

Medicare Cost Containment, Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 [31 U.S.C. 1105 note]. (Days of Senate session);

Minimum Standards for Identification of Documents; Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 [49 U.S.C. 44901 note]. (Days of Senate session); and

Independent Payment Advisory Board [42 U.S.C. 1395kkk]. (Days of continuous session).

TABLE I. PRO FORMA SESSIONS OF THE U.S. SENATE: 2005–2012
[As of March 8, 2012]

Congress & Years	Pro forma Day
112th (2011–2012)	02/24/2012 02/21/2012 01/20/2012 01/17/2012 01/13/2012 01/10/2012 01/06/2012 01/03/2012 12/30/2011 12/27/2011 12/23/2011 12/20/2011 11/25/2011 11/22/2011 10/27/2011 10/24/2011 10/07/2011 09/29/2011 09/02/2011 08/30/2011 08/26/2011 08/23/2011 08/19/2011 08/16/2011 08/12/2011 08/09/2011 08/05/2011 06/03/2011 05/31/2011 11/12/2010 11/10/2010 11/08/2010 11/04/2010 11/01/2010 10/29/2010 10/26/2010 10/22/2010 10/19/2010 10/15/2010 10/12/2010 10/08/2010 10/05/2010 10/01/2010 01/19/2010 01/05/2010 10/09/2009 08/10/2010 12/30/2008 12/26/2008 12/23/2008 12/19/2008 12/16/2008 12/12/2008 12/05/2008 12/02/2008 11/29/2008 11/26/2008 11/24/2008 11/13/2008 11/10/2008 11/06/2008 11/03/2008 10/30/2008 10/27/2008 10/23/2008 10/20/2008 10/16/2008 10/14/2008 10/10/2008 10/07/2008 10/06/2008 09/05/2008 09/02/2008 08/29/2008 08/26/2008 08/22/2008 08/19/2008 08/15/2008 08/12/2008 08/08/2008 08/05/2008 07/27/2008 06/30/2008 05/29/2008 05/27/2008 05/23/2008 03/27/2008 03/24/2008 03/21/2008 03/18/2008 02/22/2008 02/19/2008
111th (2009–2010)	
110th (2007–2008)	

TABLE I. PRO FORMA SESSIONS OF THE U.S. SENATE: 2005–2012—Continued
[As of March 8, 2012]

Congress & Years	Pro forma Day
	02/15/2008 01/18/2008 01/15/2008 01/11/2008 01/09/2008 01/07/2008 01/03/2008 12/31/2007 12/28/2007 12/26/2007 12/23/2007 12/21/2007 11/29/2007 11/27/2007 11/23/2007 11/20/2007 11/09/2007 10/05/2007 09/14/2007 01/24/2006 01/20/2006 01/03/2006
109th (2005–2006)	

Source: CRS analysis of relevant issues of the Congressional Record, Senate Calendar of Business, and data from the Legislative Information System of the U.S. Congress (LIS).

I trust that this information meets your needs. If I can be of any additional help, please do not hesitate to contact me at 7-0656 or cmdavis@crs.loc.gov.

DROUGHT

Mr. DURBIN. About 2 weeks ago, I visited a farm near my home town of Springfield, IL to see the impact of the ongoing drought.

From the road, I couldn't tell there was anything wrong with the crop.

But as we went into the field, it quickly became clear that the crop was in poor shape.

Following that visit, I met with the Illinois corn growers and the soybean growers and farmers from across the state.

The message I heard was straightforward; it is as bad or worse than it has been in decades.

Since that visit to a Springfield farm, drought conditions have only gotten worse.

100 percent of Illinois and 64 percent of the country is facing severe or harsher drought conditions.

Today, USDA announced 66 additional Illinois counties as primary disaster counties.

With this announcement, all but four counties, Will, Cook, Kane, DuPage—in Illinois qualify for disaster assistance.

Very little rain, combined with abnormally high temperatures, is decimating many of the primary crop-growing areas of the country.

71 percent of the corn crop and 56 percent of the soybean crop in Illinois is rated as poor or very poor.

This is in a State that regularly ranks as a top producer for both of these commodities.

That means feed prices for livestock and eventually food prices for the rest of us are increasing.

Everyone is going to feel the impact of this historic drought.

In response to conditions on the ground, Governor Quinn created a multi-agency drought task force in Illinois.

The task force is coordinating State and Federal resources to ensure pro-

ducers and communities are receiving the timely assistance.

President Obama and Secretary Vilsack have done a commendable job of taking steps to help provide assistance to impacted producers and communities.

They have sped up the disaster declaration process helping producers more quickly gain access to the limited disaster programs currently available.

They have reduced interest rates on emergency loans.

They have made it easier for land that is in conservation to open earlier for haying and grazing for livestock producers.

And the administration is working with crop insurance companies to try to give producers more time to make premium payments.

But we can do more.

And since we can't make rain, the single most important step Congress can take is to pass a farm bill.

Most farmers will tell you they can survive one bad year.

But right now farmers can't even plan for future years.

More than a month ago, the Senate passed the Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Act, more commonly known as the farm bill, with a 64–35 bipartisan vote.

The bill would reauthorize several expired disaster programs to immediately help producers.

Equally, if not more important, the bill would provide certainty for producers—allowing them to make long-term plans for getting through this drought and recovering from a bad year.

Unfortunately the House has failed to act.

In the roughly 40 days since the Senate passed a bill, the House has not even brought a companion measure to the House floor. During those 40 days another 20 percent of the country has developed drought conditions. During those 40 days, 98 of 102 counties in Illinois qualified for disaster assistance. During those 40 days, many farmers in Illinois have lost their crops.

It is well past time for the House to take up and pass a farm bill that includes robust disaster assistance paired with the long-term policy farmers need.

I will repeat something I said 2 weeks ago.

Our producers and rural America already face a natural disaster. I don't think it is too much that we spare them a manmade disaster by failing to pass a farm bill.

DEATH OF OSWALDO PAYÁ

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, some of you may have seen in the press last week that an inspiring Cuban citizen who tirelessly fought for a peaceful transition to democracy recently died in a tragic car accident on that island.

Oswaldo Payá was a modest man. A brave man. A hero. A Cuban patriot.