

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2613–S2661

Measures Introduced: Seven bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2339–2345, and S. Res. 432–434. **Page S2655**

Measures Reported:

S. 237, to amend title 31, United States Code, to enhance the oversight authorities of the Comptroller General, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 112–159) **Page S2655**

Measures Passed:

Surface Transportation Extension Act: Pursuant to the order of March 7, 2012, Senate passed H.R. 4348, to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a multiyear law reauthorizing such programs, as amended, after striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the text of S. 1813, to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, as amended and passed by the Senate, and pursuant to the order of March 7, 2012, insisted on its amendment, requested a conference with the House thereon, and the Chair was authorized to appoint the following conferees on the part of the Senate: Senators Boxer, Baucus, Rockefeller, Durbin, Johnson (SD), Schumer, Nelson (FL), Menendez, Inhofe, Vitter, Hatch, Shelby, Hutchison, and Hoeven. **Page S2615**

Dia de los Ninos: Celebrating Young Americans: Senate agreed to S. Res. 432, designating April 30, 2012, as “Dia de los Ninos: Celebrating Young Americans”. **Page S2660**

National Child Abuse Prevention Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 433, designating April 2012 as “National Child Abuse Prevention Month”. **Page S2660**

Measures Considered:

Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the

motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1925, to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994.

Pages S2615–16, S2630–34

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, April 25, 2012, and that following the remarks of the two Leaders, the time until 2 p.m. be equally divided and controlled between the two Leaders, or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first 30 minutes and the Majority controlling the second 30 minutes; provided further, that the Republicans control the time from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., and the Majority control the time from 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Page S2661

National Labor Relations Board: Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 36, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to representation election procedures. **Pages S2616–27, S2634–51**

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

By 45 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 68), Senate did not agree to the motion to proceed to consideration of the joint resolution. **Page S2634**

21st Century Postal Service Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of S. 1789, to improve, sustain, and transform the United States Postal Service, taking action on the following amendments and motions proposed thereto: **Page S2634**

Adopted:

Tester Modified Amendment No. 2056 (to Amendment No. 2000), to modify the process for closing or consolidating post offices and postal facilities. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the requirement of a 60 affirmative vote threshold, be vitiated.) **Pages S2637–39**

Coburn Amendment No. 2060 (to Amendment No. 2000), to provide transparency, accountability, and limitations of Government sponsored conferences. (A unanimous-consent agreement was

reached providing that the requirement of a 60 affirmative vote threshold, be vitiated.) **Pages S2639–40**

Wyden Modified Amendment No. 2020 (to Amendment No. 2000), to require the Postal Service to consider the effect of closing or consolidating a postal facility on the ability of the affected community to vote by mail and to provide for a moratorium on the closing or consolidation of post offices and postal facilities to protect the ability to vote by mail. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the requirement of a 60 affirmative vote threshold, be vitiated.) **Page S2641**

Coburn Modified Amendment No. 2058 (to Amendment No. 2000), to improve access to postal services in communities potentially affected by a postal closing or consolidation. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the requirement of a 60 affirmative vote threshold, be vitiated.) **Pages S2641–42**

McCaskill Modified Amendment No. 2031 (to Amendment No. 2000), to prohibit the closing of a rural post office unless certain conditions are met and to establish a moratorium on the closing of rural post offices. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the requirement of a 60 affirmative vote threshold, be vitiated.) **Pages S2643–44**

Snowe Modified Amendment No. 2080 (to Amendment No. 2000), to require the Postal Rate Commission to evaluate area mail processing studies. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the requirement of a 60 affirmative vote threshold, be vitiated.) **Page S2644**

Durbin Modified Amendment No. 2082 (to Amendment No. 2000), to prohibit the Postal Service from closing, consolidating, or reducing the workforce of certain postal facilities. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the requirement of a 60 affirmative vote threshold, be vitiated.) **Pages S2645–46**

Bennet Modified Amendment No. 2047 (to Amendment No. 2000), to establish citizen's service protection advocates, to require the Strategic Advisory Commission on Postal Service Solvency and Innovation to study the advisability of the Postal Service entering into inter-agency agreements with respect to post offices, and to require the Postal Service to develop a strategic plan for entering into such inter-agency agreements. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the requirement of a 60 affirmative vote threshold, be vitiated.) **Pages S2647–49**

Rejected:

By 30 yeas to 69 nays (Vote No. 70), McCain/Coburn Amendment No. 2033 (to Amendment No. 2000), to establish the Commission on Postal Reorganization. (Pursuant to the order of Thursday, April

19, 2012, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Pages S2640–41**

By 33 yeas to 65 nays (Vote No. 71), Coburn Modified Amendment No. 2061 (to Amendment No. 2000), to achieve long-term cost-savings by allowing the Postmaster General to reduce the postal workforce through mandatory retirements for eligible employees. (Pursuant to the order of Thursday, April 19, 2012, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Pages S2642–43**

By 43 yeas to 56 nays (Vote No. 72), Udall (NM) Modified Amendment No. 2043 (to Amendment No. 2000), to strike the limitations on changes to mail delivery schedule, with an offset. (Pursuant to the order of Thursday, April 19, 2012, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Pages S2644–45**

By 46 yeas to 53 nays (Vote No. 73), Akaka Amendment No. 2034 (to Amendment No. 2000), to provide appropriate workers compensation for Federal employees. (Pursuant to the order of Thursday, April 19, 2012, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Pages S2646–47**

By 29 yeas to 70 nays (Vote No. 74), Corker Amendment No. 2083 (to Amendment No. 2000), to improve the bill. (Pursuant to the order of Thursday, April 19, 2012, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Page S2649**

By 57 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 75), Akaka Amendment No. 2049 (to Amendment No. 2000), to allow supervisory and other managerial organizations to participate in the planning and development of changes in, or termination of, pay policies and schedules and fringe benefit programs. (Pursuant to the order of Thursday, April 19, 2012, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Pages S2649–50**

By 35 yeas to 64 nays (Vote No. 76), Paul Amendment No. 2025 (to Amendment No. 2000), to end the mailbox use monopoly. (Pursuant to the order of Thursday, April 19, 2012, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Pages S2650–51**

Pending:

Reid (for Lieberman) Modified Amendment No. 2000, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S2634**

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

By 62 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. 69), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion

to waive pursuant to section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the waiver provisions of applicable budget resolutions with respect to Reid (for Lieberman) Modified Amendment No. 2000, in the nature of a substitute. Subsequently, the point of order that the amendment was in violation of section 201(a) of S. Con. Res. 21, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, was not sustained. **Page S2637**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at 2 p.m., on Wednesday, April 25, 2012. **Page S2661**

Appointments:

U.S.-Japan Interparliamentary Group Conference: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Section 5 of Title I of Division H of Public Law 110–161, appointed the following Senator as Vice Chairman of the U.S.-Japan Interparliamentary Group conference for the 112th Congress: Senator Murkowski. **Page S2660**

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

Pages S2654, S2660–61

Executive Communications: **Pages S2654–55**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2655–57**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S2657–59

Additional Statements: **Pages S2653–54**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S2659**

Privileges of the Floor: **Pages S2659–60**

Record Votes: Nine record votes were taken today. (Total—76)

Pages S2634, S2637, S2641, S2643, S2645, S2647, S2649–51

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:03 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 25, 2012. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S2661.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development approved for full committee consideration an original bill making appropriations for Energy and Water Development for fiscal year 2013.

MF GLOBAL

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the col-

lapse of MF Global, focusing on lessons learned and policy implications, after receiving testimony from Jill E. Sommers, Commodity Futures Trading Commission; Robert Cook, Director, Division of Trading and Markets, United States Securities and Exchange Commission; James W. Giddens, Trustee for the Securities Investor Protection Act Liquidation of MF Global Inc., and Louis J. Freeh, Trustee of MF Global Holdings Ltd., both of New York, New York; Richard G. Ketchum, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Rye, New York; and Terrence A. Duffy, CME Group Inc., Chicago, Illinois.

ONLINE VIDEO

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the emergence of online video, focusing on if it is the future, after receiving testimony from Barry Diller, IAC, and Susan D. Whiting, Nielsen, both of New York, New York; Paul Misener, Amazon.com, Washington, D.C.; and Blair Westlake, Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, Washington.

WATER AND WILDLIFE BILLS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife concluded a hearing to examine S. 810, to prohibit the conducting of invasive research on great apes, S. 1249, to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States, S. 2071, to grant the Secretary of the Interior permanent authority to authorize States to issue electronic duck stamps, S. 357, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to identify and declare wildlife disease emergencies and to coordinate rapid response to those emergencies, S. 1494 to reauthorize and amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act, S. 1266, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to build on and help coordinate funding for the restoration and protection efforts of the 4-State Delaware River Basin region, S. 2156, to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to permit the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, to set prices for Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps and make limited waivers of stamp requirements for certain users, S. 2282, to extend the authorization of appropriations to carry out approved wetlands conservation projects under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act through fiscal year 2017, after receiving testimony from Senators Begich and Udall (CO); Dan Ashe, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; James Anderson, Director, Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives, National Institutes of