

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to H.J. Res. 59, Budget Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S8919–8984

Measures Introduced: Eleven bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1848–1858, and S. Res. 323–324. **Pages S8975–76**

Measures Reported:

S. Res. 75, condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights, with an amendment and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 288, supporting enhanced maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea and encouraging increased cooperation between the United States and West and Central African countries to fight armed robbery at sea, piracy, and other maritime threats.

S. Res. 312, calling on the government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance in this case of Robert Levinson, one of the longest held United States civilians in our Nation's history.

S. Res. 314, commemorating and supporting the goals of World AIDS Day.

S. Res. 318, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the critical need for political reform in Bangladesh.

S. Res. 319, expressing support for the Ukrainian people in light of President Yanukovich's decision not to sign an Association Agreement with the European Union.

S. 653, to provide for the establishment of the Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia.

S. 1857, to reform assistance to Egypt. **Page S8975**

Measures Passed:

VA Expiring Authorities Extension Act: Senate passed H.R. 1402, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law.

Page S8964

American Diabetes Month: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 316, supporting the goals and ideals of American Diabetes Month, and the resolution was then agreed to.

Page S883

Tragic Shooting at Los Angeles International Airport: Senate agreed to S. Res. 324, expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to the tragic shooting at Los Angeles International Airport on November 1, 2013, of employees of the Transportation Security Administration.

Page S8983

Measures Considered:

Workforce Investment Act: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1356, to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to strengthen the United States workforce development system through innovation in, and alignment and improvement of, employment, training, and education programs in the United States, and to promote individual and national economic growth.

Page S8920

House Messages:

Budget Act: By 64 yeas to 36 nays (Vote No. 281), Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, after taking action on the following motions and amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S8920–57

Withdrawn:

Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the joint resolution, with Reid Amendment No. 2547, to change the enactment date. **Pages S8921–57**

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

Reid Amendment No. 2548 (to Amendment No. 2547), of a perfecting nature, fell when Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to the joint resolution, with Reid Amendment No. 2547 (listed above), was withdrawn. **Pages S8921–57**

National Defense Authorization Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 3304, to authorize and request the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor, taking action on the following motions and amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S8957–64**

Pending:

Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to the bill. **Page S8957**

Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with Reid Amendment No. 2552, to change the enactment date. **Page S8957**

Reid Amendment No. 2553 (to Amendment No. 2552), of a perfecting nature. **Page S8957**

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

By 71 yeas to 29 nays (Vote No. 282), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to the bill. **Page S8957**

Reid motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions, Reid Amendment No. 2554, to change the enactment date, fell when cloture was invoked on the Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to the bill. **Page S8957**

Reid Amendment No. 2555 (to (the instructions of the motion to refer) Amendment No. 2554), of a perfecting nature, fell when Reid motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions, Reid Amendment No. 2554 (listed above) fell. **Page S8957**

Reid Amendment No. 2556 (to Amendment No. 2555), of a perfecting nature, fell when Reid Amendment No. 2555 (to (the instructions of the motion to refer) Amendment No. 2554) (listed above) fell. **Page S8957**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to the bill at approximately 10:00 a.m., on Thursday, December 19, 2013; and that all time during adjournment count post-cloture on motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to the bill. **Page S8984**

Appointments:

Board of Visitors of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy: The Chair, on behalf of the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and pursuant to Title 46, Section 1295 b(h), of the U.S. Code, appointed the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy: Senator Rockefeller, ex officio, as Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Senator Warner, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. **Page S8983**

Board of Visitors of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 194(a), as amended by Public Law 101–595, and upon recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, appointed the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy: Senator Rockefeller, ex officio, as Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, and Senator Cantwell, Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. **Page S8983**

Board of Visitors of the U.S. Air Force Academy: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), reappointed and appointed the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Air Force Academy: Senator Bennet, designee of the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, and Senator Udall (NM), from the Committee on Appropriations. **Page S8983**

Board of Visitors of the U.S. Military Academy: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 4355(a), appointed and reappointed the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Military Academy:

Senator Gillibrand, designee of the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, and Senator Landrieu, from the Committee on Appropriations.

Page S8983

Board of Visitors of the U.S. Naval Academy:

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 6968(a), reappointed the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Naval Academy:

Senator Mikulski, from the Committee on Appropriations, and Senator Cardin, At Large. **Page S8983**

Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission:

The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106–79, appointed the following Senator to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission:

Senator Joe Manchin III vice The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii. **Pages S8983–84**

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

Pages S8920, S8974

Executive Communications: Pages S8974–75

Executive Reports of Committees: Page S8975

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S8976–77

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S8977–81

Additional Statements: Page S8974

Amendments Submitted: Pages S8981–82

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Pages S8982–83

Privileges of the Floor: Page S8983

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—282) **Page S8957**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:50 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 19, 2013. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S8984.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

DATA BROKERS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine what information data brokers have on consumers, and how they use it, after receiving testimony from Jessica Rich, Director, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission; Pam Dixon, World Privacy Forum, San Diego, California; Joseph Turow, University of Pennsylvania Annenberg School for Communication, Philadelphia; Tony Hadley, Experian, Costa Mesa, California; and Jerry Cerasale, Direct Marketing Association, Washington, DC.

RETIREMENT

Committee on Finance: Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions and Family Policy concluded a hearing to examine the role of Social Security, defined benefits, and private retirement accounts in relation to retirement crisis, after receiving testimony from Robert G. Romasco, AARP, Andrew G. Biggs, American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, and Dean Baker, Center for Economic and Policy Research, all of Washington, DC; and John Sweeney, Fidelity Investments, Boston, Massachusetts.

ASIA IV REBALANCE

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs concluded a hearing to examine economic engagement in the Asia-Pacific region, focusing on rebalance to Asia IV, after receiving testimony from Scot A. Marciel, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs; John Andersen, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets, International Trade Administration; and Matthew P. Goodman, Center for Strategic and International Studies, and Derek Scissors, American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, both of Washington, DC.

BUSINESS MEETING

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

An original bill entitled, "Egypt Assistance Reform Act of 2013";

S. 653, to provide for the establishment of the Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia;

S. Res. 314, commemorating and supporting the goals of World AIDS Day;

S. Res. 288, supporting enhanced maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea and encouraging increased cooperation between the United States and West and Central African countries to fight armed robbery at sea, piracy, and other maritime threats;

S. Res. 312, calling on the government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance in this case of Robert Levinson, one of the longest held United States civilians in our Nation's history;

S. Res. 75, condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights, with amendments;

S. Res. 318, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the critical need for political reform in Bangladesh;