

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5595–S5650

Measures Introduced: Twenty-one bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2812–2832, and S. Res. 546–550. **Pages S5628–29**

Measures Reported:

S. 2061, to prevent conflicts of interest relating to contractors providing background investigation fieldwork services and investigative support services, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–257)

S. 1898, to require adequate information regarding the tax treatment of payments under settlement agreements entered into by Federal agencies, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2651, to repeal certain mandates of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S5627**

Measures Passed:

Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act: Senate passed S. 2539, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to traumatic brain injury and to trauma research, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S5643**

All-American Flag Act: Senate passed S. 1214, to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government. **Pages S5643–44**

Government Reports Elimination Act: Senate passed H.R. 4194, to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S5644–47**

Heitkamp (for Carper) Amendment No. 3820, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S5647**

Smart Savings Act: Senate passed S. 2117, to amend title 5, United States Code, to change the default investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan,

after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S5647**

Heitkamp (for Warren) Amendment No. 3821, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S5647**

Employee Retirement Income Security Act: Senate passed S. 2511, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to clarify the definition of substantial cessation of operations, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S5647–49**

BLM Permit Processing Improvement Act: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged from further consideration of S. 2440, to expand and extend the program to improve permit coordination by the Bureau of Land Management, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S5649**

Heitkamp (for Udall (NM)) Amendment No. 3822, to clarify the uses of the BLM Permit Processing Improvement Fund. **Page S5649**

Veterans Service Organizations: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 506, recognizing the patriotism and contributions of auxiliaries of veterans service organizations, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S5649–50**

National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 547, designating the week beginning September 14, 2014, as National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week. **Page S5650**

Small Business Saturday: Senate agreed to S. Res. 548, designating November 29, 2014, as "Small Business Saturday" and supporting efforts to increase awareness of the value of locally owned small businesses. **Page S5650**

Day of the Deployed: Senate agreed to S. Res. 549, designating October 26, 2014, as Day of the Deployed. **Page S5650**

200th Anniversary of "The Star-Spangled Banner": Senate agreed to S. Res. 550, commemorating the 200th anniversary of "The Star-Spangled Banner". **Page S5650**

Measures Considered:

Federal Student Loans: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2432, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans.

Pages S5595–97, S5608–18

Appointments:

Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, and after consultation with the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 106–286, reappointed the following Members to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: Senator Kay R. Hagan of North Carolina vice The Honorable Max Baucus of Montana.

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Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 12 noon, on Wednesday, September 17, 2014, Senate will begin consideration of the nominations of John R. Bass, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, Eric T. Schultz, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Zambia, Thomas Frederick Daughton, of Arizona, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Namibia, David Pressman, of New York, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, Debra S. Wada, of Hawaii, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, Laura S. Wertheimer, of the District of Columbia, to be Inspector General of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and Bradford Raymond Huther, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development; that there be two minutes for debate equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees, prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote, without intervening action or debate, on confirmation of the nominations in the order listed; that any roll call votes, following the first in the series, be 10 minutes in length; and that no further motions be in order to the nomination.

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Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 56 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 265), Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2015.

Pages S5606, S5650

By 60 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. EX. 266), Stephen G. Burns, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2019.

Pages S5606–07, S5650

Linda A. Schwartz, of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Policy and Planning).

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Matthew T. Harrington, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Lesotho.

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Todd D. Robinson, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Guatemala.

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Jane D. Hartley, of New York, to be Ambassador to the French Republic.

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Jane D. Hartley, of New York, to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Principality of Monaco.

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Nina Hachigian, of California, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador.

Pages S5607–08, S5650

Gordon O. Tanner, of Alabama, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force.

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Messages from the House:

Pages S5622–23

Measures Referred:

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Enrolled Bills Presented:

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Petitions and Memorials:

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Executive Reports of Committees:

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Additional Cosponsors:

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Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

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Additional Statements:

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Amendments Submitted:

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Notices of Hearings/Meetings:

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Authorities for Committees to Meet:

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Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—266)

Pages S5606–07

Recess: Senate convened at 10:02 a.m. and recessed at 6:04 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 17, 2014. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5650.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

EBOLA IN WEST AFRICA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies concluded a joint hearing with the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions to examine Ebola in West Africa, focusing on a global challenge and public health threat, after receiving testimony from Beth Bell, Director, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Anthony S. Fauci, Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, and Robin A. Robinson, Deputy Assistant Secretary and BARDA Director, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, all of the Department of Health and Human Services; Ishmeal Alfred Charles, Healey International Relief Foundation, Freetown, Sierra Leone; and Kent Brantly, Fort Worth, Texas.

U.S. POLICY TOWARDS IRAQ AND SYRIA

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine United States policy towards Iraq and Syria and the threat posed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), after receiving testimony from Charles T. Hagel, Secretary, and General Martin E. Dempsey, USA, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, both of the Department of Defense.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported 2,458 nominations in the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

SMALL DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the state of small depository institutions, including S. 635, to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement, S. 727, to improve the examination of depository institutions, S. 1349, to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, S. 1577, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to improve upon the definitions provided for points and fees in connection with a mortgage transaction, S. 1806, to amend the Federal Home Loan Bank Act with respect to membership eligibility of certain institutions, S. 2732, to increase from \$10,000,000,000 to \$50,000,000,000 the threshold figure at which regulated depository institutions are

subject to direct examination and reporting requirements of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, S. 2698, to provide regulatory easement for lending institutions that enable a vibrant economy, S. 2270, to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, S. 1916 and H.R. 2672, bills to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to provide for an application process for interested parties to apply for a county to be designated as a rural area, and H.R. 2673, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to provide that residential mortgage loans held on portfolio qualify as qualified mortgages for purposes of the presumption of the ability to repay requirements under such Act, after receiving testimony from Doreen R. Eberley, Director, Division of Risk Management Supervision, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; Toney Bland, Senior Deputy Comptroller for Midsize and Community Bank Supervision, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury; Maryann F. Hunter, Deputy Director, Division of Banking Supervision and Regulation, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Larry Fazio, Director, Office of Examination and Insurance, National Credit Union Administration; Charles A. Vice, Kentucky Department of Financial Institutions Commissioner of Financial Institutions, Frankfort, on behalf of the Conference of State Bank Supervisors; Jeff Plagge, Northwest Financial Corp, Arnolds Park, Iowa, on behalf of the American Bankers Association; John Buhrmaster, First National Bank of Scotia, Scotia, New York, on behalf of the Independent Community Bankers of America; Dennis Pierce, CommunityAmerica Credit Union, Kansas City, Missouri, on behalf of the Credit Union National Association; Linda McFadden, XCEL Federal Credit Union, Bloomfield, New Jersey, on behalf of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions; and Marcus M. Stanley, Americans for Financial Reform, and Michael D. Calhoun, Center for Responsible Lending, both of Washington, DC.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance concluded an oversight hearing to examine oversight of and policy considerations for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, after receiving testimony from David Friedman, Deputy Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and Joseph W. Come, Deputy Principal Assistant Inspector General for Auditing and Evaluation, both of the Department of