

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

The House passed H.R. 8, Death Tax Repeal Permanency Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S8009–S8165

Measures Introduced: Thirteen bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1276–1288, and S. Res. 174–175. **Page S8125**

Measures Reported:

Report to accompany S. 163, to reauthorize the United States Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution. (S. Rept. No. 108–74)

S. 285, to authorize the integration and consolidation of alcohol and substance abuse programs and services provided by Indian tribal governments, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 108–75)

S. 558, to elevate the position of Director of the Indian Health Service within the Department of Health and Human Services to Assistant Secretary for Indian Health. (S. Rept. No. 108–76)

S. 1023, to increase the annual salaries of justices and judges of the United States, with amendments. **Page S8125**

Measure Passed:

Strengthen AmeriCorps Program Act: Senate passed S. 1276, to improve the manner in which the Corporation for National and Community Service approves, and records obligations relating to, national service positions. **Pages S8163–65**

Prescription Drug and Medicare Improvement Act: Senate continued consideration of S. 1, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make improvements in the Medicare program, to provide prescription drug coverage under the Medicare program, after taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S8013–S8116**

Rejected:

By 37 yeas to 58 nays (Vote No. 227), Stabenow Amendment No. 931, to require that the Medicare plan, to be known as the Medicare Guaranteed Op-

tion, be available to all eligible beneficiaries in every year. **Pages S8089–S8105, S8108–09**

Pending:

Enzi/Reed Amendment No. 932, to improve disclosure requirements and to increase beneficiary choices. **Pages S8105–08, S8109–11**

Bingaman Amendment No. 933, to eliminate the application of an asset test for purposes of eligibility for premium and cost-sharing subsidies for low-income beneficiaries. **Pages S8111–16**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, June 19, 2003. **Page S8165**

During consideration of this measure today, the following also occurred:

The Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was modified. **Pages S8020–88**

Senator Nickles submitted revisions to H. Con. Res. 95 (Congressional Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2004), pursuant to 401, Medicare Reserve Fund Adjustment. **Page S8118**

Tax Relief, Simplification and Equity Act: Senate disagreed to House amendments to Senate amendments to H.R. 1308, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to accelerate the increase in the refundability of the child tax credit, agreed to the House request for a conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses, and the Chair was authorized to appoint the following conferees on the part of the Senate: Senators Grassley, Nickels, Lott, Baucus, and Lincoln. **Page S8013**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Richard James O'Connell, of Arkansas, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Arkansas for the term of four years.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Pages S8163, S8165

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Roger W. Titus, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Alicia R. Castaneda, of the District of Columbia, to be a Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board for a term expiring February 27, 2004.

Alicia R. Castaneda, of the District of Columbia, to be a Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board for a term expiring February 27, 2011. (Re-appointment)

2 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

5 Army nominations in the rank of general.

2 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

A routine list in the Navy. **Page S8165**

Messages From the House: **Page S8124**

Measures Referred: **Page S8124**

Measures Held at Desk: **Page S8124**

Executive Communications: **Pages S8124–25**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S8125**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S8125–27**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S8127–60

Additional Statements: **Pages S8122–24**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S8160–62**

Authority for Committees to Meet: **Page S8162**

Privilege of the Floor: **Pages S8162–63**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—227) **Pages S8108–09**

Adjournment: Senate met at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 5:38 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, June 19, 2003. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S8165.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Thomas C. Dorr, of Iowa, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation, and to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Admiral Edmund P. Giambastiani, Jr., USN, to be Admiral, and Lieutenant General William S. Wallace, USA, to be Lieutenant General.

BASEL CAPITAL ACCORD

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded hearings to examine the New Basel Capital Accord, a proposal issued by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision to make final modifications for a new capital adequacy framework, focusing on proposed changes to the current capital regime and possible effects on the amount of risk-based capital banks are required to hold, on the risk management techniques they employ, and on the domestic and international competitive landscapes, after receiving testimony from Roger W. Ferguson, Jr., Vice Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; James E. Gilleran, Director, Office of Thrift Supervision, and John D. Hawke, Jr., Comptroller of the Currency, Administrator of National Banks, both of the Department of the Treasury; Donald E. Powell, Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; Edward I. Altman, New York University Leonard N. Stern School of Business, and D. Wilson Ervin, Credit Suisse First Boston, on behalf of the Financial Services Roundtable, both of New York, New York; Micah S. Green, Bond Market Association, and Karen Shaw Petrou, Federal Financial Analytics, Inc., both of Washington, D.C.; Maurice H. Hartigan II, Risk Management Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Kevin M. Blakely, Keycorp, Sydney, Australia.

BUSINESS MEETINGS

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following bills:

S. 498, to authorize the President to posthumously award a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Joseph A. De Laine in recognition of his contributions to the Nation; and

An original bill to facilitate check truncation by authorizing substitute checks, to foster innovation in the check collection system without mandating receipt of checks in electronic form, and to improve the overall efficiency of the Nation's payments system.

BURMA

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs concluded hearings to examine the development of democracy in Burma, focusing on the political situation, independent news and information, institution-building programs, and the protection of Burmese Refugees in Thailand, and S. 1182, to sanction the ruling Burmese military junta, to strengthen Burma's democratic forces and support and recognize the National League of Democracy as the legitimate representative of the Burmese people, after receiving testimony from Senator