

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

The House passed H.R. 1268, Emergency Supplemental Wartime Appropriations Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2759–S2874

Measures Introduced: Fourteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 632–645, S.J. Res. 10–11, and S. Res. 83. **Page S2846**

Measures Reported:

S. 161, to provide for a land exchange in the State of Arizona between the Secretary of Agriculture and Yavapai Ranch Limited Partnership. (S. Rept. No. 109–40) **Page S2845**

Concurrent Budget Resolution: Senate continued consideration of S. Con. Res. 18, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2005 and 2007 through 2010, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S2759–S2841**

Adopted:

By 96 yeas to 4 nays (Vote No. 54), Ensign Amendment No. 171, to increase veterans medical care by \$410,000,000 in fiscal year 2006. **Pages S2759, S2787–93, S2806–07**

By 63 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. 56), Specter/Harkin Amendment No. 173, to increase discretionary health and education funding by \$2,000,000,000. **Pages S2762–68, S2808**

Rejected:

By 46 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 51), Byrd Amendment No. 158, to provide adequate funding of \$1.4 billion in fiscal year 2006 to preserve a national intercity passenger rail system. **Pages S2759, S2793–95**

By 49 yeas to 51 nays (Vote No. 52) Cantwell Amendment No. 168, to strike section 201(a)(4) relative to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. **Pages S2759, S2768–87, S2795**

By 50 yeas to 50 nays (Vote No. 53), Feingold Amendment No. 186, to fully reinstate the pay-as-you-go requirement. **Pages S2795–S2806**

By 47 yeas to 53 nays (Vote No. 55), Akaka Amendment No. 149, to increase veterans medical care by \$2.8 billion in 2006. **Pages S2759, S2787–93, S2807**

Pending:

Bingaman (for Smith) Amendment No. 204, to create a reserve fund for the establishment of a Bipartisan Medicaid Commission to consider and recommend appropriate reforms to the Medicaid program, and to strike Medicaid cuts to protect states and vulnerable populations. **Pages S2808–17**

Carper Amendment No. 207, to provide for full consideration of tax cuts in the Senate under regular order. **Pages S2718–21**

Snowe Amendment No. 214, to ensure that any savings associated with legislation that provides the Secretary of Health and Human Services with the authority to participate in the negotiation of contracts with manufacturers of covered part D drugs to achieve the best possible prices for such drugs under part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act, that requires the Secretary to negotiate contracts with manufacturers of such drugs for each fallback prescription drug plan, and that requires the Secretary to participate in the negotiation for a contract for any such drug upon request of a prescription drug plan or an MA-PD plan, is reserved for reducing expenditures under such part. **Pages S2821–25**

Harkin Amendment No. 172, to restore the Perkins Vocational Education program and provide for deficit reduction paid for through the elimination of the phase out of the personal exemption limitation and itemized deduction limitation for high-income taxpayers now scheduled to start in 2006. **Pages S2825–27**

Hutchison Amendment No. 218, to fully fund the level of Border Patrol Agents authorized by the National Intelligence Reform Act of 2004 and as recommended by the 9/11 Commission. **Pages S2827–29**

Landrieu Amendment No. 219, to establish a reserve fund in the event that legislation is passed to

provide a 50 percent tax credit to employers that continue to pay the salaries of Guard and Reserve employees who have been called to active duty.

Pages S2829–31

Salazar/Conrad Amendment No. 215, to provide additional funding for rural education, rural health access, and rural health outreach programs.

Pages S2831–32

Conrad (for Dorgan) Amendment No. 210, to repeal the tax subsidy for certain domestic companies which move manufacturing operations and American jobs offshore.

Pages S2832–33

Collins (for Lieberman/Collins) Amendment No. 220, to protect the American people from terrorist attacks by restoring \$565 million in cuts to vital first-responder programs in the Department of Homeland Security, including the State Homeland Security Grant program, by providing \$150 million for port security grants and by providing \$140 million for 1,000 new border patrol agents.

Pages S2833–35

Vitter Amendment No. 223, to express the sense of the Senate that Congress should provide dedicated funding for port security enhancements.

Pages S2835–36

Vitter Amendment No. 224, to restore funding for Corps of Engineers environmental programs to fiscal year 2005 levels.

Page S2836

Allen Modified Amendment No. 197, to increase by \$1,582,700,000 over fiscal years 2006 through 2010 funding for Transportation (budget function 400) with the amount of the increase intended to be allocated to the Vehicle Systems account of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for subsonic and hypersonic aeronautics research.

Pages S2836–41

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the resolution at 9 a.m., on Thursday, March 17, 2005; that certain Senators be recognized to offer amendments; and that at approximately 1:20 p.m., Senate begin a series of votes on certain amendments.

Pages S2873–74

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Ronald Rosenfeld, of Oklahoma, to be a Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board for the remainder of the term expiring February 27, 2009.

Raymond Thomas Wagner, Jr., of Missouri, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term expiring September 14, 2009.

Routine lists in the Coast Guard, Foreign Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Pages S2873, S2874

Messages From the House: **Page S2845**

Measures Referred: **Page S2845**

Executive Communications: **Page S2845**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S2845**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2846–47**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2847–60**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2843–45**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S2860–72**

Authority for Committees to Meet: **Pages S2872–73**

Privilege of the Floor: **Page S2873**

Record Votes: Six record votes were taken today. (Total—56) **Pages S2794–95, S2806–08**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9 a.m., and adjourned at 9:48 p.m., until 9 a.m., on Thursday, March 17, 2005. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2874.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: NAVY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Navy, after receiving testimony from Gordon R. England, Secretary of the Navy, Admiral Vern Clark, USN, Chief of Naval Operations, and General Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of Marine Corps, all of the Department of Defense.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Health and Human Services, after receiving testimony from Michael O. Leavitt, Secretary of Health and Human Services.

APPROPRIATIONS: ARMY AND AIR FORCE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Army and Air Force, after receiving testimony from Geoffrey G. Prosch, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Installations and Environment, Major General Geoffrey D. Miller, Assistant Chief of Staff, Installation Management, Major General Walter F. Pudlowski, Special Assistant to the Director, Army National Guard, and Brigadier General Gary M. Profit, Deputy Chief, Army Reserve, all of the Department of the Army;