

# Daily Digest

## HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 2, Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act.

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S2141–S2183*

**Measures Introduced:** Thirty-seven bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 903–939, and S. Res. 135. **Pages S2172–73**

#### Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled “Review of Legislative Activity During the 113th Congress”. (S. Rept. No. 114–31)

S. 903, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve access and administration of the United States Tax Court. (S. Rept. No. 114–14)

S. 904, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove bond requirements and extend filing periods for certain taxpayers with limited excise tax liability. (S. Rept. No. 114–15)

S. 905, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitation on eligibility for the alternative tax for certain small insurance companies. (S. Rept. No. 114–16)

S. 906, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the types of wines taxed as hard cider. (S. Rept. No. 114–17)

S. 907, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent the extension of the tax collection period merely because the taxpayer is a member of the Armed Forces who is hospitalized as a result of combat zone injuries. (S. Rept. No. 114–18)

S. 908, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the deductibility of charitable contributions to agricultural research organizations. (S. Rept. No. 114–19)

S. 909, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt private foundations from the tax on excess business holdings in the case of certain philanthropic enterprises which are independently supervised. (S. Rept. No. 114–20)

S. 910, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the special rules for accident and

health plans of certain governmental entities. (S. Rept. No. 114–21)

S. 912, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude payments received under the Work Colleges Program from gross income, including payments made from institutional funds. (S. Rept. No. 114–22)

S. 913, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an investment tax credit for waste heat to power technology. (S. Rept. No. 114–23)

S. 914, to amend title 31, United States Code, to clarify the use of credentials by enrolled agents. (S. Rept. No. 114–24)

S. 915, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain stock of real estate investment trusts from the tax on foreign investments in United States real property interests. (S. Rept. No. 114–25)

S. 916, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents from gross income. (S. Rept. No. 114–26)

S. 917, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to equalize the excise tax on liquefied petroleum gas and liquefied natural gas. (S. Rept. No. 114–27)

S. 918, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide notice to charities and other non-profit organizations before their tax-exempt status is automatically revoked. (S. Rept. No. 114–28)

S. 919, to exclude from gross income certain clean coal power grants to non-corporate taxpayers. (S. Rept. No. 114–29)

S. 920, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for amounts paid by a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces for a new State license or certification required by reason of a permanent change in the duty station of such member to another State. (S. Rept. No. 114–30)

S. 615, to provide for congressional review and oversight of agreements relating to Iran’s nuclear

program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S2171–72**

#### Measures Passed:

**Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act:** By 92 yeas to 8 nays (Vote No. 144), Senate passed H.R. 2, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and strengthen Medicare access by improving physician payments and making other improvements, to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program, after taking action on the following amendments and motions proposed thereto: **Pages S2156–61**

Rejected:

By 54 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. 137), Cornyn Amendment No. 1114, to repeal the individual mandate. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the amendment, having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.)

**Pages S2156–57**

By 42 yeas to 58 nays (Vote No. 139), Lee Amendment No. 1116, to strike the provision excluding the budgetary effects of the Act from PAYGO requirements. **Page S2158**

By 11 yeas to 89 nays (Vote No. 141), Cotton Amendment No. 1118, to provide steady updates of payment rates under the Medicare physician fee schedule. **Page S2159**

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

By 50 yeas to 50 nays (Vote No. 138), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to waive all applicable budgetary discipline pursuant to Section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, with respect to Bennet Amendment No. 1115, to protect and retain our Children's Health Insurance Program for 4 years (PRO-CHIP). Subsequently, the point of order that the amendment was in violation of section 201(a) of S. Con. Res. 21, FY08 Congressional Budget Resolution, was sustained, and the amendment was ruled out of order.

**Pages S2157–58**

By 43 yeas to 57 nays (Vote No. 140), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to waive all applicable budgetary discipline pursuant to Section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, with respect to Murray Amendment No. 1117, to improve women's access to quality health care. Subsequently, the point of order that the amendment was in violation of section 201(a) of S. Con. Res. 21, FY08 Congressional Budget Resolution, was sustained, and the amendment was ruled out of order. **Pages S2158–59**

By 58 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 142), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to waive all applicable budgetary discipline pursuant to Section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, with respect to Cardin Amendment No. 1119, to repeal the therapy cap and provide for medical review of outpatient therapy services. Subsequently, the point of order that the amendment was in violation of section 201(a) of S. Con. Res. 21, FY08 Congressional Budget Resolution, was sustained, and the amendment was ruled out of order. **Page S2160**

By 71 yeas to 29 nays (Vote No. 143), three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to waive all applicable budgetary discipline pursuant to section 311(b) of S. Con Res. 70 with respect to the bill. Subsequently, the point of order that the bill was in violation of section 311(b) of S. Con Res. 70, was not sustained, and thus the point of order fell. **Page S2161**

**Authorizing the Use of Emancipation Hall:** Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 9, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust. **Page S2183**

**Making Minority Party Appointments:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 135, making minority party appointments for the 114th Congress. **Page S2183**

#### Measures Considered:

**Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act—Cloture:** Senate resumed consideration of S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S2161–64**

Withdrawn:

Portman Amendment No. 271, to amend the definition of "homeless person" under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to include certain homeless children and youth. **Page S2162**

Portman Amendment No. 270, to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to enable State child protective services systems to improve the identification and assessment of child victims of sex trafficking. **Page S2162**

Pending:

McConnell (for Cornyn) Amendment No. 1120, to strengthen the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act by incorporating additional bipartisan amendments. **Pages S2162–64**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the McConnell (for Cornyn) Amendment No. 1120 to the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a

vote on cloture will occur on Thursday, April 16, 2015. **Pages S2162–64**

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

Vitter Amendment No. 284 (to Amendment No. 271), to amend section 301 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify those classes of individuals born in the United States who are nationals and citizens of the United States at birth, fell when Portman Amendment No. 271 (listed above) was withdrawn.

**Page S2162**

**Presidential Coin Program Referral—Agreement:**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that S. 95, to terminate the \$1 presidential coin program, be discharged from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and be referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

**Page S2183**

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

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report to the United States Congress with respect to the proposed rescission of Cuba's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (PM–13)

**Page S2167**

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

Glyn Townsend Davies, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand.

Carol Waller Pope, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 1, 2019.

**Page S2183**

**Messages from the House:**

**Page S2167**

**Measures Referred:**

**Page S2167**

**Executive Communications:**

**Pages S2168–71**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Pages S2173–74**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**

**Pages S2174–75**

**Additional Statements:**

**Pages S2166–67**

**Amendments Submitted:**

**Pages S2175–82**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:**

**Pages S2182–83**

**Record Votes:** Eight record votes were taken today. (Total—144)

**Pages S2157–61**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:11 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 15, 2015. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2183.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### U.S. DEFENSE POLICY ISSUES

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine U.S. defense policy issues pertaining to the Asia-Pacific theater, after receiving testimony from Graham T. Allison, John F. Kennedy School of Government Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Kurt M. Campbell, The Asia Group, Michael J. Green, Center for Strategic and International Studies, and Admiral Gary Roughead, USN (Ret.), Hoover Institution, all of Washington, D.C.

### DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Airland concluded a hearing to examine Army modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Lieutenant General Michael E. Williamson, USA, Military Deputy and Director, Army Acquisition Corps, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology, Lieutenant General Herbert R. McMaster, Jr., USA, Director, Army Capabilities Integration Center, and Deputy Commanding General, Futures, United States Army Training and Doctrine Command, Lieutenant General Anthony R. Ierardi, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army (G–8), and Major General Gary H. Cheek, USA, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army (G–3/5/7), all of the Department of Defense.

### DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities concluded open and closed hearings to examine military cyber programs and posture in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Eric Rosenbach, Principal Cyber Advisor to the Secretary, Lieutenant General James K. McLaughlin, USAF, Deputy Commander, U.S. Cyber Command, Lieutenant General Edward C. Cardon, USA, Commander, U.S. Army Cyber Command, Vice Admiral Jan E. Tighe, USN, Commander, U.S. Fleet Cyber Command, Commander, U.S. 10th Fleet, Major General Burke E. Wilson, USAF, Commander, 24th Air Force, Commander, Air Forces Cyber, and Major General Daniel J. O'Donohue, USMC, Commanding General, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Cyberspace, all of the Department of Defense.