Street in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, as the Lieutenant Colonel James “Maggie” Megellas Post Office; and

The nomination of Denise Turner Roth, of North Carolina, to be Administrator of General Services.

#### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Indian Affairs:* Committee ordered favorably reported S. 383, to provide for Indian trust asset management reform, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

#### ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE OVERSIGHT

*Committee on Indian Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the true costs of alcohol and drug abuse in Native communities, after receiving testimony from Robert G. McSwain, Principal Deputy Director, Indian Health Service, and Mirtha Beadle, Director, Office of Tribal Affairs and Policy, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, both of the Department of Health and Human Services; Melanie Benjamin, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Onamia, Minnesota; John P. Walters, Hudson Institute Center for Substance Abuse Policy Research, Washington, D.C.; and Sunny Goggles, White Buffalo Recovery Center, Arapahoe, Wyoming.

#### IRS TARGETING

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights and Federal Courts concluded a hearing to examine Internal Revenue Service targeting, focusing on progress of agency reforms and congressional options, including S. 273, to amend title 18, United States Code, to pro-

hibit the intentional discrimination of a person or organization by an employee of the Internal Revenue Service, after receiving testimony from John Koskinen, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury; Cleta Mitchell, Foley and Lardner LLP, Stephen Spaulding, Common Cause, Lawrence M. Noble, Campaign Legal Center, Diana L. Aviv, Independent Sector, Gregory L. Colvin, Adler and Colvin, on behalf of the Bright Lines Project, and Jay Alan Sekulow, American Center for Law and Justice, all of Washington, D.C.; Edward D. Greim, Graves Garrett, LLC, Kansas City, Missouri; Toby Marie Walker, Waco Tea Party, Waco, Texas; and Jenny Beth Martin, Tea Party Patriots, Inc., Woodstock, Georgia.

#### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1400, to amend the Small Business Act to direct the task force of the Office of Veterans Business Development to provide access to and manage the distribution of excess or surplus property to veteran-owned small businesses, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1756, to help small businesses take advantage of energy efficiency;

S. 1857, to amend the Small Business Act to provide for expanded participation in the microloan program;

S. 1866, to establish the veterans’ business outreach center program, to improve the programs for veterans of the Small Business Administration, with an amendment;

S. 1870, to amend the Small Business Act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to carry out a pilot program on issuing grants to eligible veterans to start or acquire qualifying businesses, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

An original bill entitled, “A Sense of the Committee on the Small Business Tax Compliance Relief Act of 2015”.

#### VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine ending veteran homelessness, after receiving testimony from Lisa Pape, Executive Director, Homeless Programs, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Jennifer Ho, Senior Advisor on Housing and Services, Department of Housing and Urban Development; Lisa Tepper Bates, Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, Hartford; Michael Blecker, Swords to Plowshares, San Francisco, California; Baylee Crone, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, and Jeff

Steele, The American Legion, both of Washington, D.C.; and Edward Powers, HOPE Atlanta, Atlanta, Georgia.

# House of Representatives

## *Chamber Action*

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 160 public bills, H.R. 3273–3432; and 18 resolutions, H.J. Res. 62; H. Con. Res. 67–69; and H. Res. 392–405 were introduced. **Pages H5762–70**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H5775–77**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 9, to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act to make improvements and technical corrections, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–235);

H.R. 1992, to reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–236);

H.R. 3116, to extend by 15 years the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to conduct the quarterly financial report program (H. Rept. 114–237);

H.R. 1759, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the publication, by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, of information relating to rulemakings, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–238, Part 1); and

H.R. 1759, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the publication, by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, of information relating to rulemakings, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–238, Part 2). **Page H5762**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Fleischmann to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H5595**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 11:30 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H5605**

**Journal:** The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by voice vote. **Pages H5605, H5653**

**VA Accountability Act of 2015:** The House passed H.R. 1994, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal or demotion of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs based on performance or misconduct, by a yea-and-nay vote of 256 yeas to 170 nays, Roll No. 489.

**Pages H5653–40, H5650–53**

Rejected the Takano motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 184 yeas to 241 noes, Roll No. 488. **Pages H5651–53**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Veterans Affairs now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule. **Page H5631**

Agreed to:

Benishek amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 114–234) that reforms and improves the VA Inspector General's ability to report on problems and problem employees at the VA; requires the IG to release reports including employee misconduct to the public and explain what changes the VA has requested, requires the IG to identify a manager responsible for fixing an identified problem, makes it easier to fire an identified employee, and targets the bonuses of employees that fail to solve problems. **Pages H5635–40**

Rejected:

Takano amendment in the nature of a substitute (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 114–234) that sought to provide VA Secretary the authority to immediately suspend without pay any employee whose performance or misconduct is a threat to health or safety; ensure back pay for whistleblowers unfairly terminated, and cap the payment of administrative leave to 14 days; make effective date of back pay provision October 1, 2015 (by a recorded vote of 191 yeas to 233 noes, Roll No. 487). **Pages H5650–51**

H. Res. 388, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1994) and (H.R. 3236) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 243 yeas to 183 noes, Roll No. 484, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 242 yeas to 180 nays, Roll No. 483. **Pages H5610–23**

**Question of Consideration:** The Chair announced that the bill (H.R. 3236) to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and to provide resource flexibility to the Department of Veterans Affairs for health care services, contained an emergency designation pursuant to section 4(g)(1) of the Statutory Pay-