

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4111–S4230

Measures Introduced: Twenty-three bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 758–780, S. Res. 97, and S. Con. Res. 16. **Pages S4171–72**

Measures Passed:

Authorizing Use of Capitol Rotunda: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 54, permitting the use of the Rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust. **Page S4226**

Commemorating 90 Years of U.S.-Polish Diplomatic Relations: Senate agreed to S. Res. 9, commemorating 90 years of U.S.-Polish diplomatic relations, during which Poland has proven to be an exceptionally strong partner to the United States in advancing freedom around the world. **Page S4227**

Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of NATO: Senate agreed to S. Res. 20, celebrating the 60th anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. **Page S4227**

Parliamentary Elections in Moldova: Senate agreed to S. Res. 56, urging the Government of Moldova to ensure a fair and democratic election process for the parliamentary elections on April 5, 2009. **Pages S4227–28**

Measures Considered:

Budget Resolution—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of S. Con. Res. 13, setting forth the congressional budget for the U.S. Government for fiscal year 2010, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2011 through 2014, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S4112–64**

Adopted:

Lincoln Amendment No. 775, to enhance future GI Bill benefits for members of the National Guard and Reserve by ensuring those benefits keep pace with the national average cost of tuition. **Pages S4121–22**

Lincoln Amendment No. 774, to provide a deficit-neutral reserve fund for improving child welfare. **Pages S4122–23**

Lieberman Amendment No. 763, to protect the American people from potential spillover violence from Mexico by providing \$550 million in additional funding for the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice and supporting the Administration's efforts to combat drug, gun, and cash smuggling by the cartels, by providing: \$260 million for Customs and Border Protection to hire, train, equip, and deploy additional officers and canines and conduct exit inspections for weapons and cash; \$130 million for Immigration and Customs Enforcement to hire, train, equip and deploy additional investigators; \$50 million to Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives to hire, train, equip, and deploy additional agents and inspectors; \$20 million for the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center; \$10 million for the Office of International Affairs and the Management Directorate at DHS for oversight of the Merida Initiative; \$30 million for Operation Stonegarden; \$10 million to the Department of Justice for competitive grants to support local, State, and Tribal law enforcement agencies located along the southern border and in High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas to address drug-related criminal activity; \$20 million to DHS for tactical radio communications; and \$20 million for upgrading the Traveler Enforcement Communications System. **Pages S4112, S4144, S4145**

Casey Amendment No. 783, to establish a reserve fund to fully fund the Long-Term Stability/Housing for Victims Program. **Pages S4113–14, S4146**

Kerry/Lugar Amendment No. 732, to restore full funding for the President's request for the international affairs budget, in support of development programs in Pakistan and Afghanistan, nuclear non-proliferation, foreign assistance, fighting global AIDS, promoting sustainable development, and other efforts, with an offset. **Pages S4117–19, S4146**

Isakson Amendment No. 762, to provide for a deficit-neutral reserve fund for providing a non-refundable Federal income tax credit for the purchase of a principal residence during a 1-year period. **Pages S4128–29, S4146**

Shaheen Amendment No. 776, to establish a reserve fund for monitoring of FHA-insured lending. **Pages S4129–30, S4146**

By a unanimous vote of 98 yeas (Vote No. 121), Ensign Amendment No. 804, to protect middle-income taxpayers from tax increases by providing a point of order against legislation that increase taxes on them, including taxes that arise, directly or indirectly, from Federal revenues derived from climate change or similar legislation. **Pages S4114–17, S4146–47**

By 82 yeas to 16 nays (Vote No. 122), Cornyn Amendment No. 806, to protect small businesses from higher taxes. **Page S4119–21, S4147, S4150–51**

Reed Amendment No. 836, to increase funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) by \$1.9 billion in FY 2010. **Pages S4135–41, S4148**

By 67 yeas to 31 nays (Vote No. 126), Johanns Amendment No. 735, to prohibit the use of reconciliation in the Senate for climate change legislation involving a cap and trade system. **Pages S4112, S4141–44, S4149–50**

Rejected:

By 43 yeas to 55 nays (Vote No. 119), Alexander Amendment No. 747, to create runaway debt point of order against consideration of a budget resolution that projects the ratio of public debt to GDP for any fiscal year in excess of 90 percent to ensure the continued viability of U.S. dollar and prevent doubling or tripling the debt burden on future generations. **Pages S4112, S4145**

By 40 yeas to 58 nays (Vote No. 120), Sessions Modified Amendment No. 772, to restore the budget discipline of the Federal Government by freezing nondefense discretionary spending for fiscal years 2010 and 2011, and limiting the growth of non-defense discretionary spending to 1 percent annually for fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014. **Pages S4112, S4144–46**

By 44 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 123), Gregg Amendment No. 835, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to address our Nation's long term fiscal problems. **Pages S4123–25, S4129, S4147–48**

By 43 yeas to 55 nays (Vote No. 124), Crapo Amendment No. 844, to protect the fiscal discipline on discretionary spending exercised by the reported budget resolution by extending the resolution's discretionary spending limits to exactly the same level as already assumed in the resolution to make sure that debt is not increased further than contemplated by this budget resolution as a result of subsequent budget resolutions or appropriation bills. **Pages S4130–35, S4148**

By 44 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 127), Kyl Amendment No. 793, to protect all patients by prohibiting the use of data obtained from comparative effectiveness research to deny coverage of items or services under Federal health care programs and to ensure that comparative effectiveness research accounts for advancement in genomics and personalized medicine, the unique needs of health disparity populations, and differences in the treatment response and the treatment preferences of patients. **Pages S4125–28, S4150**

Pending:

Ensign Amendment No. 805, to require certain higher-income beneficiaries enrolled in the Medicare prescription drug benefit to pay higher premiums, as is currently required for physicians' services and outpatient services, and as proposed in the budget of the U.S. Government most recently submitted by the President. **Page S4132**

McCain Amendment No. 882, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S4151–53**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 42 yeas to 56 nays (Vote No. 125), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to waive pursuant to section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, with respect to Whitehouse/Boxer Amendment No. 869, relative to a deficit-neutral reserve fund to invest in clean energy and preserve the environment. Subsequently, the point of order that the amendment was in violation of section 305(b)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, was sustained, and the amendment thus fell. **Pages S4148–49**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the resolution at 10 a.m., on Thursday, April 2, 2009, and that there be 90 minutes remaining for debate, equally divided and controlled between the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on the Budget, or their designees; with 40 minutes of that time for debate relative to the McCain Amendment No. 882 (listed above), with 20 minutes deducted for each manager, with the time for debate on McCain Amendment No. 882, equally divided and controlled

in the usual form; provided that the vote sequence of amendments be established with the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on the Budget, concurring on any order; provided that during any sequence of votes established, that there be 2 minutes of debate prior to any vote, equally divided and controlled in the usual form; provided further, that after the first vote in any sequence, the remaining votes be 10 minutes in duration. **Page S4228**

Civil Access to Justice Act—Referral Agreement:

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration S. 718, to amend the Legal Services Corporation Act to meet special needs of eligible clients, provide for technology grants, improve corporate practices of the Legal Services Corporation, and the bill then be referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. **Page S4226**

Messages from the House: **Pages S4169–70**

Measures Referred: **Page S4170**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S4170–71**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S4172–74**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S4174–97

Additional Statements: **Pages S4168–69**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S4197–S4226**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S4226**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S4226**

Record Votes: Nine record votes were taken today. (Total—127) **Page S4145, S4146, S4146–47, S4147, S4148, S4149, S4149–50, S4150**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:56 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 2, 2009. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4228.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Kathleen A. Merrigan, of Massachusetts, to be Deputy Secretary, who was introduced by Senator Leahy, Joe Leonard, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, who was introduced by Representative Kilpatrick, and James W. Miller, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, who was in-

troduced by Senator Conrad, all of the Department of Agriculture, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES OF WAR

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs concluded a hearing to examine assistance for civilian casualties of war, after receiving testimony from Dirk Dijkerman, Acting Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development; Ca Va Tran, Vietnam Assistance for the Handicapped, McLean, VA; John W. Chromy, CHF International, Washington, DC; Erica Gaston, Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict (CIVIC), New Orleans, LA; and Jonathan Tracy, National Institute of Military Justice, Falls Church, VA.

U.S. POLICY TOWARD AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine U.S. Policy toward Afghanistan and Pakistan, after receiving testimony from Michele A. Flournoy, Under Secretary for Policy, General David H. Petraeus, USA, Commander, U.S. Central Command, and Admiral Eric T. Olson, USN, Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, all of the Department of Defense.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Ashton B. Carter, of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, and James N. Miller, Jr., of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary for Policy, both of the Department of Defense.

Also, committee ordered favorably reported 3,952 nominations in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps.

RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD OVERSIGHT

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's renewable fuel standard, after receiving testimony from Charles T. Drevna, National Petrochemical and Refiners Association, on behalf of National Marine Manufacturers Association and Outdoor Power Equipment Institute, A. Blakeman Early, American Lung Association, and Michael McAdams, Advanced Biofuels Association, all of Washington, DC; Kelly J. Tiller, University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and Nathanael Greene, Natural Resources Defense Council, New York, NY.