

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 17 public bills, H.R. 4549–4565; 1 private bill, H.R. 4566; and 10 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 317–318; and H. Res. 611–618 were introduced.

Pages H11878–80

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H11880–81

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 619, providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 612) expressing the commitment of the House of Representatives to achieving victory in Iraq (H. Rept. 109-348);

H. Res. 620, waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (H. Rept. 109-349); and

H. Res. 621; providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4437) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen enforcement of the immigration laws, to enhance border security (H. Rept. 109-350).

Pages H11877–78

Pension Protection Act of 2005: The House passed H.R. 2830, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the pension funding rules by a recorded vote of 294 ayes to 132 noes, Roll No. 635.

Pages H11678–H11798

Rejected the Miller motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 200 yeas to 227 nays, Roll No. 634, after agreeing to the previous question.

Pages H11770–97

Pursuant to the rule, in lieu of the amendments reported by the Committees on Education and the Workforce and Ways and Means now printed in the bill, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part A of H. Rept. 109–346 shall be considered as adopted.

H. Res. 602, the rule providing for consideration of the bill was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 226 yeas to 199 nays, Roll No. 633, after agreeing to order the previous question.

Pages H11660–70, H111678

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated on Wednesday, December 14th: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the symbols and traditions of Christmas should be protected: H. Res. 579, amended, to express the sense of the House of Representatives that the symbols and traditions of Christmas should be

protected, by a yea-and-nay vote of 401 yeas to 22 nays with 5 voting “present”, Roll No. 637;

Pages H11799–H11800

Agreed to amend the title so as to read “Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the symbols and traditions of Christmas should be protected for those who celebrate Christmas.”

Page H11800

Urging the President to issue a proclamation for the observance of an American Jewish History Month: H. Con. Res. 315, to urge the President to issue a proclamation for the observance of an American Jewish History Month, by a yea-and-nay vote of 423 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 638; and

Page H11800

Urging the Government of the Russian Federation to withdraw or modify proposed legislation that would have the effect of severely restricting the establishment, operations, and activities of domestic and foreign nongovernmental organizations in the Russian Federation: H. Con. Res. 312, amended, to urge the Government of the Russian Federation to withdraw or modify proposed legislation that would have the effect of severely restricting the establishment, operations, and activities of domestic and foreign nongovernmental organizations in the Russian Federation, by a yea-and-nay vote of 405 yeas to 15 nays, Roll No. 641.

Pages H11858–59

Agreed to amend the title so as to read “Urging the Government of the Russian Federation to withdraw the first draft of the proposed legislation as passed in its first reading in the State Duma that would have the effect of severely restricting the establishment, operations, and activities of domestic, international, and foreign nongovernmental organizations in the Russian Federation, or to modify the proposed legislation to entirely remove these restrictions.”

Page H111859

Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005: The House began consideration on H.R. 4437, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen enforcement of the immigration laws, to enhance border security. Further consideration will continue at a later date.

Pages H11800–58

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 109–347, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole and shall be considered as read.

Pages H11820–37

Agreed to:

Carter amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 109–347) that requires the Secretary of Homeland

Security to include satellite communications in the plan authorized by Section 106 of H.R. 4473;

Pages H11837–38

Gohmert amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 109–347) which directs the Inspector General to refer any instances of misconduct or wrongdoing on a contract to the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security or other appropriate official for the purpose of evaluating whether or not suspension or debarment of the contractor is warranted;

Pages H11838–39

Johnson, Sam, of Texas amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 109–347) that expresses the sense of Congress that the President, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Secretary of Homeland Security and other Department Secretaries should immediately use every tool available to them to enforce the immigration laws of the U.S., as enacted by Congress;

Pages H11839–42

Renzi amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 109–347) which states that all uniforms procured for use by Border Patrol agents are to be made in the United States;

Pages H11842–43

Castle amendment (No. 5 printed in H. Rept. 109–347) that requires DHS to submit a timeline for: (1) equipping all land borders with the US-VISIT entry/exit system; (2) developing and deploying the exit component of the US-VISIT system at all land borders; and (3) making all border screening systems operated by the Department interoperable;

Pages H11843–45

Campbell amendment (No. 7 printed in H. Rept. 109–347) that amends Section 642 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 by replacing “Immigration and Naturalization Service” with “Department of Homeland Security” and enforces Section 642 by stating that the Attorney General shall not provide any grant amount to any Federal, State, or local government agency or entity that violates the Act (which states that any government official or entity may not be prohibited from sending information to DHS regarding the citizenship or immigration status of any individual);

Pages H11846–47

Castle amendment (No. 9 printed in H. Rept. 109–347) which requires the Department of Homeland Security to report to Congress on: (1) the number of illegal aliens from noncontiguous countries who are apprehended at or between ports of entry; (2) the number of such aliens that have been deported; and (3) the number of such aliens from countries identified as sponsors of terrorism. Also encourages the Department to develop a strategy for entering the appropriate background information of illegal aliens from countries sponsoring terrorism into appropriate security screening watch lists;

Pages H11850–51

Brown-Waite, Ginny of Florida amendment (No. 10 printed in H. Rept. 109–347) that inserts a new section declaring that Congress condemns rapes by

smugglers along the international land border of the U.S. and urges in the strongest possible terms the government of Mexico to work in coordination with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection of the Department of Homeland Security to take immediate action to prevent such rapes from occurring;

Pages H11851–52

DeFazio amendment (No. 12 printed in H. Rept. 109–347) that directs Customs and Border Protection (CPB) to conduct a pilot program to evaluate the use of automated systems for immediate prescreening of individual airline passengers bound for the U.S. before they board a plane. Pilot would use at least one airline in two foreign airports and evaluate up to three automated systems. CBP would be required to report to Congress no later than 30 days after completion of the pilot and provide a plan to fully deploy the most preferable prescreening system no later than January 1, 2007; and

Pages H11856–57

Hunter amendment (No. 11 printed in H. Rept. 109–347) that mandates the construction of specific security fencing, including lights and cameras, along the Southwest border for the purposes of gaining operational control of the border. Fencing has been designated in sectors that have the highest number of immigrant deaths, instances of drug smuggling and illegal border crossings. The amendment includes a requirement for the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a study on the use of physical barriers along the Northern border (by a recorded vote of 260 ayes to 159 noes, Roll No. 640).

Pages H11852–56, H11857–58

Rejected:

Jackson-Lee of Texas amendment (No. 8 printed in H. Rept. 109–347) that sought to provide guidelines for implementing the secured alternatives to detention provision in section 402(a) (by a recorded vote of 162 ayes to 252 noes, Roll No. 639).

Pages H11848–50, H11857

Withdrawn:

Gingrey amendment (No. 6 printed in H. Rept. 109–347) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn, which sought to suspend the Visa Waiver Program until the automated entry-exit program is operational and until ports of entry have functional biometric machine readers.

Pages H11845–46

H. Res. 610, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to, by a yea-and-nay vote of 220 yeas to 206 nays, Roll No. 636, after agreeing to order the previous question.

Pages H11670–78, H11798–99

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006—Motion to go to Conference: The House disagreed to the Senate amendment to H.R. 1815, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of

the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and agreed to a conference. **Pages H11859–67**

The House debated the Skelton motion to instruct conferees, the Chair announced that further consideration will be postponed. **Pages H11859–67**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President in accordance with the provisions of section 1512 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105–261). Certifying the export of 36 accelerometers to the People's Republic of China—referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered printed (H. Doc. 109–74). **Page H11868**

Succession of the Speaker of the House: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated Representative Blunt to act jointly with the Majority Leader of the Senate or his designee in the event of the death or inability of the Speaker, to notify Members of the House and Senate of any reassembly. **Page H11875**

Senate Message: Messages received from the Senate today appear on pages H11845 and H11867–68.

Senate Referrals: S. 1390 was referred to the Committee on Resources and S. 2116 was held at the desk. **Page H11878**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Six yea-and-nay votes and three recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H11678, H11797, H11798, H11798–99, H11799, H11800, H11857, H11858, and H11858–59. There were no quorum calls.

Recess: The House recessed at 12:04 a.m. and reconvened at 7:15 a.m. on Friday, December 16th. **Pages H11875, H11877**

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:16 a.m. on Friday, December 16th.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Ordered reported the following bills: H.R. 4167, National Uniformity for Food Act of 2005; and without recommendation H.R. 3699, amended, Federal and District of Columbia Government Real Property Act of 2005.

OVERSIGHT—DRUG DISCOUNT PROGRAM

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled "Oversight and Administration of the 340B Drug Discount Program: Improving Efficiency and Transparency." Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Health and Human Services: Stuart Wright, Deputy Inspector General, Evaluation and Inspections; and Dennis Williams, Deputy Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration; and public witnesses.

LOUISIANA RECOVERY CORPORATION ACT

Committee on Financial Services: Ordered reported, as amended, H.R. 4100, Louisiana Recovery Corporation Act.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS; COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Committee on Government Reform: Approved the following Investigative Reports "Bringing Communities into the 21st Century: A Report on Improving the Community Development Block Grant Program;" and "The Methamphetamine Epidemic: International Roots of the Problem, and Recommended Solutions."

The Committee also approved other pending Committee business.

RESOLUTION—IRAQ WAR DOCUMENT REQUEST

Committee on International Relations: Ordered reported, as amended, without recommendation H. Res. 549, Requesting the President of the United States provide to the House of Representatives all documents in his possession relating to his October 7, 2002, speech in Cincinnati, Ohio, and his January 28, 2003, State of the Union address.

OVERSIGHT—HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA EFFECTS ON GULF FISHING

Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on Fisheries and Oceans held an oversight hearing on the Effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on Fishing Resources, the Fishing Industry and Fishing Communities in the Gulf of Mexico. Testimony was heard from William T. Hogarth, Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Department of Commerce; and public witnesses.

RESOLUTION—EXPRESSING HOUSE COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVING VICTORY IN IRAQ

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice vote, a closed rule providing 1 hour of debate in the House on H. Res. 612, Expressing the commitment of the House of Representatives to achieving victory in Iraq, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the resolution. The rule provides one motion to recommit, which may not contain instructions. Section 2 of the rule provides that on the first legislative day of the second session of the One Hundred Ninth Congress, the House shall not conduct organization or legislative business. Testimony was heard from Representatives Ros-Lehtinen and Lantos.