

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

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Reverend Dr. Jimmy Jackson, Whitesburg Baptist Church, Huntsville, Alabama.

Page H2503

Recess: The House recessed at 9:04 a.m. for the purpose of receiving His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan. The House reconvened at 12:41 p.m., and agreed that the proceedings had during the Joint Meeting be printed in the Record.

Page H2506

Joint Meeting To Receive His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan: The House and Senate met in a joint session to receive His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan. He was escorted into the Chamber by a committee comprised of Representatives McCarthy, Scalise, McMorris Rodgers, Walden, Messer, Foxx, Ryan, Frelinghuysen, Granger, Tiberi, Nunes, Salmon, Long, Pelosi, Hoyer, Becerra, Crowley, Edwards, DeLauro, Honda, Matsui, Takano, Takai, DeGette, McDermott, and Castro; and Senators McConnell, Cornyn, Hatch, Barrasso, Blunt, Wicker, Murkowski, Corker, Durbin, Murray, Cardin, and Hirono.

Pages H2503–06

Moment of silence: The House observed a moment of silence for the victims of the earthquake in Nepal.

Page H2515

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated on Tuesday, April 29th:

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 820 Elmwood Avenue in Providence, Rhode Island, as the “Sister Ann Keefe Post Office”: H.R. 651, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 820 Elmwood Avenue in Providence, Rhode Island, as the “Sister Ann Keefe Post Office”, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays of 423 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 177.

Pages H2515–16

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Dold wherein he resigned from the Committee on Financial Services.

Page H2574

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 229, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives.

Page H2574

Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016: The House began consideration of H.R. 2029, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016. Consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, April 30.

Pages H2574–H2623

Agreed to:

Stefanik amendment that increases funds, by offset, for acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment by \$30,000,000 for activities and agencies of the Department of Defense; **Pages H2586–89**

Gosar amendment that increases funds, by offset, for Departmental Administration General Administration in the Department of Veterans Affairs by \$8,000,000; **Page H2592**

Titus amendment that increases funds, by offset, for the womens health center within the VHA by \$500,000; **Page H2592**

Gosar amendment that redirects \$2,000,000 in funding within Departmental Administration, General Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; **Pages H2592–93**

Sinema amendment that increases, by offset, funds for the General Services Administration by \$50,000;

Page H2593

Gosar amendment that reduces funds for Departmental Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs by \$3,200,000 and increases Information Technology Systems by a similar amount; **Pages H2593–94**

Ruiz amendment that redirects \$5 million in funding within the General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration account;

Page H2594

Walberg amendment that increases funding, by offset, for General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration account by \$5,000,000;

Pages H2594–95

LaMalfa amendment that makes sundry corrections to the bill;

Pages H2598–99

Jackson Lee amendment that adds a new section to the end of the bill revising amounts provided by the bill by reducing the amount made available for Department of Veterans Affairs-Departmental Administration-Information Technology Services and by increasing the amount made available for Veterans Health Administration-Medical Services by \$2,000,000;

Pages H2606–07

Jolly amendment that prohibits the use of funds to carry out the closure or transfer of the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba;

Page H2607

Babin amendment (No. 1 printed in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2015) that prohibits the use of funds to carry out the Appraised Value Offer program of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Pages H2609–10

Rothfus amendment (No. 2 printed in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2015) that prohibits the use of funds used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay a performance award under section 5384 of title 5, United States Code; **Pages H2610–12**

Jackson Lee amendment that prohibits the use of funds for benefits for homeless veterans and training and outreach programs maybe be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in contravention of subchapter III of chapter 20 of title 38, United States Code;

Page H2612

Roe (TN) amendment (No. 6 printed in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2015) that provides that not more than \$4,400,000 of the funds provided may be used for the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, and the amount provided under that heading is reduced by \$1,500,000;

Pages H2612–13

Noem amendment that prohibits use of funds to end, suspend, or relocate, hospital-based services with respect to a VA health care facility that is the subject of an environmental impact statement, designated as a National Historic Landmark, or located in a highly rural area;

Page H2614

Ratcliffe amendment (No. 5 printed in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2015) that prohibits use of funds in the bill for a new round of Base Realignment and Closures (BRAC);

Pages H2615–16

Grayson amendment that prohibits use of funds to enter into a contract with any offeror;

Page H2616

Hurd amendment that prohibits the use of funds in contravention of subtitle D of title VIII of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015;

Pages H2616–17

Roe (TN) amendment that prohibits the use of funds to pay an award or bonus to any employee of the Office of Construction and Facilities in VA, specifically in the locations of Denver, Orlando, Las Vegas and New Orleans;

Page H2617

Stivers amendment that prohibits the use of funds to be used as salaries of orthotists and prosthetists who are not certified by a nationally accredited body;

Pages H2617–18

Byrne amendment that prohibits the use of funds to transfer any funds from the Veterans Choice Fund;

Page H2618

Gosar amendment that prohibits the use of funds to carry out the memorandum from the Veterans Benefit Administration known as Fast Letter 13–10, or to create or maintain any patient record-keeping system other than those currently approved by the Department; and

Pages H2618–19

LaMalfa amendment that provides that for an additional amount for Department of Veterans Affairs-Departmental Administration-General Operating Expenses, Veterans Administration, there is hereby appropriated, and the amount otherwise provided by this Act is hereby reduced by \$5,000,000.

Pages H2620–21

Rejected:

McNerney amendment that sought to increase funding, by offset, for reimbursement of the General Services Administration by \$177,300,000 for construction, major projects.

Pages H2591–92

Withdrawn:

Brownley (CA) amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have in the Department of Veterans Affairs- Departmental Administration- Construction, Major Projects account, struck the aggregate dollar amount and inserted \$1,143,800,000 for Department of Veterans Affairs, Construction, Major Projects;

Pages H2595–98

Boustany amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have prohibited funds from being used to pay Veterans Affairs personnel due to backlog;

Pages H2605–06

Adams amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have provided that the General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration account for FY 2016 may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide discretionary competitive grants for State and local governments to establish or expand technology systems that develop a coordinated network of private, public and nonprofit services and resources to better serve veterans and their family members;

Page H2610

Hill amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have prohibited the use of funds to carry out any new Key Renewable VA Energy Project under the Department’s Green Management Programs; and

Pages H2619–20

Farenthold amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have prohibited the use of funds to pay the salary of any VA employee who received an unsatisfactory work performance review in FY 2015.

Page H2620

Point of Order sustained against:

Bishop (GA) amendment that sought to redirect funding for Military Construction, Army; increase funding by \$154,643,000 for Veterans Health Administration, Medical Services; increase funding by \$69,691,000 for medical support and compliance; increase funding by \$105,132,000 for medical facilities; increase funding by \$10,000,000 for Departmental Administration; increase funding by \$95,000,000 for Information Technology Systems; increase funding by \$582,000,000 for Construction, Major Projects; and strike Sections 233, 238, 240, and 241. Agreed to sustain the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised against the amendment, by a recorded vote of 237 ayes to 180 noes, Roll No. 178.

Pages H2583–86

Gosar amendment that sought to increase, by offset, funds for hospital care and medical services within the VHA by \$2,031,000;

Pages H2589–91

Benishek amendment that sought to add a new section to the bill requiring a report describing the status, including the timeline for completion, of each Community-Based Outpatient Clinic to be established by the Department of Veterans Affairs, through construction or lease, that is not yet complete be submitted to Congress; **Pages H2599–H2600**

Mulvaney amendment that sought to strike title IV, which overseas Contingency Operations Department of Defense; and **Pages H2600–03**

Pocan amendment that sought to prohibit use of funds to withhold any report of an Inspector General from any member of Congress in any case where the member of Congress has requested that such report be provided. **Page H2614**

Proceedings Postponed:

Van Hollen amendment that seeks to strike the pending paragraph pertaining to the Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps; **Pages H2602–03**

Mulvaney amendment that seeks to strike the pending paragraph pertaining to the Military Construction, Air Force; **Page H2603**

Mulvaney amendment that seeks to strike the pending paragraph pertaining to the Military Construction, Defense-Wide; **Pages H2603–04**

Nadler amendment that seeks to strike section 512 from the bill pertaining to the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; **Pages H2604–05**

Blumenauer amendment that seeks to prohibit the use of funds to implement, administer, or enforce Veterans Health Administration directive 2011–004 with respect to the prohibition on “VA providers for completing forms seeking recommendations or opinions regarding a Veteran’s participation in a State marijuana program”; **Pages H2607–09**

Pocan amendment that seeks to prohibit the use of funds to enter into a contract with any person whose disclosures of a proceeding with a disposition listed in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System include the term “Fair Labor Standards Act”; **Pages H2613–14**

Hice (GA) amendment that seeks to prohibit the use of funds to pay a Federal Employee for any period of time during which such employee is using official time under U.S. Code; and **Pages H2621–22**

King (IA) amendment (No. 3 printed in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2015) that seeks to prohibit the use of funds to implement, administer, or enforce the prevailing wage requirements under what is commonly known as the Davis-Bacon Act. **Pages H2622–23**

H. Res. 223, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 2028) and (H.R. 2029) was agreed to by a yeas-and-nays vote of 240 yeas to 186 nays,

Roll No. 176, after the previous question was ordered. **Page H2515**

Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016: The House began consideration of H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016. Consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, April 30. **Pages H2506–15, H2623–51**

Agreed to:

Gosar amendment that increases funding for Investigations by \$1,000,000 and reduces funding for Departmental Administration by a similar amount; **Page H2633**

Gosar amendment that increases funds for Construction by \$3,000,000 and reduces funding for Departmental Administration by a similar amount; **Page H2633**

Murphy (FL) amendment that increases funds for Army Corps of Engineers Construction by \$1,000,000 and reduces funding for Expenses by a similar amount; **Pages H2633–34**

Duffy amendment that increases, by offset, Army Corp of Engineers funding for Construction by \$10,000,000 for the support of GLFER; **Pages H2634–35**

Huizenga (MI) amendment (No. 6 printed in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2015) that increases funds to Operations and Maintenance by \$36,306,000 and reduces funding for Departmental Administration by a similar amount; **Pages H2635–37**

Gosar amendment that reduces funding for Regulatory Program by \$424,000 and increases funding for the Office of Inspector General by a similar amount; **Page H2638**

Tipton amendment that increases funding for Water and Related Resources by \$2,000,000 and reduces funding for Departmental Administration by a similar amount; **Pages H2643–45**

Lamborn amendment that, by offset, increases funding for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy by \$4,000,000; **Pages H2646–47**

Bonamici amendment that increases funding for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy by \$9 million and reduces funding for Departmental Administration by a similar amount; **Page H2648**

Cohen amendment that increases funding for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy by \$2 million and reduces funding for Departmental Administration by a similar amount; **Pages H2648–49**

Rejected:

Beyer amendment that sought to strike section 104 from the bill. Section 104 prohibits use of funds

by the Corps of Engineers to develop, adopt, implement, administer, or enforce any change to the regulations pertaining to definitions of the terms “fill material” or “discharge of fill material”;

Pages H2640–41

Beyer amendment that sought to strike section 105 from the bill. Section 105 prohibits use of funds in the bill by the Corps of Engineers to develop, adopt, implement, administer, or enforce any change to the regulations and guidance pertaining to the definition of waters under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act;

Pages H2641–42

Castor (FL) amendment that sought to increase funding for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy by \$266,161,000 and to reduce funding for Fossil Energy Research and Development by \$355,000,000;

Pages H2645–46

Withdrawn:

Crawford amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have increased funding for Mississippi River and Tributaries by \$27,000,000 and reduced EERE by \$96,000,000;

Pages H2635–37

Rice (SC) amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have decreased Regulatory funding by \$4,500,000 and increased funding for Operations and Maintenance by a similar amount; and

Pages H2637–38

Perry amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have increased funding for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy by \$22,300,000 and to reduced funding for Departmental Administration by a similar amount.

Page H2647

Proceedings Postponed:

McClintock amendment that seeks to reduce funding for sundry accounts and to apply the aggregate savings of \$128,920,000 to the spending reduction account;

Pages H2638–40

Ruiz amendment that seeks to increase funding for Water and Related Resources by \$5,000,000 and to reduce funding for Fossil Energy Research and Development by \$2,000,000;

Pages H2642–43

Griffith amendment that seeks to increase funding for Fossil Energy Research and Development by \$5,000,000 and to reduce funding for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy by a similar amount;

Page H2645

Swalwell (CA) amendment that seeks to increase funding for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy by \$25,500,000 and to reduce funding for Fossil Energy by \$34,000,000;

Page H2647

Byrne amendment that seeks to zero out funding for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and to apply the savings of \$1,657,774,000 to the spending reduction account; and

Pages H2649–50

McClintock amendment that seeks to zero out funding for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, reduce Nuclear Energy by \$691,886,000, and zero out funding for Fossil Energy and to apply the aggregate savings of \$2,954,660,000 to the spending reduction account.

Page H2650

H. Res. 223, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 2028) and (H.R. 2029) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 240 yeas to 186 nays, Roll No. 176, after the previous question was ordered.

Page H2515

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on page H2506.

Senate Referrals: S. 304 was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. **Pages H2506, H2651**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2515, H2515–16 and H2585–86. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 11:29 p.m.

Committee Meetings

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM AND ACTIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry held a hearing to review the National Forest System and active forest management. Testimony was heard from Tom Tidwell, Chief, Forest Service; and public witnesses.

PUBLIC AND OUTSIDE WITNESS DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education held a hearing for public and outside witnesses. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies held a markup on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, FY 2016. The bill was forwarded to the full committee, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee began a markup on H.R. 1735, the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016”.