

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed S. 2499, Medicare/Medicaid/SCHIP Programs Extension.

Senate completed action on H.R. 2764, Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act (Omnibus).

Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 61, Adjournment Resolution.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S15793–S15943

Measures Introduced: Twenty-four bills and twelve resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2495–2518, S. Res. 409–416, and S. Con. Res. 59–62.

Pages S15910–11

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled “Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals From the Concurrent Resolution, Fiscal Year 2008”. (S. Rept. No. 110–250)

Special Report entitled “The 2007 Joint Economic Report”. (S. Rept. No. 110–251)

H.R. 3571, to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to permit individuals who have served as employees of the Office of Compliance to serve as Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, or General Counsel of the Office, and to permit individuals appointed to such positions to serve one additional term.

S. 901, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide additional authorizations of appropriations for the health centers program under section 330 of such Act, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1551, to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to making progress toward the goal of eliminating tuberculosis, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Page S15909

Measures Passed:

Commending Senator Trent Lott: Senate agreed to S. Res. 409, commending the service of the Honorable Trent Lott, a Senator from the State of Mississippi.

Pages S15794–15818

Medicare/Medicaid/SCHIP Programs Extension: Senate passed S. 2499, to amend titles XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Social Security Act to extend provisions under the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP programs.

Pages S15834–43

Adjournment Resolution: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 61, providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate, and a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives.

Page S15935

1882 Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce and Navigation between the Kingdom of Chosun (Korea) and the United States: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 279, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the 125th anniversary of the 1882 Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce and Navigation between the Kingdom of Chosun (Korea) and the United States, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S15935–36

Pryor (for Biden) Amendment No. 3880, to strike a reference to the 2007 Free Trade Agreement and to add environmental protection to the list of bilateral goals that should be addressed by the United States and the Republic of Korea.

Page S15936

Pryor (for Biden) Amendment No. 3883, to amend the preamble.

Page S15936

Condemning Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 53, condemning the kidnapping and hostage-taking of 3 United States citizens for over 4 years by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), and demanding their immediate and unconditional release, and the resolution was then agreed to, after

agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Page S15936

Pryor (for Nelson (FL)) Amendment No. 3881, to amend the preamble.

Page S15936

Race Day in America: Senate agreed to S. Res. 410, designating February 17, 2008, as "Race Day in America" and highlighting the 50th running of the Dayton 500.

Page S15936

Honoring Dr. Hector P. Garcia: Senate agreed to S. Res. 411, honoring the life and recognizing the accomplishments of Texas civil rights pioneer Dr. Hector P. Garcia.

Pages S15936–37

Commending Appalachian State University Football Team: Senate agreed to S. Res. 412, commending the Appalachian State University Mountaineers of Boone, North Carolina, for winning the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division 1 Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division 1-AA) Championship.

Page S15937

Commending Wake Forest University Soccer Team: Senate agreed to S. Res. 413, commending the Wake Forest University Demon Deacons of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, for winning the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association Men's Soccer National Championship.

Pages S15937–38

National Stalking Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 414, designating January 2008 as "National Stalking Awareness Month".

Page S15938

Honoring William Karna "Bill" Willis: Senate agreed to S. Res. 415, honoring the life and recognizing the accomplishments of William Karna "Bill" Willis, pioneer and Hall of Fame football player for both Ohio State University and the Cleveland Browns.

Page S15938

Recognizing United States Air Force: Senate agreed to S. Res. 416, recognizing the 60th anniversary of the United States Air Force as an independent military service.

Pages S15938–39

Enrollment Correction: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 62, to correct the enrollment of H.R. 660.

Page S15939

Essential Air Service Subsidies Extension: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. 2260, to extend the existing provisions regarding the eligibility for essential air service subsidies through fiscal year 2008, and the bill was then passed.

Pages S15939–40

Ernest Childers Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 366, to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the "Er-

nest Childers Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic", and the bill was then passed, clearing the measure for the President.

Page S15940

Internal Revenue Commissioner: Senate passed S. 2436, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the term of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

Page S15940

Child Soldiers Accountability Act: Senate passed S. 2135, to prohibit the recruitment or use of child soldiers, to designate persons who recruit or use child soldiers as inadmissible aliens, to allow the deportation of persons who recruit or use child soldiers, after agreeing to the committee amendment, and the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S15941–43

Pryor (for Feingold) Amendment No. 3882, to exclude groups assembled solely for non-violent political association from the definition of an armed force or group.

Page S15943

House Messages:

Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act—House Message: By 76 yeas to 17 nays, 1 voting present (Vote No. 441), Senate concurred in House amendment No. 1 to the Senate amendment to the text of H.R. 2764, making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, after taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S15830–34, S15843–88

Adopted:

By 70 yeas to 25 nays (Vote No. 439), McConnell motion to concur in the House Amendment No. 2 to the Senate Amendment to the bill, with McConnell Amendment No. 3874, to make emergency supplemental appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008.

Pages S15844–45, S15860–61

Withdrawn:

By 24 yeas to 71 nays (Vote No. 437), Feingold Amendment No. 3875 (to Amendment No. 3874), to provide for the safe redeployment of United States troops from Iraq. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the amendment, having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, be withdrawn).

Pages S15845–53

By 50 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. 438), Levin Amendment No. 3876 (to Amendment No. 3874), to express the sense of Congress on the transition of the missions of United States Forces in Iraq to a more limited set of missions as specified by the President on September 13, 2007. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the amendment, having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, be withdrawn).

Pages S15853–60

By 48 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. 440), Reid motion to concur in the House Amendment No. 1, to the Senate amendment to the bill, with Reid Amendment No. 3877, relative to AMT relief. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the amendment, having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, be withdrawn). **Pages S15861–63**

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

By 44 yeas to 51 nays (Vote No. 436), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the motion to concur in the House amendments to the Senate amendment to the text of the bill. **Page S15844**

Lott Tributes—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that tributes to Senator Lott in the Congressional Record be printed as a Senate Document and that Senators be permitted to submit statements in tribute until January 30, 2008. **Page S15935**

Lott Letter of Resignation—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Chair lay before the Senate the letter of resignation of Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi and that the letter be deemed read and spread upon the Journal. **Page S15943**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By a unanimous vote of 93 yeas (Vote No. EX. 442), John Daniel Tinder, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

Pages S15888–91

Messages from the House: **Pages S15906–07**

Executive Communications: **Pages S15907–09**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S15909–10**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S15912–13**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S15913–21**

Additional Statements: **Pages S15903–06**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S15921–34**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S15934–35**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S15935**

Record Votes: Seven record votes were taken today. (Total—442)

Pages S15844, S15853, S15860–61, S15863, S15888, S15891

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 12:10 a.m., on Wednesday, December 19, 2007 until 11:30 a.m. on the same day. (For Senate's

program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S15943.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Mary Beth Long, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary for International Security Affairs, and James Shinn, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs, and Craig W. Duehring, of Minnesota, to be an Assistant Secretary for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, John H. Gibson, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary for Financial Management, both of the United States Air Force, all of the Department of Defense, and 720 nominations in the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Prior to this action, committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Mary Beth Long, of Virginia, and James Shinn, of New Jersey, both to be an Assistant Secretary, and Craig W. Duehring, of Minnesota, and John H. Gibson, of Texas, both to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, all of the Department of Defense, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Carl T. Johnson, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, and Francis P. Mulvey, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board, both of the Department of Transportation; Denver J. Stutler, Jr., of Florida, Nancy A. Naples, of New York, and Thomas C. Carper, of Illinois, all to be a Member of the Reform Board (Amtrak); and a promotion list in the United States Coast Guard.

Prior to this action, committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Carl T. Johnson, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, who was introduced by Senator Stevens, and Francis P. Mulvey, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board, both of the Department of Transportation and Denver J. Stutler, Jr., of Florida, who was introduced by Senator Martinez, and Nancy A. Naples, of New York, each to be a Member of the Reform Board (Amtrak), after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NON-TANK VESSEL OIL SPILLS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard concluded a hearing to examine oil spills from non-tank vessels, focusing on threats, risks, and vulnerabilities, after receiving testimony from Admiral Thad Allen, Commandant, United States Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security; Mary Glackin, Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Susan A. Fleming, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, Government Accountability Office; Mike Cooper, Washington State Oil Spill Advisory Council, Olympia; Dagmar Schmidt Etkin, Environmental Research Consulting, Cortlandt Manor, New York; and William G. Deaver, Totem Ocean Trailer Express, Federal Way, Washington.

NOMINATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Jon Wellinghoff, of Nevada, to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Prior to this action, committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Jon Wellinghoff, of Nevada, to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Bingaman, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee ordered favorably reported the following:

S. 1189, to designate the Federal building and United States Courthouse located at 100 East 8th Avenue in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as the "George

Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse";

H.R. 735, to designate the Federal building under construction at 799 First Avenue in New York, New York, as the "Ronald H. Brown United States Mission to the United Nations Building";

S. 862, to designate the Federal building located at 210 Walnut Street in Des Moines, Iowa, as the "Neal Smith Federal Building"; and

The nominations of Kristine L. Svinicki, of Virginia, and Gregory B. Jaczko, of the District of Columbia, both to be Members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

NOMINATION

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Steven H. Murdock, of Texas, to be Director of the Census, Department of Commerce, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Hutchison, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Ondray T. Harris, of Virginia, to be Director, Community Relations Service, David W. Hagy, of Texas, to be Director of the National Institute of Justice, Cynthia Dyer, of Texas, to be Director of the Violence Against Women Office, and Nathan J. Hochman, of California, to be an Assistant Attorney General, who was introduced by Senator Coleman, all of the Department of Justice, and Scott M. Burns, of Utah, to be Deputy Director of National Drug Control Policy, after the nominees testified and answered questions on their own behalf.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 63 public bills, H.R. 4774–4836; and 14 resolutions, H.J. Res. 71–73; H. Con. Res. 272; and H. Res. 883–892 were introduced. **Pages H16832–34**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H16834–35**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows: H.R. 1834, to authorize the national ocean exploration program and the national undersea research program within the National Oceanic and Atmos-

pheric Administration, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–311, Pt. 2). **Page H16832**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Solis to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H16645**

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures which were debated on Monday, December 17th:

Veterans Guaranteed Bonus Act of 2007: H.R. 3793, amended, to amend title 37, United States

Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to continue to pay to a member of the Armed Forces who is retired or separated from the Armed Forces due to a combat-related injury certain bonuses that the member was entitled to before the retirement or separation and would continue to be entitled to if the member was not retired or separated, by a 2/3 yeas-and-nay vote of 405 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 1176 and

Pages H16658–59

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To amend title 37, United States Code, to require the continued payment to a member of the uniformed services who dies or is retired or separated under chapter 61 of title 10, United States Code, bonuses and similar benefits that the member was entitled to before the death, retirement, or separation of the member and would be paid if the member had not died, retired, or separated, to prohibit requiring the member to repay any portion of the bonuses or similar benefits previously paid, and for other purposes."

Page H16659

Expressing the unconditional support of the House of Representatives for the members of the National Guard: H. Res. 542, amended, to express the unconditional support of the House of Representatives for the members of the National Guard, by a 2/3 yeas-and-nay vote of 408 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 1180.

Page H16768

Renewable Fuels, Consumer Protection, and Energy Efficiency Act of 2007: The House agreed to the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 6, to move the United States toward greater energy independence and security, to increase the production of clean renewable fuels, to protect consumers, to increase the efficiency of products, buildings, and vehicles, to promote research on and deploy greenhouse gas capture and storage options, and to improve the energy performance of the Federal Government, by a yeas-and-nay vote of 314 yeas to 100 nays, Roll No. 1177.

Pages H16651–H16752

H. Res. 877, the rule providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment, was agreed to by a yeas-and-nay vote of 215 yeas to 190 nays, Roll No. 1175, after agreeing to order the previous question by a yeas-and-nay vote of 220 yeas to 187 nays, Roll No. 1174.

Pages H16657–58

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 885, electing the following Members to serve on certain standing committees of the House of Representatives: Committee on Agriculture: Representative Latta. Committee on Energy and Commerce: Representative Blunt (to rank after Representative Fossella). Committee on Foreign Affairs: Representa-

tive Wittman (VA). Committee on Science and Technology: Representatives Latta and Wittman (VA).

Page H16752

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

Sudan Accountability and Divestment Act of 2007: S. 2271, to authorize State and local governments to divest assets in companies that conduct business operations in Sudan and to prohibit United States Government contracts with such companies, by a 2/3 yeas-and-nay vote of 411 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 1179—clearing the measure for the President;

Pages H16753–60, H16767–68

Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007: Agreed to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2761, to extend the Terrorism Insurance Program of the Department of the Treasury, by a yeas-and-nay vote of 360 yeas to 53 nays, Roll No. 1178—clearing the measure for the President;

Pages H16760–67

Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act of 2007: Agreed to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3648, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude discharges of indebtedness on principal residences from gross income—clearing the measure for the President;

Pages H16768–72

Providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendments to H.R. 3997, with an amendment: H. Res. 884, providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendments to H.R. 3997, with an amendment, by a 2/3 yeas-and-nay vote of 411 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 1181;

Pages H16772–88, H16795

OPEN Government Act of 2007: S. 2488, to promote accessibility, accountability, and openness in Government by strengthening section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act)—clearing the measure for the President; and

Pages H16788,92

U.S. Capitol Police and Library of Congress Police Merger Implementation Act of 2007: Agreed to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3690, to provide for the transfer of the Library of Congress police to the United States Capitol Police, by a 2/3 yeas-and-nay vote of 413 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 1182—clearing the measure for the President.

Pages H16792–94, H16795–96

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Wittman of Virginia, wherein he resigned from the Committee on Science and Technology, effective today.

Pages H16792

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Latta of Ohio, wherein he resigned from

the Committee on Science and Technology, effective today. **Page H16792**

Speaker Pro Tempore: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Hoyer and Representative Van Hollen to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through January 15, 2008. **Page H16796**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H16796.

Senate Referrals: S. 2499 was held at the desk.

Page H16796

Quorum Calls—Votes: Nine yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H16657–58, H16658, H16658–59, H16752, H16766–67, H16767–68, H16768, H16795, H16796. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Committee Meetings

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY AND MODERNIZATION ACT; CAMERON GULBRANSEN KIDS AND CARS SAFETY ACT OF 2007

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Ordered reported, as amended, the following bills: H.R. 4040, Consumer Product Safety and Modernization Act, and H.R. 1216, Cameron Gulbransen Kids and Cars Safety Act of 2007.

The Committee also approved pending Committee business.

OVERSIGHT—LEGACY OF TRANS-ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties held an oversight hearing on the Legacy of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. Testimony was heard from JoAnn Watson, member, City Council, City of Detroit, Michigan; and public witnesses.

PRIVACY AND CYBERCRIME ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2007

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security held a hearing on H.R. 4175, Privacy and Cybercrime Enforcement Act of 2007. Testimony was heard from Andrew Lourie, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney

General and Chief of Staff to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice; Craig Magaw, Special Agent, Criminal Investigative Division, U.S. Secret Service, Department of Homeland Security; Joel Winston, Associate Director, Division of Privacy and Identity Protection, Bureau of Consumer Protection, FTC; and public witnesses.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2007

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, focusing on truck driver hours-of-service (HOS) rules and truck safety, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Charles W. Larson, Jr., of Iowa, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia, and Mary Ann Glendon, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Holy See, 9:30 a.m., SD–419.

Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on Kosovo, focusing on future challenges, 11 a.m., S–407, Capitol.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to consider the nomination of Mark R. Filip, of Illinois, to be Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD–226.

House

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight, hearing on the Extension of the United Nations Mandate for Iraq: Is the Iraqi Parliament Being Ignored? 10 a.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, hearing on Enforcement of Federal Criminal Law to Protect Americans Working for U.S. Contractors in Iraq, 10:15 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, executive, briefing on Hot Sports—Venezuela, Australia, and Pakistan, 8:45 a.m., executive, briefing on NIE, 10 a.m., and, executive, to consider pending Committee business, 1 p.m., H–405 Capitol.

Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, hearing entitled “After Bali—UN Conference and the Impact on International Climate Change Policy,” 12 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

11:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 19

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, December 19

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will be in a period of morning business.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for a party conference meeting.)

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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