

# Daily Digest

## HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 1249, Leahy-Smith America Invents Act.

House and Senate met in a Joint Session to receive a message from the President of the United States.

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S5395–S5470*

**Measures Introduced:** Thirteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1523–1535, S.J. Res. 27, and S. Res. 259–260. **Pages S5458–59**

#### Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled “Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2012”. (S. Rept. No. 112–76)

S. 657, to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in order to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1525, to extend the authority of Federal-aid highway programs. **Page S5458**

#### Measures Passed:

**Leahy-Smith America Invents Act:** By 89 yeas to 9 nays (Vote No. 129), Senate passed H.R. 1249, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform, after taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S5402–43**

Rejected:

By 47 yeas to 51 nays (Vote No. 126), Sessions Amendment No. 600, to strike the provision relating to the calculation of the 60-day period for application of patent term extension.

**Pages S5402–07, S5425–36**

By 13 yeas to 85 nays, 1 responding present (Vote No. 127), Cantwell Amendment No. 595, to establish a transitional program for covered business method patents. **Pages S5407–18, S5436–37**

Coburn Modified Amendment No. 599, to amend the provision relating to funding the Patent and Trademark Office by establishing a United States Patent and Trademark Office Public Enterprise

Fund. (By 50 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. 128), Senate tabled the amendment.) **Pages S5418–25, S5437–39**

**Authorizing the Use of the Capitol Grounds:** Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 67, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run. **Page S5464**

**Authorizing the Use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center:** Committee on Rules and Administration was discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 28, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service, United States Army, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S5464**

**National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 259, designating September 9, 2011, as “National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day.”

**Pages S5464–65**

**75th Anniversary of Shenandoah National Park:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 260, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the dedication of Shenandoah National Park. **Page S5465**

#### Measures Considered:

**Debt Limit Increase Resolution of Disapproval:** Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 25, relating to the disapproval of the President’s exercise of authority to increase the debt limit, as submitted under section 3101A of title 31, United States Code, on August 2, 2011.

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

By 45 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 130), Senate did not agree to the motion to proceed to consideration of the resolution. **Page S5466**

**Message from the President:** Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting the President's address concerning proposals to create jobs and improve the economy delivered to a Joint Session of Congress on September 8, 2011; which was ordered to lie on the table. (PM-18) **Pages S5451-54**

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

Cyrus Amir-Mokri, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank for a term of three years.

Cyrus Amir-Mokri, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Stephanie Dawn Thacker, of West Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Gregg Jeffrey Costa, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Kathryn Keneally, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

16 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Foreign Service, Marine Corps, Navy, and Public Health Service. **Pages S5466-70**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S5454**

**Measures Placed on the Calendar:** **Pages S5395, S5454**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S5454-58**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Page S5458**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S5459-60**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S5460-63**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S5449-51**

**Notices of Hearings/Meetings:** **Pages S5463-64**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S5464**

**Record Votes:** Five record votes were taken today. (Total—130) **Pages S5436-37, S5439, S5442, S5466**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 8:30 p.m., until 9:45 a.m. on Friday, September 9, 2011. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5466.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

An original bill entitled, "Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act of 2011";

An original bill entitled, "Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act of 2011"; and

The nominations of Anthony Frank D'Agostino, of Maryland, and Gregory Karawan, of Virginia, both to be a Director of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation, Luis A. Aguilar, of Georgia, and Daniel M. Gallagher, Jr., of Maryland, both to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, S. Roy Woodall, Jr., of Kentucky, to be a Member of the Financial Stability Oversight Council, Martin J. Gruenberg, of Maryland, to be a Member and to be Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and Thomas J. Curry, of Massachusetts, to be Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill entitled, "The Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2012."

### TAX REFORM OPTIONS

*Committee on Finance:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine tax reform options, focusing on international issues, after receiving testimony from Philip R. West, Steptoe & Johnson LLP, Washington, D.C.; James R. Hines Jr., and Reuven S. Avi-Yonah, both of the University of Michigan Law School, Ann Arbor; and Scott M. Naatjes, Cargill, Incorporated, Wayzata, Minnesota.

### AFGHANISTAN

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Subcommittee on International Development and Foreign Assistance, Economic Affairs and International Environmental Protection concluded a hearing to examine Afghanistan, focusing on right sizing the development footprint, after receiving testimony from Daniel Feldman, Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Department of State; and J. Alexander Thier, Assistant to the Administrator and Director of the Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs, United States Agency for International Development.