

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 15 public bills, H.R. 2501–2515; and 1 resolution, H. Con. Res. 222, were introduced. **Pages H5550–51**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H5551–52**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 283, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 660) to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to improve access and choice for entrepreneurs with small businesses with respect to medical care for their employees (H. Rept. 108–160);

H. Con. Res. 21, commemorating the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase (H. Rept. 108–161);

H.R. 1772, to improve small business advocacy, amended (H. Rept. 108–162); and

H.R. 2417, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, amended (H. Rept. 108–163). **Page H5550**

Speaker Pro Tempore: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Ose to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H5471**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Rev. Timothy Smith, Chaplain, Sun Health Hospice of Sun City, Arizona. **Page H5471**

Journal: Agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of Tuesday, June 17 by recorded vote of 365 ayes to 59 noes with 1 voting "present", Roll No. 286. **Pages H5471, H5491–92**

Death Tax Repeal Permanency Act: The House passed H.R. 8, to make the repeal of the estate tax permanent by recorded vote of 264 ayes to 163 noes, Roll No. 288. **Pages H5492–H5514**

By a yea-and-nay vote of 188 yeas to 239 nays, Roll No. 287, rejected the Pomeroy amendment in the nature of a substitute that sought to restore the estate tax, limit its applicability to estates of over \$3 million, and include provisions on the maximum estate tax rate, phaseout of graduated rates and unified credit, and valuation rules for certain transfers of nonbusiness assets. **Pages H5502–13**

H. Res. 281, the rule that provided for consideration of the bill was agreed to by recorded vote of 230 ayes to 199 noes, Roll No. 285. Earlier agreed

to order the previous question by yea-and-nay vote of 227 yeas to 200 nays, Roll No. 284.

Pages H5475–91, H5491

Taxpayer Protection and IRS Accountability Act: The House completed general debate on H.R. 1528, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect taxpayers and ensure accountability of the Internal Revenue Service. Pursuant to the earlier order of the House, The Chair announced that consideration will resume on Thursday, June 19. **Pages H5514–35**

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment by the Committee on Ways and Means printed in the bill (H. Rept. 108–61) and modified by the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 108–159 was considered as adopted.

H. Res. 282, the rule that provided for consideration of the bill was agreed to by voice vote.

Pages H5474–75

Further Consideration of Taxpayer Protection and IRS Accountability Act: Earlier agreed by unanimous consent that during consideration of H.R. 1528, Taxpayer Protection and IRS Accountability Act, pursuant to H. Res. 282, notwithstanding the ordering of the previous question, it may be in order at any time for the Chair to postpone further consideration of the bill until a later time to be designated by the Speaker. **Page H5514**

Commission on Security and Cooperation In Europe: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of Representative Smith of New Jersey as acting Chairman, and Representatives Wolf, Pitts, Aderholt, Northup, Cardin, Slaughter, and Hastings of Florida to the Commission on Security and Cooperation In Europe. **Page H5549**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes and three recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H5490–91, H5491, H5491–92, H5512–13, and H5513–14. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS REVIEW

Committee on Agriculture: Held a hearing to review multilateral and bilateral agricultural trade negotiations. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE, JUDICIARY AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, Judiciary and Related Agencies held a hearing on FBI Reorganization. Testimony was heard from Robert Mueller, Director, FBI, Department of Justice; David M. Walker, Comptroller General, GAO; and public witnesses.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense met in executive session and approved for full Committee action the Defense appropriations for fiscal year 2004.

INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies approved for full Committee action the Interior and Related Agencies appropriations for fiscal year 2004.

WORLDWIDE U.S. MILITARY COMMITMENTS

Committee on Armed Services: Held a hearing on worldwide U.S. military commitments. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Paul D. Wolfowitz, Deputy Secretary; and Gen. Peter Pace, USMC, Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

FEDERAL MANDATORY PROGRAMS— WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE

Committee on the Budget: Held a hearing on Waste, Fraud and Abuse in Federal Mandatory Programs. Testimony was heard from David M. Walker, Comptroller General, GAO; and a public witness.

SCHOOL READINESS ACT

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Began markup of H.R. 2210, School Readiness Act of 2003.

Will continue tomorrow.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND MODERNIZATION ACT

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Began markup of H.R. 2473, Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003.

Will continue tomorrow.

MUTUAL FUNDS INTEGRITY AND FEE TRANSPARENCY ACT

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance, and Government Sponsored Enterprises held a hearing on H.R. 2420, Mutual Funds Integrity and Fee Transparency Act of 2003.

Testimony was heard from Paul F. Roye, Director, Division of Investment Management, SEC; Richard J. Hillman, Director, Financial Markets and Community Investment, GAO; and public witnesses.

U.S. PARTICIPATION—INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, ASIAN DEVELOPMENT FUND AND AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology approved for full Committee action H.R. 2243, to provide for the participation of the United States in the thirteenth replenishment of the resources of the International Development Association, the seventh replenishment of the resources of the Asian Development Fund, and the ninth replenishment of the resources of the African Development Fund.

VISA REVOCATIONS

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations held a hearing on “Visa Revocations: Catching the Terrorists Among Us.” Testimony was heard from Jess T. Ford, Director, International Affairs and Trade Division, GAO; Catherine Barry, Managing Director, Office of Visa Services, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Department of State; the following officials of the Department of Homeland Security: Jayson P. Ahern, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection; and Charles H. Demore, Interim Assistant Director, Investigations, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and Steven C. McCraw, Inspector-Deputy Assistant Director of Intelligence, FBI, Department of Justice.

COMPACTS OF FREE ASSOCIATION WITH MICRONESIA AND THE MARSHALL REAUTHORIZING

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific held a hearing on Reauthorizing the Compacts of Free Association with Micronesia and the Marshall Islands. Testimony was heard from Albert V. Short, Director, Office of Compact Negotiations, Department of State; David B. Cohen, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior; and Susan S. Westin, Managing Director, International Affairs and Trade, GAO.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Resources: Held a hearing on the following bills: H.R. 884, Western Shoshone Claims Distribution Act; and H.R. 1409, Eastern Band of

Cherokee Indians Land Exchange Act of 2003. Testimony was heard from Michael D. Olsen, Counselor to the Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a vote of 6 to 3, a modified closed rule providing 1 hour of debate in the House on H.R. 660, Small Business Health Fairness Act. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The rule makes in order the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution, if offered by Representative Kind of Wisconsin or his designee, which shall be considered as read, and shall be separately debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment printed in the report. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

WHITE-COLLAR JOBS GLOBALIZATION

Committee on Small Business: Held a hearing on the Globalization of White-Collar Jobs: Can America Lose These Jobs and Still Prosper? Testimony was heard from Representative Johnson of Connecticut; Bruce P. Mehlman, Assistant Secretary, Technology Policy, Department of Commerce; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management approved for full Committee action, as amended, the following bills: H.R. 141, SouthEast Crescent Authority Act of 2003; H.R. 1071, Southwest Regional Border Authority Act; H.R. 1572, to designate the historic Federal District Court Building located at 100 North Palafox Street in Pensacola, Florida, as the "Winston E. Arnow Federal Building;" and H.R. 1668, to designate the United States courthouse located at 101 North Fifth Street in Muskogee, Oklahoma, as the "Ed Edmondson United States Courthouse."

The Subcommittee also approved for full Committee action the Economic Development Administration Reauthorization.

NATIONWIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMS—VA'S HUMAN SUBJECT PROTECTIONS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing to assess the Department of Veterans Affairs management of the human subject protections maintained in its nationwide research programs. Testimony was heard from Cynthia Bascetta, Director, Veterans' Health and Benefits Issues, GAO; Robert H. Boswell, M.D., Under Secretary, Health, Department of Veterans Affairs.

IRAQ WMD

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session to hold a hearing on Iraq WMD. Testimony was heard from departmental witnesses.

Hearings continue tomorrow.

COUNTERPROLIFERATION AND COUNTERNARCOTICS

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Subcommittee on Intelligence Policy and National Security met in executive session to receive a briefing on Counterproliferation and Counternarcotics. The Subcommittee was briefed by departmental witnesses.

TERRORIST FINANCING

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Subcommittee on Terrorism and Homeland Security met in executive session to hold a hearing on Terrorist Financing. Testimony was heard from departmental witnesses.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D593)

H.R. 192, to amend the Microenterprise for Self-Reliance Act of 2000 and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to increase assistance for the poorest people in developing countries under microenterprise assistance programs under those Acts. Signed on June 17, 2003. (Public Law 108-31)

S. 273, to provide for the expeditious completion of the acquisition of land owned by the State of Wyoming within the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park. Signed on June 17, 2003. (Public Law 108-32)