

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S3547–S3658*

**Measures Introduced:** Eighteen bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 957–974, S. Res. 117–120, and S. Con. Res. 23. **Pages S3607–08**

#### Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled “Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2007”. (S. Rept. No. 110–36).

S. 965, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007. (S. Rept. No. 110–37). **Page S3607**

#### Measures Passed:

*Authorizing Testimony:* Senate agreed to S. Res. 119, to authorize testimony by a former detailee of the Committee on the Judiciary. **Page S3647**

*National Rehabilitation Counselors Day:* Senate agreed to S. Res. 120, designating March 22, 2007, as National Rehabilitation Counselors Appreciation Day. **Pages S3647–48**

#### Measures Considered:

**Budget Resolution:** Senate continued consideration of S. Con. Res. 21, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 and 2009 through 2012, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S3547–S3603, S3648–55**

##### Adopted:

Baucus/Rockefeller Modified Amendment No. 504, to affirm the Senate’s commitment to the reauthorization of the State Children’s Health Insurance Program. **Pages S3561–62**

Grassley Amendment No. 502, to ensure the appropriate use of funds provided for the Smithsonian Institution. **Page S3564**

Carper/Coburn Amendment No. 538, to reduce the deficit by recovering improper payments. **Page S3576**

Lincoln Amendment No. 542, to provide the Veterans Benefits Administration with additional resources and staff to more effectively meet their in-

creasing workload and to address the unacceptably large claims backlog that continues to cause undue hardships for veterans and their families across the country. **Pages S3572–74, S3576**

Bayh/Snowe Amendment No. 526, to make permanent the tuition tax deduction and is fully offset by closing a portion of the tax gap through enhanced information reporting requirements. **Pages S3582–83**

Hutchison Modified Amendment No. 517, to provide for extension of the deduction for State and local sales taxes in a deficit-neutral manner. **Pages S3583–84**

By 54 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 97), Conrad Amendment No. 598, to create a deficit-neutral reserve fund for extending certain energy tax incentives. **Pages S3586–87**

##### Rejected:

By 45 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 89), DeMint Amendment No. 489, to establish a reserve fund for Social Security reform. **Pages S3560–61**

By 33 yeas to 64 nays (Vote No. 90), Allard Amendment No. 491, to pay down the Federal debt and eliminate government waste by reducing spending on programs rated ineffective by the Program Assessment Rating Tool. **Page S3561**

By 38 yeas to 59 nays (Vote No. 91), Cornyn Amendment No. 511, to provide a deficit-neutral reserve fund for the reauthorization of the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) that will cover kids first. **Pages S3562–63**

By 23 yeas to 74 nays (Vote No. 92), Cornyn/Gregg Modified Amendment No. 525, to provide for reconciliation instructions of \$33.8 billion to make provider payments more accurate, to improve Medicare Part B income relation provisions, expand those provisions to Medicare Part D and reduce the deficit. **Pages S3548–51, S3557, S3563**

By 44 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 93), Gregg (for Ensign) Amendment No. 472, to require wealthy Medicare beneficiaries to pay a greater share of their Medicare Part D premiums. **Pages S3551–54, S3555–60, S3584**

By 38 yeas to 58 nays (Vote No. 94), Sanders/Mikulski Modified Amendment No. 545, to restore the top marginal tax rate to pre-2001 levels on taxable

income in excess of \$1 million and use the increased revenue to increase funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Act. **Pages S3564–66, S3583, S3584–85**

By 47 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. 95), Enzi Amendment No. 497, to establish a 60-vote point of order for legislation that creates unfunded mandates on small business concerns.

**Pages S3566–69, S3585**

By 29 yeas to 67 nays (Vote No. 96), Thomas Amendment No. 498, to strike the reserve funds.

**Pages S3575–76, S3585–86**

By 42 yeas and 53 nays (Vote No. 98), Coleman Amendment No. 577, to provide budget levels to extend through 2012 the production tax credit for electricity produced from renewable resources, the Clean Renewable Energy Bonds, and energy tax provisions for energy efficient buildings and power plants.

**Pages S3569–70, S3587–88**

Withdrawn:

Grassley/Dorgan Amendment No. 464, to limit farm payments to \$250,000 per person per year and apply the savings to renewable energy/rural development, conservation, and nutrition. **Pages S3574–75**

Pending:

Kyl/Thune Amendment No. 583, to reform the death tax by setting the exemption at \$5 million per estate, indexed for inflation, and the top death tax rate at no more than 35% beginning in 2010, to avoid subjecting an estimated 119,200 families, family businesses, and family farms to the death tax each and every year, to promote continued economic growth and job creation, and to make the enhanced teacher deduction permanent.

**Pages S3570–72, S3577–82**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the resolution at 9 a.m. on Friday, March 23, 2007; that there be 30 minutes remaining for debate, equally divided and controlled between the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Budget Committee; that when the voting sequence begins, there be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to each vote in the sequence.

**Page S3647**

**Measures Indefinitely Postponed:**

*Gerald R. Ford, Jr. Post Office Building:* Senate indefinitely postponed S. 194, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1300 North Frontage Road West in Vail, Colorado, as the “Gerald R. Ford, Jr. Post Office Building”.

**Page S3647**

*Gale W. McGee Post Office Building:* Senate indefinitely postponed S. 219, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 152 North 5th Street in Laramie, Wyoming, as the “Gale W. McGee Post Office”.

**Page S3647**

*Lane Evans Post Office Building:* Senate indefinitely postponed S. 412, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2633 11th Street in Rock Island, Illinois, as the “Lane Evans Post Office Building”.

**Page S3647**

**Nomination Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nomination:

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

**Pages S3647, S3658**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

John C. Rood, of Arizona, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.

Michael J. Sullivan, of Massachusetts, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

38 Army nominations in the rank of general.

1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Army, Coast Guard, Foreign Service, Marine Corps, Public Health Service.

**Pages S3655–58**

**Messages from the House:**

**Pages S3605–06**

**Measures Referred:**

**Page S3606**

**Executive Communications:**

**Pages S3606–07**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Pages S3608–09**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**

**Pages S3609–31**

**Additional Statements:**

**Page S3605**

**Amendments Submitted:**

**Pages S3631–46**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:**

**Pages S3646–47**

**Record Votes:** Ten record votes were taken today. (Total—98) **Pages S3561, S3563, S3584, S3585, S3586, S3587, S3588**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 9:42 p.m., until 9 a.m. on Friday, March 23, 2007. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S3647.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### APPROPRIATIONS: MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans’ Affairs, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for Air Force military construction, housing, and base realignment