

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed Education Savings Act for Public and Private Schools.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S3469–S3559

Measures Introduced: Eleven bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1971–1981, S.J. Res. 45, S. Con. Res. 90, and S. Res. 215.

Pages S3534–35

Measures Reported: Reports were made as follows:

S. 1360, to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to clarify and improve the requirements for the development of an automated entry-exit control system, to enhance land border control and enforcement, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1504, to adjust the immigration status of certain Haitian nationals who were provided refuge in the United States, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

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Measures Passed:

Education Savings Act for Public and Private Schools: By 56 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 102), Senate passed H.R. 2646, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow tax-free expenditures from education individual retirement accounts for elementary and secondary school expenses, and to increase the maximum annual amount of contributions to such accounts, after taking action on amendments proposed thereto, as follows:

Pages S3469–95, S3499–S3528

Adopted:

By 58 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 96), Kempthorne Modified Amendment No. 2302 (to Amendment No. 2301), to provide for student improvement incentive awards. (By unanimous-consent, the amendment, as further modified, was considered as an amendment in the first degree.)

Pages S3470–73

Coverdell (for McCain) Amendment No. 2298, to provide for a study of multilingualism in the United States.

Pages S3484–85

Coverdell (for Dorgan) Amendment No. 2307, to amend the Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994 to promote school safety.

Pages S3484–85

Levin/Bingaman Amendment No. 2299, to replace the expansion of education individual retirement accounts to elementary and secondary school expenses with an increase in the lifetime learning education credit for expenses of teachers in improving technology training, as amended.

Pages S3473–76, S3492–93

Subsequently, the amendment was modified.

Page S3494

Coverdell Amendment No. 2309, to make grants available to early childhood reading, to improve reading skills of students, to expand high-quality family literacy programs, and reduce the number of children who are referred to special education due to reading difficulties.

Pages S3488–92, S3494

By 74 yeas to 26 nays (Vote No. 101), Bingaman Amendment No. 2308, to provide assistance to address school dropout problems.

Pages S3485–88, S3494

Rejected:

By 46 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 95), Coats Amendment No. 2297, to provide an additional incentive to donate to elementary and secondary schools or other organizations which provide scholarships to disadvantaged children.

Pages S3469–70

By 34 yeas to 66 nays (Vote No. 97), Landrieu Amendment No. 2301, to provide funding to carry out a program that recognizes public and private elementary and secondary schools that have established standards of excellence.

Pages S3470–73

Levin Amendment No. 2303 (to Amendment No. 2299, as amended), to replace the expansion of education individual retirement accounts to elementary and secondary school expenses with an increase in the lifetime learning education credit for expenses of teachers in improving technology training. (By 61 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. 99), Senate tabled the amendment.)

Pages S3473–76, S3492–93

By 49 yeas to 51 nays (Vote No. 100), Boxer Amendment No. 2306, to improve academic and social outcomes for students by providing productive activities during after school hours.

Pages S3479–84, S3493–94

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

By 46 yeas to 53 nays (Vote No. 98), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected a motion to waive the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 with respect to consideration of Dodd Amendment No. 2305, to provide funding for part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Subsequently, a point of order that the amendment was in violation of Section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act was sustained, and the amendment thus fell.

Pages S3476–79

Northern Ireland Peace Agreement: By a unanimous vote of 97 yeas (Vote No.103), Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 90, to express the sense of the Congress in congratulating the participants in the negotiations resulting in the Northern Ireland Peace Agreement.

Pages S3495–99, S3528–29

Request of the House: Senate agreed to S. Res. 215, directing the Secretary of the Senate to request the House of Representatives to return the official papers on S. 414, and to make a technical correction in the Act as passed by the Senate.

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State Department Reorganization Conference Report-Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for the consideration of the conference report on H.R. 1757, to consolidate international affairs agencies, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and related agencies for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, to ensure that the enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) proceeds in a manner consistent with United States interests, to strengthen relations between the United States and Russia, and to preserve the prerogatives of the Congress with respect to certain arms control agreements, on Friday, April 24, 1998, with a vote on the conference report to occur on Tuesday, April 28, 1998, at 2:25 p.m.

Pages S3499, S3559

NATO Enlargement Treaty-Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for the consideration of Treaty Doc. 105–36, Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on Accession of Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic, on Monday, April 27, 1998.

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Appointment:

Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro

tempore, and upon the recommendation of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 208 of the 105th Congress, appointed the following Senators to the Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem: Senators Dodd, Moynihan, and Bingaman.

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Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Nikki Rush Tinsley, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Environmental Protection Agency.

Robert A. Freedberg, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania vice Thomas N. O'Neill, Jr., retired.

David R. Herndon, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois vice William L. Beatty, retired.

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Messages From the House:

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Measures Referred:

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Communications:

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Executive Reports of Committees:

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Statements on Introduced Bills:

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Amendments Submitted:

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Notices of Hearings:

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Authority for Committees:

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Additional Statements:

Pages S3554–59

Record Votes: Nine record votes were taken today. (Total—103) Pages S3470–73, S3479, S3493–94, S3528–29

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 8:27 p.m., until 10 a.m., on Friday, April 24, 1998. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3559.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded hearings to examine the incidence of fraud and abuse in the Food Stamp Program, focusing on proposed legislation to strengthen current laws to make it illegal for prisoners and fleeing felons to collect food stamps by requiring States to conduct criminal background checks on anyone applying for food stamps, and Federal efforts to ensure the integrity of the Food Stamp Program, after receiving testimony from Representative Menendez; Yvette S. Jackson, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture; Robert A.