

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed S. 1783, Pension Security and Transparency Act.

Senate agreed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 2862, Science/State/Justice/Commerce Appropriations.

House Committees ordered reported 31 sundry measures

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S12873–S13065

Measures Introduced: Twelve bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2016–2027, and S. Res. 317. **Pages S12949–50**

Measures Reported: S. 716, to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance services provided by vet centers, to clarify and improve the provision of bereavement counseling by the Department of Veterans Affairs. (S. Rept. No. 109–180)

S. 363, to amend the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 to establish vessel ballast water management requirements, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 109–181)

S. 467, to extend the applicability of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2020, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 202(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006. **Page S12948**

Measures Passed:

Rosa Parks Statue: Committee on Rules and Administration was discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 62, directing the Joint Committee on the Library to procure a statue of Rosa Parks for placement in the Capitol, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S13039–41

Isakson (for Dodd/McConnell) Amendment No. 2585, to make a technical correction. **Page S13041**

Veterans Compensation: Senate passed S. 1234, to increase, effective as of December 1, 2005, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and

indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S13041–42**

Isakson (for Craig) Amendment No. 2584, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S13041**

Pension Security and Transparency Act: By 97 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. 328), Senate passed S. 1783, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the pension funding rules, after taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S12884–S12921**

Adopted:

Enzi (for Grassley) Amendment No. 2581, in the nature of a substitute. (The amendment will be considered as original text for the purpose of further amendment.) **Page S12884**

Isakson Amendment No. 2582, to modify pension funding rules related to airlines. **Pages S12886–92**

By 58 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. 327), Akaka/Specter Amendment No. 2583, to compute the actuarial value of monthly benefits in the form of a life annuity commencing at age 60 for certain airline pilots. **Pages S12892–97, S12905–06**

Ice Floods National Geologic Trail: Senate passed S. 206, to designate the Ice Floods National Geologic Trail, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S13042–44**

Space Shuttle Columbia Memorials: Senate passed S. 242, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing memorials to the Space Shuttle Columbia on parcels of land in the State of Texas, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S13044**

Rocky Mountain National Park: Senate passed S. 584, to require the Secretary of the Interior to allow

the continued occupancy and use of certain land and improvements within Rocky Mountain National Park, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S13044–45**

Ben Franklin National Memorial: Senate passed S. 652, to provide financial assistance for the rehabilitation of the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the development of an exhibit to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin.

Page S13045

Rural Water Supply Program: Senate passed S. 895, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a rural water supply program in the Reclamation States to provide a clean, safe affordable, and reliable water supply to rural residents, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Pages S13045–53

Franklin National Battlefield Study Act: Senate passed H.R. 1972, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of including in the National Park System certain sites in Williamson County, Tennessee, relating to the Battle of Franklin, clearing the measure for the President.

Page S13042

Star-Spangled Banner Trail: Senate passed S. 958, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Star-Spangled Banner Trail in the States of Maryland and Virginia and the District of Columbia as a National Historic Trail, after agreeing to the committee amendments.

Page S13053

Acadia National Park Improvement Act: Senate passed S. 1154, to extend the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission, to provide improved visitor services at the park, after agreeing to the committee amendments.

Pages S13053–54

Public Land Corps Healthy Forests Restoration Act: Senate passed S. 1238, to amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to provide for the conduct of projects that protect forests, after agreeing to the committee amendments, and the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S13054–56

McConnell (for Domenici/Bingaman) Amendment No. 2591, to modify the authorization of appropriations.

Page S13055

Delaware National Coastal Special Resources Study Act: Senate passed S. 1627, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study to evaluate resources along the coastal region of the State of Delaware and to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing a unit of the National Park System in Delaware.

Page S13056

Cape Lookout National Seashore: Senate passed H.R. 126, to amend Public Law 89–366 to allow for an adjustment in the number of free roaming horses permitted in Cape Lookout National Seashore, clearing the measure for the President.

Page S13056

Caribbean National Forest Act: Senate passed H.R. 539, to designate certain National Forest System land in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, clearing the measure for the President.

Page S13056

Department of the Interior Volunteer Recruitment Act: Senate passed H.R. 584, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to recruit volunteers to assist with, or facilitate, the activities of various agencies and offices of the Department of the Interior, clearing the measure for the President.

Page S13056

Angel Island Immigration Station Restoration and Preservation Act: Senate passed H.R. 606, to authorize appropriations to the Secretary of the Interior for the restoration of the Angel Island Immigration Station in the State of California, clearing the measure for the President.

Page S13057

National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act: Senate passed S. 485, to reauthorize and amend the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Page S13057

McConnell (for Domenici/Bingaman) Amendment No. 2592, to extend the authorization of appropriations for the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992.

Page S13057

Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Act: Senate passed S. 761, to rename the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in the State of Idaho as the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in honor of the late Morley Nelson, an international authority on birds of prey, who was instrumental in the establishment of this National Conservation Area,

Page S13057

Fort Stanton-Snowy River National Cave Conservation Area Act: Senate passed S. 1170, to establish the Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S13058–59

McConnell (for Domenici/Bingaman) Amendment No. 2593, in the nature of a substitute.

Page S13059

McConnell (for Domenici) Amendment No. 2594, to amend the title.

Page S13059

Deschutes River Conservancy Reauthorization Act: Senate passed S. 166, to amend the Oregon Resource Conservation Act of 1996 to reauthorize the participation of the Bureau of Reclamation in the Deschutes River Conservancy. **Page S13060**

Little Butte/Bear Creek Subbasins Water Feasibility Act: Senate passed S. 251, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to conduct a water resource feasibility study for the Little Butte/Bear Creek Subbasins in Oregon, after agreeing to the committee amendments. **Page S13060**

Rio Arriba County Land Conveyance Act: Senate passed S. 213, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Rio Arriba County, New Mexico, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S13060–61**

Glendo Unit of the Missouri River Basin Project Contract Extension Act: Senate passed S. 592, to extend the contract for the Glendo Unit of the Missouri River Basin Project in the State of Wyoming. **Page S13061**

Pactola Reservoir Reallocation Authorization Act: Senate passed S. 819, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to reallocate costs of the Pactola Dam and Reservoir, South Dakota, to reflect increased demands for municipal, industrial, and fish and wildlife purposes. **Page S13061**

Nebraska Water Service Extension: Senate passed S. 891, to extend the water service contract for the Ainsworth Unit, Sandhills Division, Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, Nebraska. **Page S13061**

Alaska Water Resources Act: Senate passed S. 1338, to require the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation and the United States Geological Survey, to conduct a study on groundwater resources in the State of Alaska, after agreeing to the committee amendment. **Pages S13061–62**

Catoctin Mountain National Recreation Area Designation Act: Senate passed S. 777, to designate Catoctin Mountain Park in the State of Maryland as the “Catoctin Mountain National Recreation Area”, after agreeing to the committee amendments. **Page S13062**

California Public Land Order: Senate passed H.R. 1101, to revoke a Public Land Order with respect to certain lands erroneously included in the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, California. **Page S13063**

New Shipper Review Amendment Act: Committee on Finance was discharged from further con-

sideration of S. 695, to suspend temporarily new shipper bonding privileges, and the bill was then passed. **Page S13063**

Subsequently, the bill was then ordered held at the desk. **Page S12947**

Water for the Poor Act: Senate passed H.R. 1973, to make access to safe water and sanitation for developing countries a specific policy objective of the United States foreign assistance programs, clearing the measure for the President.

Internet Corporation Oversight: Senate agreed to S. Res. 317, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding oversight of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. **Pages S13063–65**

Tax Relief Act: Senate began consideration of S. 2020, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 202(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S12923–40**

Pending:

Dorgan Amendment No. 2587, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a temporary windfall profit tax on crude oil and to rebate the tax collected back to the American consumer. **Pages S12926–38**

Durbin Amendment No. 2596, to express the sense of the Senate concerning the provision of health care for children before providing tax cuts for the wealthy. **Pages S12938–40**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, November 17, 2005, with 10 hours of debate remaining. **Page S13065**

Science/State/Justice/Commerce Appropriations—Conference Report: By 94 yeas to 5 nays (Vote No. 329), Senate agreed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 2862, making appropriations for Science, the Department of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, clearing the measure for the President. **Pages S12921–23**

China Currency—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached to modify the order of July 1, 2005, with respect to S. 295, to authorize appropriate action in the negotiations with the People’s Republic of China regarding China’s undervalued currency are not successful, providing that the Majority Leader, after consultation with the Democratic Leader, shall, no later than March 31, 2006, call up the bill; with all other provisos remaining. **Page S12924**

Executive Reports of Committees: Senate received the following executive report from the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Report to accompany Convention Concerning Migratory Fish Stock in the Pacific Ocean (Treaty Doc. 109-1) (Ex. Rept. 109-8). **Page S12949**

Messages From the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled "United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act"; which was referred to the Committee on Finance. (PM-32) **Pages S12946-47**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Marc L. Kesselman, of Tennessee, to be General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture.

Richard T. Crowder, of Virginia, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.

Daniel Meron, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Claudia A. McMurray, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

Peter N. Kirsanow, of Ohio, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring August 27, 2008. **Page S13065**

Messages From the House: **Page S12947**

Measures Referred: **Page S12947**

Measures Placed on Calendar: **Page S12947**

Measures Held at Desk: **Page S12947**

Executive Communications: **Pages S12947-48**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S12948-49**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S12950**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S12950-60**

Additional Statements: **Pages S12945-46**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S12960-S13038**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S13038-39**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S13039**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total-329) **Pages S12906, S12921, S12923**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 7:25 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, November 17, 2005. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S13065.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch resumed hearings to examine the progress of Capitol Visitor Center construction, focusing on the estimate of the cost-to-complete the project, efforts to keep the project on schedule, and the status of critical activities such as stone installation and the utility tunnel construction, receiving testimony from Alan M. Hantman, Architect, and Robert C. Hixon, Jr., Capitol Visitor Center Project Manager, both of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol; Bernard L. Ungar, Director, and Terrell Dorn, Assistant Director, both of Physical Infrastructure Issues, Government Accountability Office; and Marvin Shenkler, Gilbane Company, Washington, D.C.

Hearing recessed subject to the call.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported 2,442 military Nominations: in the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 467, to extend the applicability of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

An original bill to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to award grants to public transportation agencies to improve security; and

The nominations of Ben S. Bernanke, of New Jersey, to be a Member and to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

MAGNUSON-STEVENSON FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2005, after receiving testimony from James L. Connaughton, Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality; John H. Dunnigan, Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce; Admiral James D. Watkins, U.S. Navy (Ret.), Chairman, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy; and George LaPointe, State of Maine Department of Marine Resources, Augusta.