

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session and stands adjourned until 2 p.m., on Monday, May 18, 2015.

### Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

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## House of Representatives

### Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 43 public bills, H.R. 2347–2389; and 5 resolutions, H. Res. 265–269 were introduced. **Pages H3251–52**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Page H3254**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1987, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2016 and 2017, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–115);

H.R. 1335, to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide flexibility for fishery managers and stability for fishermen, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–116); and

H.R. 1557, to amend the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 to strengthen Federal antidiscrimination laws enforced by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and expand accountability within the Federal government, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–117). **Pages H3250–51**

**Journal:** The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by a voice vote. **Pages H3217, H3234**

**National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016:** The House passed H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year by a recorded vote of 269 ayes to 151 noes, Roll No. 239. Consideration began May 13th. **Pages H3219–3236**

Rejected the Gallego motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Armed Services with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 184 ayes to 234 noes, Roll No. 238. **Pages H3234–35**

Pursuant to the Rule, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Armed Services now printed in the bill, the amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114–14 shall be considered as read. **Page H3233**

Agreed to:

Thornberry en bloc amendment No. 6 consisting of the following amendments printed in H. Rept. 114–112: Hill (No. 90) that requires the U.S. Air Force to conduct a business case analysis on the decision to maintain 10 C–130J aircraft at Keesler AFB. Such analysis shall include consideration of: 1. Any efficiencies or cost savings that would be achieved by transferring the C–130J aircraft to Little Rock Air Force base. 2. Effects on the operation of Air Mobility Command. 3. Short term and long term costs of maintaining the aircraft at Keesler AFB Report should be completed and provided to Congress within 60 days of enactment of the bill; Meehan (No. 91) that expresses a sense of Congress about the importance of strong communications systems for the National Guard in the event of a cyber or terrorist attack; Walberg (No. 96) that requires SIGAR to certify they have access to records of the Afghanistan government for the purpose of auditing as a condition for disbursement of funds to Afghanistan; Poe (TX) (No. 99) that adds an assessment of U.S. efforts to stop foreign fighters as a matter to be included

in the comprehensive strategy to counter Islamic extremism; Lamborn (No. 101) that adds a limitation on military-to-military exchanges and contacts with Iran; Walorski (No. 102) that provides transparency and congressional oversight to our deterrence of Iran and force posture in the Middle East; Ellison (No. 103) that states that nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize the use of military force against Iran; Rogers (AL) (No. 104) that expresses a sense of the Congress concerning missile defense cooperation with Japan, and, it would require an update from DOD not later than 30 days after the date of enactment on sale of Aegis Ashore capability to allies, including Japan; Walker (No. 105) that requires that the Secretary of Defense invite military forces of Taiwan to participate in any maritime exercise (RIMPAC) if the Secretary has invited the military forces of People's Republic of China to participate in such exercise; Kelly (No. 106) that prohibits funds from being used to implement the UN Arms Trade Treaty unless the Senate approves a resolution of ratification for the Treaty and implementing legislation for the Treaty has been enacted into law; Cicilline (No. 112) that requires the Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense to submit a report within 90 days describing the military capabilities of the Republic of Cyprus; Crowley (No. 113) that supports ongoing defense cooperation between the United States and India; Dingell (No. 114) that expresses the Sense of Congress that the President should exercise his authorities to evacuate U.S. citizens and nationals from Yemen during the ongoing conflict; Engel (No. 115) that requires a report to Congress on the impact of any significant reduction in U.S. troop levels or material in Europe on NATO's core mission of collective defense before any such reduction takes place; Vela (No. 116) that requires a report on violence and cartel activity in Mexico and the impact on U.S. National Security; Kilmer (No. 117) that requires Congressional notification prior to initiating a furlough and prohibits the transfer of work that would have been conducted by those furloughed to other DOD employees, contractors, or members of the Armed Forces; Nolan (No. 118) that prohibits funding from the Syria and Iraq Train and Equip programs to recipients that the Secretary of Defense has reported as having previously misused provided training and equipment;

**Pages H3219–21**

Thornberry en bloc amendment No. 7 consisting of the following amendments printed in H. Rept. 114–112: Lamborn (No. 107) that adds a requirement for a report on Qatar's efforts to combat terrorism; Lamborn (No. 108) that expresses a Sense of Congress in support of Jordan; Royce (No. 109) that expresses the sense of Congress that combating Boko

Haram is in the national security interest of the United States and that the United States should support regional allies in their operations against Boko Haram; requires a report that details the security assistance required and received by regional partners to combat Boko Haram; Schweikert (No. 110) that expresses the sense of Congress that it is a national security priority of the United States to support and cooperate with the Republic of Tunisia by providing assistance to combat the growing terrorist threat from ISIS and other terrorist organizations; Turner (No. 111) that expresses a Sense of Congress on the future of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and encourages the United States to work with current and aspiring NATO partners to address security threats facing the alliance; Michelle Lujan Grisham (NM) (No. 119) that expresses a sense of Congress that the Secretary submit a plan to Congress on how the Department plans to implement the recommendations of the nuclear enterprise reviews; Quigley (No. 120) that requires the Department of Defense to submit a report to Congress justifying the departments plans to increase the number of new nuclear-armed cruise missiles, known as the Long Range Standoff Weapon, to the U.S. arsenal; Rogers (AL) (No. 121) that makes a series of technical corrections to sections 1669 and 1670 concerning US Israeli missile defense cooperation; Castor (FL) (No. 125) that expresses a sense of Congress that the Department of Defense should take into consideration, when prioritizing base housing projects, commuting times for base personnel and land available for development on the base; Loeb sack (No. 126) that states that this section would modify section 2667 of title 10, United States Code, to provide the authorities to lease real or personal property contained in such section to the commander of military manufacturing arsenals or, if part of a larger military installation, the installation commander for the purposes of leveraging private investment at military manufacturing arsenals through long-term facility use contracts, property management contracts, leases, or other such agreements; this section does not supersede authorities in section 4544 of title 10, United States Code, and is designed to give the commander of military manufacturing arsenals or, if part of a larger military installation, the installation commander, greater flexibility to utilize unused administrative and warehouse space at military installations; Scalise (No. 127) that authorizes the Secretary of the Army to release the existing terms and conditions on a parcel of property at Camp Villere, Louisiana, enabling the Louisiana Army National Guard to transfer the land to the State of Louisiana in exchange for another parcel of land that has

been identified, provided that the State carries out the necessary actions required; **Pages H3223–25**

Thornberry en bloc amendment No. 8 consisting of the following amendments printed in H. Rept. 114–112: Foster (No. 122) that requires the Director of the Missile Defense Agency to submit to Congress a cost analysis of a space-based ballistic intercept and defeat layer; Turner (No. 123) that requires the Director of the Missile Defense Agency to notify congressional defense committees of the preferred location in the United States for the future deployment of an interceptor capable of protecting the homeland; Quigley (No. 124) that requires the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report to Congress comparing the costs associated with extending the life of the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile with the costs associated with procuring a new ground based strategic deterrent; Young (AK) (No. 128) that directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a land conveyance of approximately 1,290 acres of public land, withdrawn by the Secretary of the Interior under Public Land Order 843 for use by the Secretary of the Air Force, to the Town of Galena, Alaska; Loretta Sanchez (CA) (No. 129) that modifies 50 U.S.C. 2537 to add that existing nuclear weapon system shall be considered undergoing life extension if the total cost of the associated activities, including activities considered alterations, will exceed \$1,000,000,000; Michelle Lujan Grisham (NM) (No. 130) that creates a pilot program in which the Department establishes a microlab that is accessible to the public; Hunter (No. 131) that provides a one year increase in maritime security program funding; Sessions (No. 132) that authorizes the Administrator of the Maritime Administration to: (1) accept a gift of money from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Alumni Association and Foundation, Inc. in order to renovate Melville Hall on the campus of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, and (2) provides the option to enter into a contract with the Foundation for the Hall's operation. Provides that all excess proceeds will be used solely for the morale and welfare of the cadets; Carter (TX) (No. 133) that requires DOD to establish a process by which the commander of a military installation may authorize a service member to carry a concealed personal firearm on the installation if the commander determines it to be necessary as a personal or force-protection measure; LoBiondo (No. 134) that expresses a sense of Congress that while recruitment and advertising in support of the National Guard and the military is appropriate, the taxpayer shouldn't have to pay for any organization to honor the service of members of the Armed Forces and (2) it should not be the goal of those that receive DoD advertising funds to use those funds to pay organizations to honor the service of members of

the Armed Forces; instead, it should be the patriotism of these organizations to do so of their own free will in support of our brave servicemen and women. (3) Any funds that would be saved from this Sense of Congress should be redirected towards post-traumatic stress disorder research and treatment for servicemembers; Nunes (No. 135) that clarifies that any realignment of forces at Lajes Air Force Base, Azores, shall be based on United States operational requirements; **Pages H3226–28**

Rohrabacher amendment (No. 23 printed in H. Rept. 114–112) that was debated on May 14 that seeks to acknowledge Dr. Afridi's instrumental role in identifying the hiding place of Osama bin Laden and further state that it is the Sense of Congress that Dr. Shakil Afridi is an international hero and that the Government of Pakistan should release him immediately from prison (by a recorded vote of 413 ayes to 1 noe with two answering "present", Roll No. 233); **Page H3230**

Lamborn amendment (No. 27 printed in H. Rept. 114–112) that was debated on May 14 that seeks to limit funding for implementing the New START treaty (by a recorded vote of 235 ayes to 182 noes, Roll No. 234); **Pages H3230–31**

Lucas amendment (No. 38 printed in H. Rept. 114–112) that was debated on May 14 that seeks to reverse and prohibit the further listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken as a threatened or endangered species until 2021, thereby allowing the states to implement their voluntary Range-Wide Conservation Plan for the Lesser Prairie Chicken's habitat; delists the American Burying Beetle as a threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (by a recorded vote of 229 ayes to 190 noes, Roll No. 236); **Page H3232**

Rejected:

Blumenauer amendment (No. 32 printed in H. Rept. 114–112) that was debated on May 14 that sought to require funding for the Navy's new Ohio-class replacement submarines to come from their traditional Navy accounts, instead of the Sea-Based Deterrent Fund; transfer funds from the Sea-Based Deterrent Fund back into their historic Navy budget lines (by a recorded vote of 43 ayes to 375 noes, Roll No. 235); and **Pages H3231–32**

Nadler amendment (No. 41 printed in H. Rept. 114–112) that was debated on May 14 that sought to strike section 3121, which places limits on funding for dismantlement of nuclear weapons (by a recorded vote of 178 ayes to 242 noes, Roll No. 237). **Pages H3232–33**

Agreed that the Clerk be authorized to make technical and conforming changes to reflect the actions of the House. **Page H3236**

H. Res. 260, the rule providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1735) was agreed to yesterday, May 14th.

**Meeting Hour:** Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12 noon on Monday, May 18th for Morning Hour debate. **Page H3236**

**Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: Representatives Franks (AZ), Pittenger, and Hultgren. **Page H3236**

**Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Representatives Aderholt, Pitts, Hultgren, and Burgess. **Page H3236**

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Seven recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3230, H3230–31, H3231–32, H3232, H3232–33, H3234–35, and H3235. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

## *Committee Meetings*

### UPDATE ON THE CURRENT STATE OF NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy held a hearing entitled "Update on the Current State of Nuclear Waste Management Policy". Testimony was heard from Andrew Fitz, Senior Counsel, Office of the Attorney General, State of Washington; Josephine Piccone, Director, Yucca Mountain Directorate, Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and public witnesses.

### FCC REAUTHORIZATION: IMPROVING COMMISSION TRANSPARENCY PART II

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled "FCC Reauthorization: Improving Commission Transparency Part II". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### OVERSIGHT OF THE ANTITRUST ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law held

a hearing entitled "Oversight of the Antitrust Enforcement Agencies". Testimony was heard from William J. Baer, Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division, Department of Justice; and Edith Ramirez, Chairwoman, Federal Trade Commission.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES; OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE VA STAFFING

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Subcommittee on Health held a markup on H.R. 271, the "COVER Act"; H.R. 627, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the definition of homeless veteran for purposes of benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; H.R. 1575, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service in the Armed Forces; H.R. 1769, the "Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015"; and H.R. 2256, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit an annual report on the Veterans Health Administration and the furnishing of hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and a hearing entitled "Overcoming Barriers to More Efficient and Effective VA Staffing". The following bills were forwarded to the full committee, without amendment: H.R. 271, H.R. 627, H.R. 1575, H.R. 1769, and H.R. 2256. Testimony was heard from Thomas Lynch, M.D., Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Operations, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

## *Joint Meetings*

No joint committee meetings were held.

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### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, MAY 18, 2015

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

#### Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

#### House

*Committee on Rules,* Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 1806, the "America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015"; H.R. 2250, the "Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2016"; and H.R. 2353, the "Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2015", 5 p.m., H-313 Capitol.