

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages*S265–S291

Measures Introduced: Three bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2031–2033, and S. Res. 292. **Page S286**

Measures Reported:

S. 129, to provide for reform relating to Federal employment, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 108–223) **Page S286**

Pension Funding Equity Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of H.R. 3108, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to temporarily replace the 30-year Treasury rate with a rate based on long-term corporate bonds for certain pension plan funding requirements and other provisions, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S266–78**

Adopted:

Grassley (for Nickles) Amendment No. 2264 (to Amendment No. 2233), to express the sense of the Senate with respect to the status of private pension plans. **Pages S274–75**

Grassley Modified Amendment No. 2261 (to Amendment No. 2233), to extend transfers of excess pension assets to retiree health accounts. **Page S278**

Pending:

Grassley Amendment No. 2233, of a perfecting nature. **Pages S266–78**

Kyl Amendment No. 2236 (to Amendment No. 2233), to restrict an employer that elected an alternative deficit reduction contribution from applying for a funding waiver. **Page S266**

Rejected:

Kyl Amendment No. 2234 (to Amendment No. 2233), to limit the liability of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation with respect to a plan for which a reduced deficit contribution is elected. (By 67 yeas to 25 nays (Vote No. 4), Senate tabled the amendment). **Pages S266–72**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at 11 a.m., on Wednesday, January 28, 2004, that there be 30 minutes for debate, equally divided between

the Chairman and the Ranking Member of the Committee on Finance, or their designees; that Senator Kyl control 10 additional minutes; that, upon conclusion of debate, the Senate vote in relation to amendment No. 2236; that, upon disposition of the amendment, the Senate vote on the question of agreeing to amendment No. 2233; that, upon disposition of said amendment, the bill, as amended, be read the third time and the Senate then vote on final passage of the bill. **Pages S278, S291**

Executive Communications: **Pages S284–86**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S286–87**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S287–89**

Additional Statements: **Pages S281–84**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S289–91**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S291**

Authority for Committees to Meet: **Page S291**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—4) **Page S272**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 12 noon, and adjourned at 4:49 p.m., until 11 a.m., on Wednesday, January 28, 2004. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S291.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

FOOD SAFETY: BSE

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the current situation regarding the discovery of a case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in a dairy cow in Washington State as it relates to food safety, livestock marketing and international trade, after receiving testimony from Senators Durbin and Allard; Ann M. Veneman, Secretary of Agriculture; Lester M. Crawford, Deputy Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services; and Alfonso Torres, Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, Ithaca, New York.