

under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 244, an act to encourage effective, voluntary investments to recruit, employ, and retain men and women who have served in the United States military with annual Federal awards to employers recognizing such efforts, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Thad Cochran, Orrin G. Hatch, Bill Cassidy, Tom Cotton, Lamar Alexander, John Barrasso, John Thune, Mike Rounds, Susan M. Collins, Lisa Murkowski, John Cornyn, Richard C. Shelby, Thom Tillis, Jerry Moran, Roger F. Wicker, Shelley Moore Capito.

MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 210

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 244, with a further amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] moves to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 244, with an amendment numbered 210.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following:

“This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment.”

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on the motion to concur with amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 211 TO AMENDMENT NO. 210

Mr. MCCONNELL. I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 211 to amendment No. 210.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike “1 day” and insert “2 days”.

MOTION TO REFER WITH AMENDMENT NO. 212

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to refer the House message on H.R. 244 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 212.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] moves to refer the message to accompany H.R. 244 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 212.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following:

“This act shall be effective 3 days after enactment.”

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 213

Mr. MCCONNELL. I have an amendment to the instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 213 to the instructions of the motion to refer the message to accompany H.R. 244.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike “3 days” and insert “4 days”.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 214 TO AMENDMENT NO. 213

Mr. MCCONNELL. I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 214 to amendment No. 213.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike “4” and insert “5”.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, the Omnibus appropriations bill is now pending. I filed cloture to ensure that the Senate can pass it and send it to the President for his signature before the end of the week. It is my hope that we can enter into an agreement to vote on the omnibus tomorrow rather than running out the clock into the weekend.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following leader remarks on Monday, May 8, the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar No. 38, the nomination of Heather Wilson to be Secretary of the Air Force. I further ask that there be 4 hours of debate on the nomination, equally divided in the usual form; and that following the use or yielding back

of time, the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; and that, if confirmed, the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO GARY RANSDELL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the retirement of my friend, Dr. Gary A. Ransdell, who, since September 12, 1997, has served as the ninth president of Western Kentucky University.

During his nearly two decades leading WKU, Gary has overseen a complete transformation of the school. An alumnus of the school himself, graduating in 1973 with a bachelor of arts degree in mass communications and again in 1974 with a master of public service degree in public administration, Gary said that “[s]erving my alma mater has been a dream come true.”

Under Gary’s leadership, the school has grown into a prominent university with an international presence. Since 1997, enrollment has increased from 14,500 to 21,000, with strong improvements in graduation numbers, the number of applicants, and student retention. WKU has attracted hundreds of millions of dollars in private donations, completing two major capital campaigns under Gary’s guidance. Those funds have revitalized the campus and created state of the art buildings and classrooms.

Students at WKU have a world of education within their reach. New undergraduate degree programs focusing on mechanical, electrical, and civil engineering and doctoral degree programs in education, nursing, physical therapy, and psychology promote research and prepare students for their careers. The university is also committed to transferring its technology into the Kentucky workplace to help develop the State’s economy. WKU’s regional campuses throughout Western Kentucky make education accessible to many Kentuckians for the first time. The creation of the Gatton Academy of Math and Science, which reached a milestone in 2014 when the school was ranked as the No. 1 high school in America for its 3rd year in a row by Newsweek, has helped Kentucky students blossom into scholars and future leaders.

During Gary’s time at WKU, the school successfully transitioned into Conference USA and, in the 2014–2015 school year, set a record with eight conference championships. The WKU