

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY BUDGET

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2008 for the Environmental Protection Agency, after receiving testimony from Stephen L. Johnson, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency.

CREDIT CARD PRACTICES

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations concluded a hearing to examine fees, interests rates and grace periods relating to credit card practices, focusing on high fees charged for late payments, over-the-limit charges, including how those fees are assessed, how they add to interest costs, and how they contribute to consumer debt, and an industry practice requiring consumer payments to be applied first to balances with the lowest interest rates instead of to balances with the highest interest rates, after receiving testimony from Alys Cohen, National Consumer Law Center, Washington, D.C., on behalf of National Association of Consumer Advocates; Bruce L. Hammonds, Bank of America, and Richard J. Srednicki, Chase Card Services, both of Wilmington, Delaware; Vikram A. Atal, Citigroup Inc., New York, New York; and Wesley Wannemacher, Lima, Ohio.

AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine strengthening American competitiveness for the 21st Century, after receiving testimony from William H. Gates, Microsoft Corporation, Seattle, Washington.

MCCARRAN-FERGUSON ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the McCarran-Ferguson Act and Antitrust Immunity, including S. 618, to further

competition in the insurance industry, after receiving testimony from Senators Lott and Landrieu; Susan E. Voss, Iowa Department of Commerce, Des Moines, on behalf of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners; J. Robert Hunter, Consumer Federation of America, and Marc Racicot, American Insurance Association, both of Washington, D.C.; and Michael M. Homan, New Orleans, Louisiana.

ANTITRUST LAWS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights concluded an oversight hearing to examine the enforcement of antitrust laws, including S. 316, to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market, and S. 772, to amend the Federal antitrust laws to provide expanded coverage and to eliminate exemptions from such laws that are contrary to the public interest with respect to railroads, after receiving testimony from Thomas O. Barnett, Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division, Department of Justice; and Deborah Platt Majoras, Chairman, Federal Trade Commission.

VA CLAIMS ADJUDICATION PROCESS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Veterans' Administration disability benefits adjudication process, focusing on the timeliness and accuracy of decisions on claims and appeals, and efforts to reduce backlogs, and concerns about decisional consistency, after receiving testimony from Daniel L. Cooper, Under Secretary for Benefits, and James P. Terry, Chairman, Board of Veterans' Appeals, both of the Department of Veterans Affairs; Daniel Bertoni, Acting Director, Education, Workforce and Income Security, Government Accountability Office; John Rowan, Vietnam Veterans of America, Silver Spring, Maryland; and Rick Surratt, Disabled American Veterans, Cold Spring, Kentucky.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 32 public bills, H.R. 1365–1396; and 10 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 84; and H. Res. 218, 220–227 were introduced. **Pages H2300–02**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H2302–03**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 219, providing for consideration of H. Res. 202, providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Tenth Congress (H. Rept. 110–34).

Page H2300

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative McCollum to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H2245**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Rev. Martin L. Wilson, El Paso Sector Chaplain, U.S. Border Patrol. **Page H2245**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:05 a.m. for the purpose of receiving His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The House reconvened at 12:18 p.m., and agreed that the proceedings had during the Joint Meeting be printed in the Record. **Page H2245**

Joint Meeting to receive His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: The House and Senate met in a joint session to receive His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He was escorted into the Chamber by a committee comprised of Representatives Hoyer, Clyburn, Lantos, Rahall, Ackerman, Lowey, Boehner, Blunt, Putnam, Ros-Lehtinen, Issa, and Pence; and Senators Reid, Durbin, Leahy, Kerry, McConnell, Lott, Kyl, and Cornyn. **Page H2246**

Water Quality Investment Act of 2007: The House passed H.R. 569, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize appropriations for sewer overflow control grants, by a ye-a-and-nay vote of 367 yeas to 58 nays, Roll No. 125. **Pages H2250–65**

Agreed to the McHenry motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 425 yeas with none voting “no”, Roll No. 124. Subsequently, Representative Oberstar reported the bill back to the House with the amendment and the amendment was agreed to. **Pages H2263–65**

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and shall be considered as read. **Page H2258**

Agreed to:

King (IA) amendment (No. 3 printed in the Congressional Record of March 6, 2007) that reduces funds in the sewer overflow control grants section by 5 percent. **Pages H2258–59**

Rejected:

Price (GA) amendment (No. 1 printed in the Congressional Record of March 6, 2007) that sought to add a new section to the bill relating to the requirement of offsets (by a recorded vote of 166 yeas to 260 noes, Roll No. 123). **Pages H2259–61, H2262–63**

Point of Order sustained against:

Rohrabacher amendment (No. 2 printed in the Congressional Record of March 6, 2007) that sought

to add a new subsection relating to participation in the employment eligibility verification pilot program. **Pages H2261–62**

H. Res. 214, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by voice vote. **Page H2252**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:09 p.m. and reconvened at 4:07 p.m. **Page H2262**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated on Tuesday, March 6th:

Living Kidney Organ Donation Clarification Act: H.R. 710, amended, to amend the National Organ Transplant Act to clarify that kidney paired donation does not involve the transfer of a human organ for valuable consideration, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ ye-a-and-nay vote of 422 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 126. **Pages H2265–66**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To amend the National Organ Transplant Act to provide that criminal penalties do not apply to paired donations of human kidneys, and for other purposes.”. **Pages H2265–66**

Amendments: Amendments ordered printed pursuant to the rule appear on page H2303.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two ye-a-and-nay votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2262, H2264–65 and H2265. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:09 p.m.

Committee Meetings

FINANCING RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Energy, and Research held a hearing to review the financial structure of renewable energy resources. Testimony was heard from Thomas C. Dorr, Under Secretary, Rural Development, USDA; Andy Karsner, Assistant Secretary, Department of Energy; Kathleen McGinty, Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection, State of Pennsylvania; and public witnesses.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies held a hearing on Economic and Statistics Administration/Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Analysis. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Commerce: Cynthia A. Glassman, Under Secretary, Economic Affairs, Economics and