

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 22, Developing a Reliable and Innovative Vision for the Economy Act, as amended.

Senate passed H.R. 3236, Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6147–S6210.

Measures Introduced: Sixteen bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1899–1914, S.J. Res. 21, and S. Res. 236–239. **Pages S6186–87**

Measures Reported:

S. 1910, making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016. (S. Rept. No. 114–97)

S. 313, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to add physical therapists to the list of providers allowed to utilize locum tenens arrangements under Medicare, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114–98)

S. 349, to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to empower individuals with disabilities to establish their own supplemental needs trusts. (S. Rept. No. 114–99)

S. 466, to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to improve the quality, health outcomes, and value of maternity care under the Medicaid and CHIP programs by developing maternity care quality measures and supporting maternity care quality collaboratives, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114–100)

S. 599, to extend and expand the Medicaid emergency psychiatric demonstration project, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114–101)

S. 607, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a five-year extension of the rural community hospital demonstration program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114–102)

S. 704, to establish a Community-Based Institutional Special Needs Plan demonstration program to target home and community-based care to eligible

Medicare beneficiaries, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114–103)

S. 861, to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to curb waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114–104)

S. 1253, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of certain disposable medical technologies under the Medicare program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114–105)

S. 1347, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to the treatment of patient encounters in ambulatory surgical centers in determining meaningful EHR use, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114–106)

S. 1349, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require hospitals to provide certain notifications to individuals classified by such hospitals under observation status rather than admitted as inpatients of such hospitals. (S. Rept. No. 114–107)

S. 1362, to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to clarify waiver authority regarding programs of all-inclusive care for the elderly (PACE programs), with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114–108)

S. 1461, to provide for the extension of the enforcement instruction on supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic services in critical access and small rural hospitals through 2015, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114–109)

S. 1875, to support enhanced accountability for United States assistance to Afghanistan, with an amendment. **Page S6186**

Measures Passed:

National Whistleblower Appreciation Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 236, designating July 30, 2015, as “National Whistleblower Appreciation Day”. **Page S6147**

Developing a Reliable and Innovative Vision for the Economy Act: By 65 yeas to 34 nays (Vote No. 260), Senate passed H.R. 22, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and after taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S6149–6161

Adopted:

McConnell Amendment No. 2542, to amend the title. **Page S6205**

Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act: By 91 yeas to 4 nays (Vote No. 261), Senate passed H.R. 3236, to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, to provide resource flexibility to the Department of Veterans Affairs for health care services, by the order of the Senate of Wednesday, July 29, 2015, 60 Senators having voted in the affirmative. **Pages S6165–66**

Presidential Transitions Improvements Act of 2015: Senate passed S. 1172, to improve the process of presidential transition, after agreeing to the committee amendments, and the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S6205–09**

McConnell (for Carper/Johnson) Amendment No. 2543, relative to presidential transitions. **Pages S6207–09**

Measures Considered:

Prohibit Federal Funding of Planned Parenthood—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1881, to prohibit Federal funding of Planned Parenthood Federation of America. **Pages S6161–64, S6166–80**

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 and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, July 30, 2015, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, August 3, 2015. **Page S6209**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 2 p.m., on Monday, August 3, 2015, Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S6209**

Pro Forma Session—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn until 10:00 a.m., on Friday, July 31,

2015, for a pro forma session only, with no business conducted; and that following the pro forma session, Senate adjourn until 2 p.m., on Monday, August 3, 2015. **Page S6209**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Eric Drake Eberhard, of Washington, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation for a term expiring October 6, 2018.

Michael F. Suarez, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2020.

Elissa Slotkin, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

John E. Sparks, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces for the term of fifteen years to expire on the date prescribed by law.

Derek Tai-Ching Kan, of California, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

Beverly Angela Scott, of Ohio, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2019.

John D. Feeley, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Panama.

Robert Porter Jackson, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Ghana.

Victoria A. Lipnic, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2020.

Michael Herman Michaud, of Maine, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

Susan Paradise Baxter, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Inga S. Bernstein, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Gary Richard Brown, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Robert John Colville, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Elizabeth J. Drake, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

Jennifer Choe Groves, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

Marilyn Jean Horan, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Gary Stephen Katzmann, of Massachusetts, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

Dax Eric Lopez, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

John Milton Younge, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Darryl L. DePriest, of Illinois, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration.

Pages S6209–10

Nominations Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nominations:

Derek Tai-Ching Kan, of California, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years, which was sent to the Senate on July 13, 2015.

Earl L. Gay, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management, which was sent to the Senate on January 8, 2015.

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Messages from the House: **Pages S6185–86**

Measures Referred: **Page S6186**

Executive Communications: **Page S6186**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S6187–89**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S6189–94

Additional Statements: **Pages S6184–85**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S6194**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S6194**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S6194**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S6195**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—261) **Pages S6160–61, S6165–66**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:51 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Friday, July 31, 2015. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6209.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WHISTLEBLOWER CLAIMS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine whistleblower claims at the Department of Veterans Affairs, after receiving testimony from Linda A. Halliday, Deputy Inspector General, Office of the Inspector

General, and Katherine L. Mitchell, Veterans Integrated Service Network 18, Veterans Healthcare Administration, both of the Department of Veterans Affairs; Carolyn Lerner, Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel; and Danielle Brian, Project on Government Oversight, and Lisa M. Nee, both of Washington, D.C.

NOMINATION

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Admiral John M. Richardson, USN, to be Chief of Naval Operations, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

An original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States;

An original bill to provide for reforms of the administration of the Outer Continental Shelf of the United States;

S. 720, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, with an amendment;

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. 1240, to designate the Cerro del Yuta and Rio San Antonio Wilderness Areas in the State of New Mexico, with an amendment;

S. 145, to require the Director of the National Park Service to refund to States all State funds that were used to reopen and temporarily operate a unit of the National Park System during the October 2013 shutdown;

S. 403, to revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern Minnesota and to extend the trail into Vermont to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, with an amendment;

S. 521, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of President Station in Baltimore, Maryland, with an amendment;

S. 593, to require the Secretary of the Interior to submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation to manage its infrastructure assets, with an amendment;

S. 610, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of P.S. 103 in West Baltimore, Maryland and for other purposes;

S. 873, to designate the wilderness within the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve in the State of Alaska as the Jay S. Hammond Wilderness Area;