

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed S. 1813, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century, as amended.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1639–S1683

Measures Introduced: One bill and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2191, and S. Res. 396. **Pages S1679–80**

Measures Passed:

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century: By 74 yeas to 22 nays (Vote No. 48), Senate passed S. 1813, to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, after taking action on the following amendments proposed there-to: **Pages S1645–60**

Adopted:

Coats (for Alexander) Amendment No. 1779, to make technical corrections to certain provisions relating to overflights of National Parks. **Pages S1645, S1649**

By 76 yeas to 20 nays (Vote No. 46), Boxer Amendment No. 1816, to express the sense of the Senate that Federal agencies should ensure that all applicable environmental reviews, approvals, licensing, and permit requirements under Federal law are completed on an expeditious basis after a disaster or emergency. **Pages S1647, S1649–50**

Rejected:

Corker Amendment No. 1810, to ensure that the aggregate amount made available for transportation projects for a fiscal year does not exceed the estimated amount available for those projects in the Highway Trust Fund for the fiscal year. **Pages S1645, S1649**

Withdrawn:

McCain Modified Amendment No. 1669, to enhance the natural quiet and safety of airspace of the Grand Canyon National Park. **Pages S1645, S1648–49**

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

By 42 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 47), 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 and section 4(g)(3) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, and all applicable sections of those acts and applicable budget resolutions with respect to Paul Amendment No. 1556, to permit emergency exemptions from compliance with certain laws for highway construction projects. Subsequently, the Chair sustained a point of order against Paul Amendment No. 1556, as being in violation of section 311(a)(2)(A) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and the amendment thus fell. **Pages S1647, S1650**

Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 396, supporting the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week. **Pages S1682–83**

Reopening American Capital Markets to Emerging Growth Companies Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 11 a.m., on Thursday, March 15, 2012, Senate begin consideration of H.R. 3606, to increase American job creation and economic growth by improving access to the public capital markets for emerging growth companies. **Pages S1674–75**

Cloture Motions Withdrawn—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the cloture motions relative to the nominations of Gina Marie Groh, of West Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia, David Nuffer, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, Michael Walter Fitzgerald, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Ronnie Abrams, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Rudolph Contreras, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Miranda Du, of Nevada, to be United States

District Judge for the District of Nevada, Susie Morgan, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, Gregg Jeffrey Costa, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, David Campos Guaderrama, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas, Brian C. Wimes, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri, Kristine Gerhard Baker, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas, John Z. Lee, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, George Levi Russell III, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, John J. Tharp, Jr., of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Jeffrey J. Helmick, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, Mary Geiger Lewis, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, and Timothy S. Hillman, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, be withdrawn. **Page S1658**

Groh and Fitzgerald Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 1:45 p.m., on Thursday, March 15, 2012, Senate resume consideration of the nominations of Gina Marie Groh, of West Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia, and Michael Walter Fitzgerald, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California; that there be 15 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote without intervening action or debate on confirmation of the nominations of Gina Marie Groh, of West Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia, and Michael Walter Fitzgerald, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, in that order; and that no further motions be in order. **Page S1682**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S1679**

Executive Communications: **Page S1679**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S1680**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Page S1680**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1678–79**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S1681–82**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S1682**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S1682**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—48) **Pages S1650, S1659**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:45 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 15, 2012. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1683.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

FEDERAL ONSHORE AND OFFSHORE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OVERSIGHT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies concluded an oversight hearing to examine Federal onshore and offshore energy development programs in the Department of the Interior, after receiving testimony from Robert V. Abbey, Director, Bureau of Land Management, Tommy P. Beaudreau, Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and James Watson, Director, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, all of the Department of the Interior.

APPROPRIATIONS: U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the United States Agency for International Development, after receiving testimony from Rajiv Shah, Administrator, United States Agency for International Development.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of the Air Force, after receiving testimony from Michael B. Donley, Secretary of the Air Force, and General Norton A. Schwartz, Chief of Staff, United States Air Force, both of the Department of Defense.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of Labor, after receiving testimony from Hilda L. Solis, Secretary of Labor.