

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.

INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior held a hearing on Oversight: Presidio Trust. Testimony was heard from Craig Middleton, Executive Director, Presidio Trust, and a public witness.

LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies held a hearing on the Department of Education. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Education: Gene Hickok, Acting Deputy Secretary; and Ray Simon, Assistant Secretary, Elementary and Secondary Education.

DEPARTMENT—REDESIGNATION

Committee on Armed Services: Held a hearing on H.R. 1741, To redesignate the position of the Secretary of the Navy as the Secretary of the Navy and the Marine Corps. Testimony was heard from William S. Dudley, Director, Naval History, Naval Historical Center, Department of the Navy; and public witnesses.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST—TRAINING TRANSFORMATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities held a joint hearing on the Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense Authorization budget request—Training Transformation—Examination of the Joint National Training Capability. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Paul W. Mayberry, Deputy Under Secretary (Readiness); MG Gordon Nash, USMC, Commander, Joint Warfighting Center, and Director, Joint Training, U.S. Joint Command, RADM David T. Hart, Jr., USN, Director, Fleet Readiness Division, and Michael P. Bailey, Technical Director, Technology Division, Training and Education Command, U.S. Marine Corps, all with the Department of the Navy; BG Louis W. Weber, USA, Director of Training, Training Directorate (DAMO-TR), Department of the Army; and BG Norman R. Seip, USAF, Deputy Director, Operations and Training, Deputy Chief of Staff, Air and Space, Department of the Air Force.

DOE'S ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACTIVITIES BUDGET

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a hearing on the Department of Energy's Atomic Energy Defense Activities Budget. Testimony was heard from. The following officials of the Department of Energy: Ambassador Linton

Brooks, Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration; and Jessie Hill Roberson, Assistant Secretary, Environmental Management.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST—DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAMS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Total Force held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense Authorization Budget Request on Defense Health Programs—Current and Future Issues. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: William Winkenwerder, Jr., M.D., Assistant Secretary, Health Affairs; Ltg. James B. Peake, M.D., USA, Surgeon General of the Army; VAdm. Michael L. Cowan, M.D., USN, Surgeon General of the Navy; and Ltg. George P. Taylor, Jr., M.D., USMC, Surgeon General of the Air Force; and public witnesses.

DEFINED BENEFIT PLANS—REFORM AND STRENGTHEN

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations held a hearing entitled "Reforming and Strengthening Defined Benefit Plans: Examining the Health of the Multiemployer Pension System." Testimony was heard from Barbara Bovbjerg, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security Issues, GAO; and public witnesses.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection held a hearing entitled "Reauthorization of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration." Testimony was heard from Jeffrey W. Runge, M.D., Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation; and public witnesses.

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL TRANSFERS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled "Inter-governmental Transfers: Violations of the Federal-State Medicaid Partnership or Legitimate State Budget Tool?" Testimony was heard from George Reeb, Assistant Inspector General, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Audits, Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services; Kathryn G. Allen, Director, Health Care—Medicaid and Private Health Insurance Issues, GAO; and a public witness.

SUCCESSFUL HOMEOWNERSHIP AND RENTING THROUGH HOUSING COUNSELING

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity held a hearing entitled “Successful Homeownership and Renting through Housing Counseling.” Testimony was heard from John Weicher, Assistant Secretary, Housing/Federal Housing Commissioner, Department of Housing and Urban Development; and public witnesses.

THE HUNT FOR SADDAM’S MONEY

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “The Hunt for Saddam’s Money: U.S. and Foreign Efforts to Recover Iraq’s Stolen Money.” Testimony was heard from Juan Zarate, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Executive Office of Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes, Department of the Treasury; Paul E. Simons, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Energy, Sanctions and Commodities, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, Department of State; and the following officials of the GAO: Joseph A. Christoff, Director, International Affairs and Trade; and Davi M. D’Agostino, Director, Financial Markets and Community Investment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE; INTERNET PHARMACY CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT; COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Committee on Government Reform: Ordered reported H.R. 3917, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 695 Marconi Boulevard in Copiague, New York, as the “Maxine S. Postal United States Post Office.”

The Committee held a hearing entitled “A Prescription for Safety: The Need for H.R. 3880, Internet Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act.” Testimony was heard from William Hubbard, Associate Commissioner, Policy and Planning, FDA, USDA; and public witnesses.

The Committee also approved pending Committee business.

U.S. RUSSIA RELATIONS—PUTIN’S SECOND TERM

Committee on International Relations: Held a hearing on U.S.—Russia Relations in Putin’s Second Term. Testimony was heard from A. Elizabeth Jones, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Department of State; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—US VISIT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Claims, oversight hearing on US VISIT: A Down Payment on Homeland

Security. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Homeland Security: Robert M. Jacksta, Executive Director, Border Security and Facilitation, U.S. Customs and Border Protection; Robert A. Mocny, Deputy Director, US VISIT Office; and Alfonso Martinez-Fonts, Jr., Special Assistant to the Secretary for Private Sector; and Randolph C. Hite, Director, Information Technology Architecture and Systems Issues, GAO.

ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS CONSERVATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans held a hearing on H.R. 3883, To reauthorize the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act. Testimony was heard from John H. Dunnigan, Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Department of Commerce; W. P. Jensen, Deputy Secretary, Department of Natural Resources, State of Maryland; and public witnesses.

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDEES FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATH AND SCIENCE TEACHING

Committee on Science: Held a hearing on The Presidential Awardees for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching: A Lesson Plan for Success. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SPACE TRANSPORTATION—NASA AND DOD COOPERATION

Committee on Science: Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics held a hearing on NASA-Department of Defense Cooperation in Space Transportation. Testimony was heard from Craig Steidle, Associate Administrator, Office of Exploration Systems, NASA; the following officials of the Department of Defense: Robert Dickman, Deputy for Military Space, Office of the Under Secretary of the Air Force; and Ron Sega, Director, Defense Research and Engineering and Chief Technical Adviser to the Secretary; and a public witness.

HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment and Government Programs held a hearing entitled “The Benefits of Health Savings Accounts.” Testimony was heard from Representative Crane; and public witnesses.

BUDGET REQUESTS—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management held a hearing on

the Fiscal Year 2005 Budget Request for the Department of Homeland Security's Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, the Office of Domestic Preparedness, and First Responder Funding. Testimony was heard from Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Department of Homeland Security.

HEALTH QUALITY INITIATIVES

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on Health Quality Initiatives. Testimony was heard from Carolyn Clancy, M.D., Director, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Department of Health and Human Services; Glenn M. Hackbarth, Chairman, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission; and public witnesses.

SSA'S MANAGEMENT—TICKET TO WORK PROGRAM

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Social Security held a hearing on the SSA's Management of the Ticket to Work Program. Testimony was heard from Martin H. Gerry, Deputy Commissioner, Disability and Income Security Programs, SSA; Troy R. Justesen, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, Department of Education; and public witnesses.

FASTER AND SMARTER FUNDING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS ACT

Select Committee on Homeland Security: Ordered reported, as amended, H.R. 3266, Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Act of 2003.

Joint Meetings

VETERANS PROGRAMS

Joint Hearings: Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and the House Committee on Veterans Affairs concluded joint hearings to examine the legislative presentations of the Air Force Sergeants Association, Retired Enlisted Association, Gold Star Wives of America, and Fleet Reserve Association, after receiving testimony from CMSgt. Jim Lekovic, USAF (Ret.), Air Force Sergeants Association, Suitland, Maryland; Msgt. David L. Washington, USAF (Ret.), Retired Enlisted Association, Aurora, Colorado; Rachel Clinkscale, Gold Star Wives of America, Inc., Arlington, Virginia; and Joseph L. Barnes, Fleet Reserve Association, Alexandria, Virginia.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see, DAILY DIGEST, p. D177)

H.R. 3915, to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act

and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through April 2, 2004. Signed on March 15, 2004. (Public Law 108-205)

S. 714, to provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of Bureau of Land Management land in Douglas County, Oregon, to the county to improve management of and recreational access to the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. Signed on March 15, 2004. (Public Law 108-206)

COMMITTEE MEETING FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2004

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No committee meetings are scheduled.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of March 22 through March 27, 2004

Senate Chamber

On *Monday*, at 2 p.m., Senate will resume consideration of S. 1637, Jumpstart Our Business Strength (JOBS) Act.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any other cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Appropriations: March 23, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Department of Energy's Office of National Nuclear Security Administration, 10 a.m., SD-192.

March 23, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Transportation Security Administration and the United States Coast Guard, both of the Department of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., SD-124.

March 23, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary, to hold hearings to examine the transformation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, focusing on information technology, management and training, 10:30 a.m., SD-116.

March 24, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings to examine the Bureau of Reclamation's Animas-La Plata Project, 10 a.m., SD-124.

March 24, Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Department of the Air Force, 10 a.m., SD-192.