

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S3201–S3252

Measures Introduced: Forty-six bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1409–1454, and S. Res. 183–187. **Pages S3237–38**

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled “Report on the Legislative Activities of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation During the 113th Congress”. (S. Rept. No. 114–50)

Special Report entitled “Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals from the Concurrent Resolution for Fiscal Year 2016”. (S. Rept. No. 114–55)

S. 143, to allow for improvements to the United States Merchant Marine Academy and for other purposes. (S. Rept. No. 114–51)

S. 808, to establish the Surface Transportation Board as an independent establishment. (S. Rept. No. 114–52)

H.R. 615, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114–53)

H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114–54)

S. 335, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114–56)

H.R. 2029, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114–57)

S. Res. 87, to express the sense of the Senate regarding the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe and to encourage greater cooperation with the European governments, the European Union, and the Organi-

zation for Security and Co-operation in Europe in preventing and responding to anti-Semitism.

S. 802, to authorize the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to provide assistance to support the rights of women and girls in developing countries, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1417, to reauthorize the United States Grain Standards Act. **Page S3236**

Measures Passed:

Joseph F. Weis Jr. United States Courthouse: Committee on Environment and Public Works was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1690, to designate the United States courthouse located at 700 Grant Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the “Joseph F. Weis Jr. United States Courthouse”, and the bill was then passed. **Page S3249**

William J. Holloway, Jr. United States Courthouse: Senate passed 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. **Page S3249**

George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse: Senate passed 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”. **Page S3249**

New Mexico Navajo Water Settlement Technical Corrections Act: Senate passed S. 501, to make technical corrections to the Navajo water rights settlement in the State of New Mexico. **Pages S3249–50**

National Foster Care Month: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 168, recognizing National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges of children in the foster care system, and encouraging Congress to implement policy to improve the lives of children in the foster care system, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S3250**

Honoring Brave Young Men from Hawaii: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 109, acknowledging and honoring brave young men from Hawaii who enabled the United States to establish and maintain jurisdiction in remote equatorial islands as prolonged conflict in the Pacific led to World War II, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S3250**

Perdue (for Schatz) Amendment No. 1437, to amend the preamble. **Pages S3250–51**

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 185, recognizing the significance of May 2015 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month and as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States. **Page S3251**

National Public Works Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 186, designating the week of May 17 through May 23, 2015, as “National Public Works Week”. **Page S3251**

National Bladder Cancer Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 187, expressing support for the designation of the month of May 2015, as “National Bladder Cancer Awareness Month”. **Page S3251**

Measures Considered:

USA Freedom Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 2048, to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes. **Page S3201**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of 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 Saturday, May 23, 2015. **Page S3201**

Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1357, to extend authority relating to roving surveillance, access to business records, and individual terrorists as agents of foreign powers under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 until July 31, 2015. **Page S3201**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the motion to

proceed to consideration of H.R. 2048, to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes. **Page S3201**

Ensuring Tax Exempt Organizations the Right to Appeal Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S3202–12, S3225–31**

Pending:

Hatch Amendment No. 1221, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S3202**

Hatch (for Flake) Amendment No. 1243 (to Amendment No. 1221), to strike the extension of the trade adjustment assistance program. **Page S3202**

Hatch (for Inhofe/Coons) Modified Amendment No. 1312 (to Amendment No. 1221), to amend the African Growth and Opportunity Act to require the development of a plan for each sub-Saharan African country for negotiating and entering into free trade agreements. **Page S3202**

Hatch (for McCain) Amendment No. 1226 (to Amendment No. 1221), to repeal a duplicative inspection and grading program. **Page S3202**

Stabenow (for Portman) Amendment No. 1299 (to Amendment No. 1221), to make it a principal negotiating objective of the United States to address currency manipulation in trade agreements. **Page S3202**

Brown Amendment No. 1251 (to Amendment No. 1221), to require the approval of Congress before additional countries may join the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement. **Page S3202**

Wyden (for Shaheen) Amendment No. 1227 (to Amendment No. 1221), to make trade agreements work for small businesses. **Page S3202**

Wyden (for Warren) Amendment No. 1327 (to Amendment No. 1221), to prohibit the application of the trade authorities procedures to an implementing bill submitted with respect to a trade agreement that includes investor-state dispute settlement. **Page S3202**

Hatch Modified Amendment No. 1411 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 1299), of a perfecting nature. **Page S3202**

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

By 62 yeas to 38 nays (Vote No. 183), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion

to close further debate on Hatch Amendment No. 1221 (listed above). **Pages S3206–07**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Friday, May 22, 2015, and that all time during the adjournment of the Senate count post-cloture on the bill. **Page S3251**

Appointments:

Board of Visitors of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 194(a), as amended by Public Law 101–595, and further amended by Public Law 113–281, and upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, appointed the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy: Senator Wicker, and Senator Sullivan. **Page S3251**

Members of the Commission on Care: The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 113–146, appointed the following individuals to serve as members of the Commission on Care: The Honorable Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, Stuart Hickey of Pennsylvania, and Thomas Harvey of New York. **Page S3251**

Congressional Award Board: The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 96–114, as amended, appointed the following individual to the Congressional Award Board: Chiling Tong of Maryland. **Page S3251**

Board of Visitors of the U.S. Military Academy: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 4355(a), appointed the following Senator to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Military Academy: Senator Ernst (Designee of the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services). **Page S3251**

Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to the provisions of 20 U.S.C., sections 42 and 43, appointed the following Senators to the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution: Senator Boozman, and Senator Perdue. **Page S3251**

Board of Visitors of the U.S. Air Force Academy: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), appointed the following Senator to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Air Force Academy: Senator Gardner (Designee of the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services). **Page S3251**

Board of Visitors of the U.S. Naval Academy: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 6968(a), appointed the following Senator to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Naval Acad-

emy: Senator Sullivan (Designee of the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services). **Page S3251**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By a unanimous vote of 100 yeas (Vote No. EX. 184), Jill N. Parrish, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah. **Page S3224**

By a unanimous vote of 100 yeas (Vote No. EX. 185), Jose Rolando Olvera, Jr., of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas. **Page S3224**

Patricia D. Cahill, of Missouri, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2020. **Page S3225**

Mark Scarano, of New Hampshire, to be Federal Cochairperson of the Northern Border Regional Commission. **Page S3225**

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general.

35 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy. **Pages S3223–25, S3248–49, S3252**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Stephen C. Hedger, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Luis A. Viada, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring September 20, 2018.

Akhil Reed Amar, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2020.

Robert P. Zimmerman, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2018.

Jessica Rosenworcel, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2015.

W. Thomas Reeder, Jr., of Virginia, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

Denise Turner Roth, of North Carolina, to be Administrator of General Services.

Edward L. Stanton III, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee.

Eric Steven Miller, of Vermont, to be United States Attorney for the District of Vermont for the term of four years.

Michael C. McGowan, of Delaware, to be United States Marshal for the District of Delaware, for the term of four years.

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.
 1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general.
 Routine lists in the Air Force and Coast Guard.

Pages S3251–52

Messages from the House: Page S3235

Measures Referred: Page S3235

Measures Placed on the Calendar:
 Pages S3201–02, S3235–36

Enrolled Bills Presented: Page S3236

Executive Reports of Committees: Pages S3236–37

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S3238–40

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
 Pages S3240–47

Additional Statements: Pages S3234–35

Amendments Submitted: Page S3247

Authorities for Committees to Meet:
 Pages S3247–48

Privileges of the Floor: Page S3248

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today.
 (Total—185) Page S3207, S3224

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 8:16 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Friday, May 22, 2015. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3251.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill entitled, "United States Grain Standards Act Reauthorization Act of 2015".

NOMINATION

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Jeffrey Michael Prieto, of California, to be General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING AND 302(b) ALLOCATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

An original bill entitled, "Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2016"; and

An original bill entitled, "Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016".

Also, committee completed its review of 302(b) subcommittee allocations of budget outlays and new budget authority allocated to the committee in 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.

UNITED STATES POLICY IN IRAQ AND SYRIA

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine United States policy in Iraq and Syria, after receiving testimony from General John M. Keane, USA (Ret.), former Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, Frederick W. Kagan, American Enterprise Institute Criminal Threats Project, and Brian Katulis, Center for American Progress, all of Washington, D.C; and Colonel Derek J. Harvey, USA (Ret.), University of South Florida Global Initiative for Civil Society and Conflict, Riverview.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill entitled, "The Financial Regulatory Improvement Act of 2015".

NOMINATION

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Peter V. Neffenger, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, after the nominee, who was introduced by Representative Hahn, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

ENERGY LEGISLATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining concluded a hearing to examine S. 160, and H.R. 373, to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, S. 365, to improve rangeland conditions and restore grazing levels within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Utah, S. 472, to promote conservation, improve public land, and provide for sensible development in Douglas County, Nevada, S. 583, to establish certain wilderness areas in central Idaho and to authorize various land conveyances involving National Forest System land and Bureau of Land Management land in central Idaho, S. 814, to provide for the conveyance of