

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 12 public bills, H.R. 4358–4369; and 6 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 422–426, and H. Res. 642, were introduced.

Pages H3015–16

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H3016–17

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2729, to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to provide for greater efficiency at the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, amended (H. Rept. 108–486);

H.R. 2728, to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to provide for adjudicative flexibility with regard to an employer filing of a notice of contest following the issuance of a citation by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, amended (H. Rept. 108–487);

H.R. 2730, to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to provide for an independent review of citations issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, amended, referred sequentially to the House Committee on the Judiciary for a period ending not later than May 17, 2004 for consideration of such provisions of the bill and amendment as fall within the jurisdiction of that committee pursuant to clause 1(k), rule X. (H. Rept. 108–488, Pt. 1); and

H.R. 2731, to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to provide for the award of attorney's fees and costs to very small employers when they prevail in litigation prompted by the issuance of citations by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, amended, referred sequentially to the House Committee on the Judiciary for a period ending not later than May 17, 2004 for consideration of such provisions of the bill and amendment as fall within the jurisdiction of that committee pursuant to clause 1(k), rule X. (H. Rept. 108–489, Pt. 1).

Pages H3014–15

Chaplain: The prayer was offered today by Rev. Dr. Larry D. Pickens, Senior Pastor, First United Methodist Church in Elgin, Illinois.

Page H2921

50th Anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 414, expressing the sense of the Congress that, as Congress recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision, all Americans are encouraged to observe this anniversary with a commitment to continuing and building on the legacy of Brown, by a yea-and-nay vote of 406 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 176.

Pages H2925–33, H2987–88

The measure was considered under a unanimous consent agreement reached on Wednesday, May 12.

Permanent Extension of 10-Percent Individual Income Tax Rate Bracket bill: The House passed

H.R. 4275, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the 10-percent individual income tax rate bracket, by a recorded vote of 344 yeas to 76 noes, Roll No. 170. **Pages H2933–49**

Rejected the Tanner amendment in the nature of a substitute, printed in H. Rept 108–483, by a yea-and-nay vote of 190 yeas to 227 nays, Roll No. 169.

Pages H2941–49

H. Res. 637, the rule providing for consideration of the bill was agreed to on Wednesday, May 12.

Budget Resolution for FY 2005—Motion to Instruct Conferees: The House rejected the Pomeroy motion to instruct conferees on S. Con. Res. 95, original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009, by a yea-and-nay vote of 207 yeas to 211 nays, Roll No. 171.

Pages H2949–50

Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2004: The House passed H.R. 4281, 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, by a yea-and-nay vote of 252 yeas to 162 nays and one voting "present", Roll No. 174.

Pages H2951–86

Rejected the McCarthy motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Education and the Workforce with instructions to report the bill back to the House forthwith with amendments, by a recorded vote of 196 yeas to 218 noes, Roll No. 173.

Pages H2984–86

Rejected the Kind amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–484, by a yea-and-nay vote of 193 yeas to 224 nays, Roll No. 172.

Pages H2976–84

H. Res. 638, the rule providing for consideration of the bill was agreed on Wednesday, May 12.

Pursuant to section 4 of H. Res. 638, the text of H.R. 4280 and H.R. 4281 will be appended to the engrossment of H.R. 4279, and H.R. 4280 and H.R. 4281 shall be laid on the table.

Page H2986

Also pursuant to section 4 of H. Res. 638, the title of H.R. 4279 is conformed to reflect the addition of the text of H.R. 4280 and H.R. 4281. Conformed so as to read: to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the disposition of unused health benefits in cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements, to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system, and 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.

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated on Tuesday, May 11:

Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944: H.J. Res. 91, recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 409 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 175.

Pages H2986–87

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourn today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, May 17 for morning hour debate and further, that when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, May 18 for morning hour debate as though after May 31, 2004, thereafter to resume its session at 10 a.m. Page H2990

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, May 19. Page H2990

Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group—Appointments: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following members of the House to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group: Representatives Kolbe (Chairman), Ballenger (Vice Chairman), Dreier, Barton (TX), Manzullo, Weller, and Stenholm. Page H2990

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H2921.

Senate Referral: S. Con. Res. 107 was held at the desk and S. Con. Res. 108 was referred to the Committee on Energy & Commerce. Page H3014

Quorum Calls—Votes: Six yeas-and-nays votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2948–49, H2949, H2950, H2984, H2985–86, H2986, H2986–87, and H2987–88. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Committee Meetings

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs held a hearing on Millennium Challenge Corporation. Testimony was heard from Andrew S. Natsios, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, Department of State; and Paul Applegarth, CEO, Millennium Challenge Corporation.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 2004

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness approved for full Committee action, as amended, H.R.

4278, Improving Access to Assistive Technology for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2004.

EXAMINING THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ACT AND ITS BENEFITS FOR WORKERS

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a hearing entitled "Examining the Federal Employees' Compensation Act and Its Benefits for Workers." Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Labor: Shelby Hallmark, Director, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs; and Elliot Lewis, Assistant Inspector General, Audit; and public witnesses.

"THE US-EU REGULATORY DIALOGUE AND ITS FUTURE"

Committee on Financial Services: Held a hearing entitled "The US-EU Regulatory Dialogue and Its Future." Testimony was heard from Randal Quarles, Assistant Secretary, International Affairs, Department of the Treasury; Ethiopia Tafara, Director, Office of International Affairs, SEC; Susan Bies, Governor, Federal Reserve Board, Federal Reserve System; and public witnesses.

HARNESSING SCIENCE

Committee on Government Reform: Held a hearing entitled "Harnessing Science: Advancing Care by Accelerating the Rate of Cancer Clinical Trial Participation." Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Health and Human Services: Michael Christian, M.D., Associate Director, Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis, Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program, National Cancer Institute; and Richard Pazdur, M.D., Director, Division of Oncology Drug Products, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, FDA; and public witnesses.

IRAQ—TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY

Committee on International Relations: Held a hearing on The Imminent Transfer of Sovereignty in Iraq. Testimony was heard from Marc Grossman, Under Secretary, Political Affairs, Department of State; and the following officials of the Department of Defense: Stephen A. Cambone, Under Secretary, Intelligence; Peter Rodman, Assistant Secretary, International Security Affairs; and LTG Walter L. Sharp, USA, Director, Strategic Plans and Policy, The Joint Chiefs of Staff.

BUSINESS ACTIVITY TAX SIMPLIFICATION ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law held a hearing on H.R. 3220, Business Activity Tax Simplification Act of 2003. Testimony was heard from Jamie Van Fossen, Representative, State of Iowa; Rick Clayburgh, Tax Commissioner, State of North Dakota; and public witnesses.