

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session today. It will next meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, January 18, 2008.

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 50 public bills, H.R. 4931–4933, 4983–5029; 1 private bill, H.R. 5030; and 9 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 279–280; and H. Res. 921, 923–927 were introduced. **Pages H293–95**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H295–96**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 922, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3524) to reauthorize the HOPE VI program for revitalization of severely distressed public housing (H. Rept. 110–509) and H.R. 3959, to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to provide for the phase-in of actuarial rates for certain pre-FIRM properties, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–510). **Page H293**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Condemning the assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and reaffirming the commitment of the United States to assist the people of Pakistan in combating terrorist activity and promoting a free and democratic Pakistan: H. Res. 912, to condemn the assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to assist the people of Pakistan in combating terrorist activity and promoting a free and democratic Pakistan, by a 2/3 yeas-and-nays vote of 413 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 3; **Pages H30–35, H44**

Providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 4253, with an amendment: H. Res. 921, to provide for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 4253, with an amendment, by a 2/3 yeas-and-nays vote of 406 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 4; and **Pages H35–39, H44–45**

Providing for the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, as previously enrolled, with certain modifications to address the foreign sovereign immunities provisions of title 28, United States Code: H.R. 4986, to provide for the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, as previously enrolled, with certain modifications to address the foreign sovereign immunities provisions of title 28, United States Code, with respect to the attachment of property in certain judgments against Iraq and the lapse of statutory authorities for the payment of bonuses, special pays, and similar benefits for members of the uniformed services, by a 2/3 yeas-and-nays vote of 369 yeas to 46 nays, Roll No. 11. **Pages H75–H260**

S-MINER Act: The House passed H.R. 2768, to establish improved mandatory standards to protect miners during emergencies, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 214 yeas to 199 nays, Roll No. 10. **Pages H45–75**

Rejected the Souder motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Education and Labor with instructions to report the same back to the House promptly with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 197 yeas to 217 noes, Roll No. 9. **Pages H73–75**

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule. **Pages H54–60**

Accepted:

George Miller (CA) manager's amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 110–508) that provides the mining industry with more time to install a new generation of fire-resistant conveyor belts, provides funds for MSHA to purchase a new generation of dust monitoring devices to limit black lung disease, and ensures that breathable air requirements of the MINER Act of 2006 are properly implemented. In addition, the amendment requires that the Secretary of Labor conduct a study on substance abuse by miners with recommendations for policy changes, in consultation with all interested parties. The Secretary shall report the findings within six months of the bill's enactment and, if she deems it feasible and effective, shall be authorized to establish a miner substance abuse testing, rehabilitation, and treatment program within MSHA in consultation with the interested parties (by a recorded vote of 234 ayes to 183 noes, Roll No. 5); **Pages H60–64, H70**

Boucher amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 110–508) that authorizes \$10,000,000 to award grants to provide rehabilitation services to current and former miners suffering from mental health impairments, including drug addiction and substance abuse issues, which may have been caused or exacerbated by their work as miners (by a recorded vote of 364 ayes to 53 noes, Roll No. 6); and **Pages H64–65, H70–71**

Ellsworth amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 110–508) that offers relief to mine operators that have been assessed penalties and pay them in a timely fashion. It also establishes a trust fund within Treasury, composed of mine safety civil penalties. Funds from the trust fund can be used for mine safety inspections and investigations only (by a recorded vote of 416 ayes with none voting "no", Roll No. 7). **Pages H65–66, H71–72**

Rejected:

Wilson (SC) amendment in the nature of a substitute (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 110–508) that promotes the continued robust implementation of the 2006 MINER Act, increases worker safety by providing miners the opportunity to have a voice in mine safety, expands substance abuse programs to all mines to ensure safe working conditions for all miners, and addresses issues raised by the recent Crandall Canyon disaster (by a recorded vote of 188 ayes to 229 noes, Roll No. 8). **Pages H66–70, H72**

Agreed that the Clerk be authorized to make technical and conforming changes to reflect the actions of the House. **Page H75**

H. Res. 918, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by voice vote after agreeing to order the previous question by a year-and-nay vote of 222 yeas to 191 nays, Roll No. 2. **Pages H39–44**

Adjournment Resolution: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 279, providing for a conditional adjournment of the House. **Page H260**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five yea-and-nay votes and five recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H43–44, H44, H44–45, H70, H71, H71–72, H72, H74–75, H75, and H259–60. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Committee Meetings

IRAQ—POST SURGE ALTERNATIVES

Committee on Armed Services; Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on A Continuing Dialogue: Post-Surge Alternatives for Iraq. Testimony was heard from the following former officials of the Department of Defense: John J. Hume, Deputy Secretary; GEN John M. Keane, USA (Ret.), Vice Chief of Staff, Army; and GEN Barry McCaffrey, USA (Ret.)

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES—MEDICAID'S CRITICAL ROLE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled "Helping Families with Needed Care: Medicaid's Critical Role for Americans with Disabilities." Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

U.S.-PAKISTAN RELATIONS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia held a hearing on U.S.-Pakistan Relations: Assassination, Instability and the Future of U.S. Policy. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

HOPE VI IMPROVEMENT AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a voice vote, a structured rule providing 1 hour of general debate on H.R. 3524, HOPE VI Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2007, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except clauses 9 and 10 of rule XXI. The rule