

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

House and Senate met in a Joint Meeting to receive His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2491–S2542

Measures Introduced: Thirteen bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1126–1138, and S. Res. 154–155. **Pages S2429–30**

Measures Considered:

Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S2494–S2413**

Rejected:

By 45 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 168), Corker (for Barrasso) Amendment No. 1147 (to Amendment No. 1140), to require a certification that Iran has not directly supported or carried out an act of terrorism against the United States or a United States person anywhere in the world. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the amendment, having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Pages S2511–13**

Pending:

Corker/Cardin Amendment No. 1140, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S2494**

Corker/Cardin Amendment No. 1179 (to Amendment No. 1140), to require submission of all Persian text included in the agreement. **Page S2494**

Blunt Amendment No. 1155 (to Amendment No. 1140), to extend the requirement for annual Department of Defense reports on the military power of Iran. **Page S2494**

Vitter Modified Amendment No. 1186 (to Amendment No. 1179), to require an assessment of inadequacies in the international monitoring and

verification system as they relate to a nuclear agreement with Iran. **Pages S2505–11**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, April 30, 2015. **Page S2541**

Messages from the House: **Page S2525**

Measures Referred: **Page S2525**

Executive Communications: **Pages S2525–29**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2530–32**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2532–40**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2521–25**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S2540**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S2540–41**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S2541**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—168) **Page S2512**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:23 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 30, 2015. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2541.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the National Guard and Reserve, after receiving testimony from General Frank J. Grass, Chief of the National Guard, Lieutenant General

Stanley E. Clarke III, Director of the Air National Guard, Major General Timothy J. Kadavy, Director of the Army National Guard, Lieutenant General Jeffrey W. Talley, Chief of the Army Reserve, Vice Admiral Robin R. Braun, Chief of the Navy Reserve, Lieutenant General James Jackson, Chief of the Air Force Reserve, and Lieutenant General Richard P. Mills, Commander, Marine Forces Reserve, all of the Department of Defense.

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine the Department of Housing and Urban Development's efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness, after receiving testimony from Jennifer Ho, Senior Advisor to the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development; Cyndi Lauper, True Colors Fund, New York, New York; Deborah Shore, Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Washington, D.C.; and Brittany Dixon, Auburn, Maine.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Homeland Security, after receiving testimony from Jeh Johnson, Secretary of Homeland Security.

APPROPRIATIONS: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Environmental Protection Agency, after receiving testimony from Gina McCarthy, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces concluded open and closed hearings to examine military space programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Deborah Lee James, Executive Agent for Space, Secretary of the Air Force, General John E. Hyten, Commander, Air Force Space Command, both of the Department of Defense; and Cristina T. Chaplain, Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management, Government Accountability Office.

PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development concluded a hearing to examine opportunities for private investment in public infrastructure, after receiving testimony from Calvin E. Hollis, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Countywide Planning and Development Managing Executive Officer, Pasadena, California; Colleen Campbell, Infrastructure Ontario Board of Directors Member, Montreal, Canada; and Jane F. Garvey, Meridian Infrastructure Fund, North America, New York, New York.

FIVE YEARS AFTER DEEPWATER HORIZON

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine five years after Deepwater Horizon, focusing on improvements and challenges in prevention and response, after receiving testimony from Charles Williams II, Center for Offshore Safety, Houston, Texas; Nancy E. Kinner, University of New Hampshire, Durham; Christopher M. Reddy, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Massachusetts; and Samantha B. Joye, University of Georgia, Athens.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 653, to amend the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 to reauthorize grants for and require applied water supply research regarding the water resources research and technology institutes established under that Act;

S. 611, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize technical assistance to small public water systems;

S. 612, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse";

S. 261, to designate the United States courthouse located at 200 NW 4th Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as the William J. Holloway, Jr. United States Courthouse;

S. 1034, to designate the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the "Charles Clark United States Courthouse"; and

The nomination of Mark Scarano, of New Hampshire, to be Federal Cochairperson of the Northern Border Regional Commission.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Finance: Committee ordered favorably reported S. 335, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BUDGET

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Homeland Security, after receiving testimony from Jeh C. Johnson, Secretary of Homeland Security.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported S. 152, to prohibit gaming activities on certain Indian land in Arizona until the expiration of certain gaming compacts.

TRIBAL LABOR SOVEREIGNTY ACT

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 248, to clarify the rights of Indians and Indian tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act, after receiving testimony from Richard F. Griffin, Jr., General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board; Robert J. Welch, Jr., Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, Alpine, California; E. Paul Torres, Pueblo of Isleta, Isleta, New

Mexico; Keith B. Anderson, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Prior Lake, Minnesota; and Richard Guest, Native American Rights Fund, Washington, D.C.

KING VS. BURWELL AND SMALL BUSINESSES

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the *King vs. Burwell* Supreme Court case and congressional action that can be taken to protect small businesses and their employees, after receiving testimony from Michael F. Cannon, Cato Institute, Linda J. Blumberg, The Urban Institute Health Policy Center, and Jeffrey H. Anderson, The 2017 Project, all of Washington, D.C.

GAO HIGH RISK LIST AND THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Government Accountability Office's High Risk List and the Veterans Health Administration, after receiving testimony from Debra A. Draper, Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office; and John D. Daigh, Jr., Assistant Inspector General, Office of Healthcare Inspections, and Carolyn M. Clancy, Interim Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration, both of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 40 public bills, H.R. 2082–2121; 1 private bill, H.R. 2122; and 8 resolutions, H. Res. 227–230, 232–235 were introduced. **Pages H2652–55**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H2655–56**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 308, to prohibit gaming activities on certain Indian lands in Arizona until the expiration of certain gaming compacts (H. Rept. 114–95);

Conference report on S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025 (H. Rept. 114–96);

Committee on Appropriations; Suballocation of Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2016 (H. Rept. 114–97); and

H. Res. 231, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1732) to preserve existing rights and responsibilities with respect to waters of the United States, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 11) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025; and providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 43) disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act of 2014. **Pages H2516–74, H2652**