

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S15157–S15378

Measures Introduced: Eleven bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2452–2462, and S. Res. 402–403. **Pages S15233–34**

Measures Reported:

S. 506, to improve efficiency in the Federal Government through the use of high-performance green buildings, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 110–241)

S. 1429, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize the provision of technical assistance to small public water systems, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 110–242)

Report to accompany S. 1785, to amend the Clean Air Act to establish deadlines by which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall issue a decision on whether to grant certain waivers of preemption under that Act. (S. Rept. No. 110–243)

S. 781, to extend the authority of the Federal Trade Commission to collect Do-Not-Call Registry fees to fiscal years after fiscal year 2007, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 110–244)

S. 1965, to protect children from cybercrimes, including crimes by online predators, to enhance efforts to identify and eliminate child pornography, and to help parents shield their children from material that is inappropriate for minors, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 110–245)

S. 2096, to amend the Do-Not-Call Implementation Act to eliminate the automatic removal of telephone numbers registered on the Federal “do-not-call” registry, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 110–246)

S. 2004, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish epilepsy centers of excellence in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs. (S. Rept. No. 110–247)

S. 911, to amend the Public Health Service Act to advance medical research and treatments into pediatric cancers, ensure patients and families have access to the current treatments and information re-

garding pediatric cancers, establish a population-based national childhood cancer database, and promote public awareness of pediatric cancers, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1916, to amend the Public Health Service Act to modify the program for the sanctuary system for surplus chimpanzees by terminating the authority for the removal of chimpanzees from the system for research purposes, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S15233**

Measures Passed:

Boys Town 90th Anniversary Celebration: Senate agreed to S. Res. 403, congratulating Boys Town on its 90th anniversary celebration. **Pages S15372–73**

National Capital Region Mutual Aid Agreements: Senate passed S. 1245, to reform mutual aid agreements for the National Capital Region. **Page S15373**

Fair Treatment for Experienced Pilots Act: Senate passed H.R. 4343, to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify age standards for pilots engaged in commercial aviation operations, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S15373**

Sudan Accountability and Divestment Act: Senate passed S. 2271, to authorize State and local governments to divest assets in companies that conduct business operations in Sudan, to prohibit United States Government contracts with such companies, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S15373–77**

Harkin (for Dodd/Shelby) Amendment No. 3846, of a perfecting nature. **Page S15375**

Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act: Senate passed H.R. 3997, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief and protections for military personnel, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S15377–78**

Harkin (for Baucus/Grassley) Amendment No. 3847, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief and protections to military personnel. **Page S15378**

Harkin (for Baucus) Amendment No. 3848, to amend the title. **Page S15378**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that if Senate receives from the House of Representatives a message on H.R. 3997 with an amendment that is not germane to the Senate amendment, or the underlying bill, that the bill and its amendments be referred to the Committee on Finance. **Page S15378**

Measures Considered:

Farm Bill Extension Act: Senate continued consideration of H.R. 2419, to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Page S15179–S15224**

Adopted:

Reid (for McConnell) Amendment No. 3803 (to Amendment No. 3500), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of horses. **Page S15218**

Harkin (for Kennedy/Durbin) Amendment No. 3845 (to Amendment No. 3539), of a perfecting nature. **Page S15223**

Salazar (for Durbin) Amendment No. 3539 (to Amendment No. 3500), to provide a termination date for the conduct of certain inspections and the issuance of certain regulations. **Pages S15223–24**

Rejected:

By 37 yeas to 58 nays (Vote No. 418), Thune (for Gregg) Amendment No. 3671 (to Amendment No. 3500), to strike the section requiring the establishment of a Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network. **Pages S15179–82**

By 39 yeas to 56 nays (Vote No. 419), Thune (for Gregg) Amendment No. 3672 (to Amendment No. 3500), to strike a provision relating to market loss assistance for asparagus producers. **Page S15182**

By 19 yeas to 75 nays (Vote No. 420), Thune (for Alexander) Amendment No. 3551 (to Amendment No. 3500), to increase funding for the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems, with an offset. **Pages S15183–89, S15216**

By 14 yeas to 79 nays (Vote No. 421), Thune (for Alexander) Amendment No. 3553 (to Amendment No. 3500), to limit the tax credit for small wind energy property expenditures to property placed in service in connection with a farm or rural small business. **Pages S15183–89, S15216–17**

By 35 yeas to 58 nays (Vote No. 423), Thune (for Sessions) Modified Amendment No. 3596 (to Amendment No. 3500), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a pilot program under which agricultural producers may establish and contribute to tax-exempt farm savings accounts in lieu of obtaining federally subsidized crop insurance or noninsured crop assistance, to provide for contributions to such accounts by the Secretary of

Agriculture, to specify the situations in which amounts may be paid to producers from such accounts, and to limit the total amount of such distributions to a producer during a taxable year. **Pages S15218–20, S15222**

Withdrawn:

Gregg Amendment No. 3825 (to Amendment No. 3673), to change the enactment date. **Pages S15211–16**

By 41 yeas to 53 nays (Vote No. 422), Thune (for Gregg) Amendment No. 3673 (to Amendment No. 3500), to improve women's access to health care services in rural areas and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the delivery of obstetrical and gynecological services. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the amendment, having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, be withdrawn). **Pages S15189–95, S15217–18**

Chambliss (for Coburn) Amendment No. 3632 (to Amendment No. 3500), to modify a provision relating to the Environmental Quality Incentive Program. **Pages S15179, S15220–22**

Pending:

Harkin Amendment No. 3500, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S15179**

Harkin (for Dorgan/Grassley) Modified Amendment No. 3695 (to Amendment No. 3500), to strengthen payment limitations and direct the savings to increase funding for certain programs. **Pages S15179, S15203–11**

Brown Amendment No. 3819 (to Amendment No. 3500), to increase funding for critical Farm Bill programs and improve crop insurance. **Page S15179**

Klobuchar Amendment No. 3810 (to Amendment No. 3500), to improve the adjusted gross income limitation and use the savings to provide additional funding for certain programs and reduce the Federal deficit. **Page S15179**

Chambliss (for Cornyn) Amendment No. 3687 (to Amendment No. 3500), to prevent duplicative payments for agricultural disaster assistance already covered by the Agricultural Disaster Relief Trust Fund. **Page S15179**

Chambliss (for Coburn) Modified Amendment No. 3807 (to Amendment No. 3500), to ensure the priority of the farm bill remains farmers by eliminating wasteful Department of Agriculture spending on golf courses, junkets, cheese centers, and aging barns. **Pages S15179, S15222**

Chambliss (for Coburn) Amendment No. 3530 (to Amendment No. 3500), to limit the distribution to deceased individuals, and estates of those individuals, of certain agricultural payments. **Page S15179**

Salazar Amendment No. 3616 (to Amendment No. 3500), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of

1986 to provide incentives for the production of all cellulosic biofuels. **Page S15179**

Thune (for McConnell) Amendment No. 3821 (to Amendment No. 3500), to promote the nutritional health of school children, with an offset. **Page S15179**

Craig Amendment No. 3640 (to Amendment No. 3500), to prohibit the involuntary acquisition of farmland and grazing land by Federal, State, and local governments for parks, open space, or similar purposes. **Page S15179**

Thune (for Roberts/Brownback) Amendment No. 3549 (to Amendment No. 3500), to modify a provision relating to regulations. **Page S15179**

Domenici Amendment No. 3614 (to Amendment No. 3500), to reduce our Nation's dependency foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable, and alternative energy resources. **Page S15179**

Thune (for Gregg) Amendment No. 3674 (to Amendment No. 3500), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude charges of indebtedness on principal residences from gross income. **Page S15179**

Thune (for Gregg) Amendment No. 3822 (to Amendment No. 3500), to provide nearly \$1,000,000,000 in critical home heating assistance to low-income families and senior citizens for the 2007–2008 winter season, and reduce the Federal deficit by eliminating wasteful farm subsidies. **Pages S15179, S15195–S15203**

Thune (for Grassley/Kohl) Amendment No. 3823 (to Amendment No. 3500), to provide for the review of agricultural mergers and acquisitions by the Department of Justice. **Page S15179**

Thune (for Stevens) Amendment No. 3569 (to Amendment No. 3500), to make commercial fishermen eligible for certain operating loans. **Page S15179**

Thune (for Bond) Amendment No. 3771 (to Amendment No. 3500), to amend title 7, United States Code, to include provisions relating to rule-making. **Page S15179**

Tester Amendment No. 3666 (to Amendment No. 3500), to modify the provision relating to unlawful practices under the Packers and Stockyards Act. **Page S15179**

Schumer Amendment No. 3720 (to Amendment No. 3500), to improve crop insurance and use resulting savings to increase funding for certain conservation programs. **Page S15179**

Sanders Amendment No. 3826 (to Amendment No. 3822), to provide for payments under subsections (a) through (e) of section 2604 of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, and restore supplemental agricultural disaster assistance from the Agricultural Disaster Relief Trust Fund. **Page S15179**

Wyden Amendment No. 3736 (to Amendment No. 3500), to modify a provision relating to bio-energy crop transition assistance. **Page S15179**

Harkin/Kennedy Amendment 3830 (to Amendment No. 3500), relative to public safety officers. **Pages S15179, S15222**

Harkin/Murkowski Amendment No. 3639 (to Amendment No. 3500), to improve nutrition standards for foods and beverages sold in schools. **Page S15183**

Harkin Amendment No. 3844 (to Amendment No. 3830), relative to public safety officers. **Page S15223**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at 8:30 a.m., on Thursday, December 13, 2007, with the time until 9:15 a.m., be equally divided and controlled for debate only between the two Leaders, or their designees, and that Senate vote on Harkin (for Dorgan/Grassley) Modified Amendment No. 3695 (to Amendment No. 3500). **Page S15378**

Renewable Fuels, Consumer Protection, and Energy Efficiency Act—House Message: Senate resumed consideration of the House amendments to the Senate amendments to accompany H.R. 6, to move the United States toward greater energy independence and security, to increase the production of clean renewable fuels, to protect consumers from price gouging, to increase the energy efficiency of products, buildings, and vehicles, to promote research on and deploy greenhouse gas capture and storage options, and to improve the energy performance of the Federal Government, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Page S15218**

Pending:

Senator Reid motion to concur in the amendments of the House to the Senate amendments to the bill. **Page S15218**

Senator Reid entered a motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the Senate amendment to the text. **Page S15218**

Reid Amendment No. 3841 (to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the text), in the nature of a substitute. **Page S15218**

Reid Amendment No. 3842 (to Amendment No. 3841), to change the enactment date. **Page S15218**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the text with an amendment with reference to the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Tuesday, December 11, 2007, a vote on cloture will occur on Thursday, December 13, 2007, upon disposition of Harkin (for Dorgan/

Grassley) Modified Amendment No. 3695 (to Amendment No. 3500), following 2 minutes of debate. **Page S15218**

Appointments:

Congressional Award Board: The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 96–114, as amended, appointed the following individual to the Congressional Award Board: Patrick Murphy of Washington, D.C.

And reappointed the following individual to the Congressional Award Board: Andrew Ortiz of Arizona. **Page S15372**

China Economic Security Review Commission: The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, and after consultation with the ranking members of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, pursuant to Public Law 106–398, appointed the following individual as a member of the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: Patrick A. Mulloy of Virginia for a term beginning January 1, 2008 and expiring December 31, 2009, vice C. Richard D'Amato of Maryland,

And reappointed the following individual to the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: William A. Reinsch of Maryland for a term beginning January 1, 2008 and expiring December 31, 2009. **Page S15372**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

Robert F. Cohen, Jr., of West Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of six years expiring August 30, 2012.

Harvey E. Johnson, Jr., of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security. **Page S15378**

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Harvey E. Johnson, Jr., of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator and Chief Operating Officer, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, which was sent to the Senate on September 7, 2007. **Page S15378**

Messages from the House: **Pages S15231–32**

Measures Referred: **Page S15232**

Measures Read the First Time:

Pages S15232, S15378

Executive Communications: **Pages S15232–33**

Petitions and Memorials: **Page S15233**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S15234–35**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S15235–52**

Additional Statements: **Pages S15228–31**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S15252–S15372**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S15372**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S15372**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S15372**

Record Votes: Six record votes were taken today. (Total—423) **Page S15182, S15216–17, S15222**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 9:39 p.m., until 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2007. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S15378.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NORTH KOREA

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing to examine North Korea, focusing on the six-party talks, from Christopher R. Hill, Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Harvey E. Johnson, Jr., of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator and Chief Operating Officer, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Jeffrey William Runge, of North Carolina, to be Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs and Chief Medical Officer, who was introduced by Senator Burr, both of the Department of Homeland Security, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

ARBITRATION FAIRNESS ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution concluded a hearing to examine S. 1782, to amend chapter 1 of title 9 of United States Code with respect to arbitration, after receiving testimony from Tanya Solov, Office of the Secretary of State, Securities Department, Springfield, Illinois, on behalf of the North American Securities Administrators Association; Mark A. de Bernardo, Jackson Lewis,