

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

The House passed H.R. 1375, Financial Services Regulatory Relief Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session today. It will next meet on Monday, March 22, 2004, at 12 noon.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 16 public bills, H.R. 3993–4008; 1 private bill, H.R. 4009; and; 4 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 390–392, and H. Res. 571 were introduced. **Pages H1321–22**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1322–23**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 522, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there is a critical need to increase awareness and education about heart disease and the risk factors of heart disease among women (H. Rept. 108–440). **Page H1321**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered today by Rabbi Elie Spitz, Congregation B'nai Israel in Tustin, California. **Page H1231**

Financial Services Regulatory Relief Act: The House passed H.R. 1375, to provide regulatory relief and improve productivity for insured depository institutions, by a yea-and-nay vote of 392 yeas to 25 nays, Roll No. 69. **Pages H1234–41, H1241–74**

The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committees on Financial Services and the Judiciary now printed in the bill was considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment. **Pages H1251–62**

Agreed to:

Oxley amendment that limits de novo branching for ILCs to those whose business is more than 85% financial in nature and, in the case of ILCs whose

business is less than 85% in nature, limits branching to those ILCs who had Federal deposit insurance before October 1, 2003; strikes certain sections of the bill; makes technical corrections; **Pages H1262–64**

Waters amendment that strikes a section of the bill that reduces the minimum waiting period from 15 calendar days to five calendar days for banks and bank holding companies to merge with or acquire other bank or bank holding companies after the Department of Justice has approved a bank merger; **Page H1264**

Bachus amendment that strikes the section of the bill relating to the liability standards applied to third-party independent contractors working for a bank; and **Pages H1264–65**

Kelly/Toomey amendment that adds a new title at the end of the bill which removes the prohibition on banks from paying interest on business checking accounts and would allow the Federal Reserve to pay interest on so-called “sterile” reserves (agreed to by a recorded vote of 418 yeas with none voting “no”, Roll No. 68). **Pages H1268–71, H1272–73**

Rejected:

Weiner amendment that prohibits commercial banks for charging a fee to the depositor of a check that is returned for insufficient funds (rejected by a recorded vote of 167 yeas to 255 noes, Roll No. 66); and **Pages H1265–67, H1271**

Jackson-Lee amendment that expresses the sense of Congress that in situations where a requesting agency obtains expedited action to approve a merger

transaction application between multiple depository institutions, that careful consideration is placed on the impact that the transaction will have on affected communities and customers of any or all of the applicant institutions (rejected by a recorded vote of 194 yeas to 225 noes, Roll No. 67).

Pages H1267–68, H1272

The Clerk was authorized to make technical and conforming changes to the bill.

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H. Res. 566, the rule providing for consideration of the bill was agreed to by a voice vote.

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Counter-Terrorism and Narco-Terrorism Rewards Program Act: Debated on March 17, H.R. 3782, amended, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to increase the maximum amount of an award available under the Department of State rewards program, to expand the eligibility criteria to receive an award, to authorize nonmonetary awards, to publicize the existence of the rewards program, by a 2/3 yeas-and nay-vote of 414 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 70; and

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Recognizing more than five decades of strategic partnership between the U.S. and the people of the Marshall Islands: Debated on March 17, H. Con. Res. 364, to recognize more than 5 decades of strategic partnership between the United States and the people of the Marshall Islands in the pursuit of international peace and security, by a 2/3 yeas-and nay vote of 408 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 71.

Pages H1275–76

Committee on Standards of Official Conduct for the 108th Congress—Appointments: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following members to be available to serve on investigative subcommittees of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct for the 108th Congress: Representatives Doolittle, Sam Johnson (TX), Lincoln Diaz-Balart (FL), English, Shadegg, Brady (TX), Simpson, Terry, Kirk, and Rehberg.

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Later, the Chair read a letter from the Minority Leader, wherein she appointed the following members to be available for service on an investigative subcommittee of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct: Representatives Becerra, Cooper, Delahunt, McCarthy (NY), McIntyre, McNulty, Schiff, Scott (VA), Stupak, and Tauscher.

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Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday, March 22, and further that when it adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23 for Morning Hour debate.

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Calendar Wednesday: Agreed to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, March 24.

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Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yeas-and nay votes and three recorded votes developed during the proceedings today. There were no quorum calls.

Pages H1271, H1272, H1272–73, H1273–74, H1274, H1275

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Committee Meetings

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Agency and Related Agencies held a hearing on Food Safety and Inspection Service. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the USDA: Elsa A. Murano, Under Secretary, Food Safety; Barbara J. Masters, Acting Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service; and Stephen J. Dewhurst, Budget Officer.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE, JUDICIARY AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, Judiciary and Related Agencies held a hearing on the Patent and Trademark Office. Testimony was heard from Jon Dudas, Director, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Justice: Deborah J. Daniels, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs; and Carl R. Peed, Director, Community Oriented Policing Services.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs held a hearing on International HIV/AIDS Assistance Request. Testimony was heard from Ambassador Randall Tobias, Global AIDS Coordinator.

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing on Office of Domestic Preparedness. Testimony was heard from Suzanne Mencer, Director, Office for Domestic Preparedness, Department of Homeland Security.