

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 26 public bills, H.R. 3745–3771; 1 private bill, H.R. 3772; and 10 resolutions, H.J. Res. 56–57; H. Con. Res. 226–228; and H. Res. 711–715 were introduced. **Pages H11314–16**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H11316–17**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Ross to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H11253**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Clay Evans, Pastor Emeritus, Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, Chicago, Illinois. **Page H11254**

MEJA Expansion and Enforcement Act of 2007: The House passed H.R. 2740, to require accountability for contractors and contract personnel under Federal contracts, by a recorded vote of 389 ayes to 30 noes, Roll No. 940. Consideration of the measure began on Wednesday, October 3rd. **Pages H11261–67**

Agreed to the Forbes motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 342 yeas to 75 nays, Roll No. 939. Subsequently, Representative Conyers reported the bill back to the House with the amendment and the amendment was agreed to. **Page H11266**

H. Res. 702, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to on Wednesday, October 3rd.

Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act of 2007: The House passed H.R. 3246, to amend title 40, United States Code, to provide a comprehensive regional approach to economic and infrastructure development in the most severely economically distressed regions in the Nation, by a yea-and-nay vote of 264 yeas to 154 nays, Roll No. 946. **Pages H11259–61, H11267–68, H11270–87**

Rejected the Jordan motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with instructions to report the same back to the House promptly with an amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 201 yeas to 218 nays, Roll No. 945. **Page H11284**

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, modified by the amendment printed in H. Rept. 110–361, shall be considered as adopted. **Page H11275**

H. Res. 704, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 227 yeas to 188 nays, Roll No. 942, after agreeing to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 224 yeas to 194 nays, Roll No. 941. **Pages H11267–68**

Adjournment Resolution: The House agreed to S. Con. Res. 49, providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate. **Page H11287**

Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act of 2007: The House passed H.R. 3648, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude discharges of indebtedness on principal residences from gross income, by a recorded vote of 386 ayes to 27 noes, Roll No. 948. **Pages H11255–59, H11268–70, H11287–98**

Rejected the Cantor motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House promptly with an amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 201 yeas to 212 nays with 1 voting “present”, Roll No. 947. **Pages H11296–97**

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in H. Rept. 110–360, shall be considered as adopted. **Page H11288**

H. Res. 703, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 222 yeas to 193 nays, Roll No. 944, after agreeing to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 223 yeas to 194 nays, Roll No. 943. **Pages H11255–59, H11269–70**

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed by unanimous consent to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, October 10th. **Page H11300**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 3 p.m. tomorrow, and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 9th for morning hour debate. **Page H11300**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate today appear on pages H11253–54 and H11287.

Senate Referrals: S. Con. Res. 45 was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and S. 2106 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. **Page H11313**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Eight yea-and-nay votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H11266, H11267, H11267–68, H11268, H11269, H11269–70, H11286, H11287, H11297 and H11297–98. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Committee Meetings

U.S. AGRICULTURE LABOR NEEDS

Committee on Agriculture: Held a hearing to review the labor needs of American agriculture. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ROLE OF DOD IN IRAQ/AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on the role of the Department of Defense in Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Afghanistan and Iraq. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Mitchell Shivers, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Central Asia Affairs, Office of the Secretary (Policy); MG Bobby J. Wilkes, USAF, Deputy Director, Politico-Military Affairs (Asia), Strategic Plans and Policy, The Joint Staff; Mark Kimmitt, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, Office of the Secretary; and COL (Promotable) Ralph O. Baker, USA, Deputy Director, Politico-Military Affairs (Middle East), Strategic Plans and Policy, The Joint Staff.

FEDERAL TAB—COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR WASTE

Committee on the Budget: Held a hearing on Issues in Federal Government Financial Liabilities: Commercial Nuclear Waste. Testimony was heard from Kim P. Cawley, Unit Chief, Natural and Physical Resources Cost Estimates Unit, CBO; Edward F. Sproat, III, Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Department of Energy; and Michael F. Hertz, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division, Department of Justice.

401(k) FAIR DISCLOSURE FOR RETIREMENT SECURITY ACT OF 2007

Committee on Education and Labor: Held a hearing on H.R. 3185, 401 (k) Fair Disclosure for Retirement Security Act of 2007. Testimony was heard from Bradford P. Campbell, Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials held a hearing on the following bills: H.R. 1055, Toxic Right-to-Know Protection Act; and H.R. 1103, Environmental Justice Act of 2007. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the EPA: Granta Y. Nakayama, Assistant Administrator, Office of Environment and Compliance Assurance; Wade Najjum, Assistant Inspector General for Program Evaluation; and Molly O'Neill, Assistant Administrator, Office of Environmental Information; Thomas M. Sullivan, Chief Counsel, Office of Advocacy, SBA; John B. Stephenson, Director, Natural Resources and Environment; Nancy Wittenberg, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection, State of New Jersey; and public witnesses.

U.S. BIO-LABORATORY SAFETY/SECURITY

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled "Germs, Viruses, and Secrets: The Silent Proliferation of Bio-Laboratories in the United States." Testimony was heard from Keith Rhodes, Chief Technologist, Center for Technology and Engineering, GAO; from the following officials of the Department of Health and Human Services: Richard Besser, M.D., Director, Coordinating Office for Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response; Robbin S. Weyant, Director, Division of Select Agents and Toxins, and Casey Chosewood, M.D., Director, Office of Health and Safety, Office of the Director, all with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and Hugh Auchincloss, M.D., Deputy Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, NIH; and public witnesses.

REAUTHORIZATION—MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity held a hearing entitled "Reauthorization of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act." Testimony was heard from Senators Reed and Allard; John McKinney, Senator, State of Connecticut; and public witnesses.

AFGHAN COUNTERNARCOTICS/POLICE TRAINING

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Middle East and South Asia held a hearing on Counternarcotics Strategy and Police Training in Afghanistan. Testimony was heard from Thomas Schweich, Coordinator for Counternarcotics and Justice Reform in Afghanistan, Department of State; and a public witness.