

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1959–S2051

Measures Introduced: Thirty bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 500–529, and S. Res. 69–71. **Pages S2003–04**

Measures Passed:

Congressional Rule Disapproval: By a vote of 52 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. 19), Senate passed S.J. Res. 4, providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Department of Agriculture under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, relating to risk zones for introduction of bovine spongiform encephalopathy. **Pages S1961–79**

Commemorating 40th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday: Senate agreed to S. Res. 70, commemorating the 40th anniversary of Bloody Sunday. **Pages S2045, S2050**

Bankruptcy Reform Act: Senate continued consideration of S. 256, a bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S1979–97**

Adopted:

Specter Amendment No. 48, to increase bankruptcy filing fees to pay for the additional duties of United States trustees and the new bankruptcy judges added by this Act. **Pages S1985, S1994**

Rejected:

By 24 yeas to 74 nays (Vote No. 20), Dayton Amendment No. 31, to limit the amount of interest that can be charged on any extension of credit to 30 percent. **Pages S1979, S1981–82**

By 37 yeas to 61 nays (Vote No. 21), Nelson (FL) Amendment No. 37, to exempt debtors from means testing if their financial problems were caused by identity theft. **Pages S1982–83**

By 40 yeas to 58 nays (Vote No. 22), Durbin Amendment No. 38, to discourage predatory lending practices. **Page S1984**

By 39 yeas to 56 nays (Vote No. 23), Schumer Amendment No. 42, to limit the exemption for asset protection trusts. **Pages S1980–81, S1991–94**

By 40 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 24), Rockefeller Amendment No. 24, to amend the wage priority

provision and to amend the payment of insurance benefits to retirees. **Pages S1994–95**

By 40 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 25), Durbin Amendment No. 49, to protect employees and retirees from corporate practices that deprive them of their earnings and retirement savings when a business files for bankruptcy. **Pages S1985–91, S1995–96**

Pending:

Leahy Amendment No. 26, to restrict access to certain personal information in bankruptcy documents. **Page S1979**

Feinstein Amendment No. 19, to enhance disclosures under an open end credit plan. **Page S1979**

Kennedy Amendment No. 44, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage. **Pages S1979–80, S1981**

Dorgan/Durbin Amendment No. 45, to establish a special committee of the Senate to investigate the awarding and carrying out of contracts to conduct activities in Afghanistan and Iraq and to fight the war on terrorism. **Pages S1983–84**

Pryor Amendment No. 40, to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prohibit the use of any information in any consumer report by any credit card issuer that is unrelated to the transactions and experience of the card issuer with the consumer to increase the annual percentage rate applicable to credit extended to the consumer. **Pages S1984–85**

Reid (for Baucus) Amendment No. 50, to amend section 524(g)(1) of title 11, United States Code, to predicate the discharge of debts in bankruptcy by an vermiculite mining company meeting certain criteria on the establishment of a health care trust fund for certain individuals suffering from an asbestos related disease. **Pages S1996–97**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at 9:30 a.m., on Friday, March 4, 2005; that in addition to Kennedy Amendment No. 44 (listed above), it be in order for Senator Santorum to offer a first degree amendment related to the minimum wage issue; that on Monday, March 7, 2005, there be 3 hours of debate equally divided between Senator Santorum and Senator Kennedy, or their designees; and that at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, March 7, 2005, the Senate

proceed to a vote on Kennedy Amendment No. 44, to be followed by a vote on the amendment offered by Senator Santorum, with no amendments in order to either amendment, and that if either amendment does not receive 60 votes in the affirmative, that the Senate action on the amendment be vitiated and the amendment be immediately withdrawn.

Pages S2050–51

Messages From the House: Page S2002

Measures Referred: Page S2002

Executive Communications: Page S2002

Petitions and Memorials: Pages S2002–03

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S2004–05

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S2005–45

Additional Statements: Pages S2001–02

Amendments Submitted: Pages S2046–49

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: Page S2049

Authority for Committees to Meet: Pages S2049–50

Record Votes: Seven record votes were taken today. (Total—25) Pages S1979, S1982–83, S1984, S1994, S1995

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 7:15 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Friday, March 4, 2005. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on pages S2050–51.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the U.S. Forest Service, after receiving testimony from Mark E. Rey, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, and Dale N. Bosworth, Forest Service Chief, both of the Department of Agriculture.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

Committee on Armed Services: Committee continued hearings to examine the proposed Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from General James L. Jones, Jr., USMC, Commander, U.S. European Command and Supreme Allied Commander, Europe; General John P. Abizaid, USA, Commander, U.S. Central Command; and General Bryan D. Brown, USA, Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command.

COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

Committee on the Budget: On January 31, 2005, Committee adopted its rules of procedure for the 109th Congress.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY BUDGET

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Energy, after receiving testimony from Samuel W. Bodman, Secretary of Energy.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill, entitled Foreign Relations Authorization Act, fiscal years 2006 and 2007, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007.

DRUG SAFETY

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Food and Drug Administration’s process of ensuring drug safety, after receiving testimony from Janet Woodcock, Acting Deputy Commissioner for Operations, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; Cecil B. Wilson, American Medical Association, Winter Park, Florida; Keith L. Carson, The Williamsburg BioProcessing Foundation, Virginia Beach, Virginia; Raymond L. Woosley, University of Arizona Critical Path Institute, Tucson; and Bruce M. Psaty, University of Washington Cardiovascular Health Research Unit, Seattle.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Terrence W. Boyle, of North Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, James C. Dever III, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, and Robert J. Conrad, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina, who were introduced by Senators Dole and Burr, after each nominee testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to call.