

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

The House passed H.R. 1000, Pension Security Act.

House committee ordered reported the National Defense Authorization for Fiscal Year 2004.

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6147-S6406

Measures Introduced: Twelve bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1056-1067, S. Res. 143, and S. Con. Res. 44. **Pages S6255-56**

Measures Reported:

S. 275, to amend the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996, and to establish the United States Boxing Administration, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 108-47).

Page S6255

Measures Passed:

Congressional Gold Medal For Tony Blair: Senate passed S. 709, to award a congressional gold medal to Prime Minister Tony Blair. **Page S6405**

Reconciliation Bill: Senate began consideration of S. 1054, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2004, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S6148-S6226, S6233-S6248**

Pending:

Grassley Amendment No. 555, to increase the criminal monetary penalty limitation for the underpayment or overpayment of tax due to fraud.

Pages S6152-54

Dorgan/Baucus Amendment No. 556, to repeal the 1993 income tax increase on Social Security benefits and to offset the revenue loss. **Pages S6154-57**

Specter Amendment No. 569, to urge the Senate Finance Committee and the Joint Economic Committee to hold hearings and consider legislation providing for a flat tax. **Pages S6176-78**

Baucus Amendment No. 570, to ensure that the limit on refundability shall not apply to the additional \$400 child credit for 2003, to make the dividend exclusion effective for taxable years beginning in 2003, and to eliminate the increase in the dividend exclusion from 10 percent to 20 percent of dividends over \$500. **Pages S6178-80**

Kennedy Amendment No. 544, to provide for additional weeks of temporary extended unemployment compensation and to provide for a program of temporary enhanced regular unemployment compensation. **Pages S6180-88**

Lincoln Amendment No. 578, to expand the refundability of the child tax credit. **Pages S6188-91, S6198**

Cantwell Amendment No. 577, to permanently extend and modify the research and experimentation tax credit and strike the partial exclusion of dividends provision. **Pages S6191-95**

Jeffords Amendment No. 587, to accelerate the elimination of the marriage penalty in the earned income credit. **Pages S6195-96**

Bunning/McConnell Amendment No. 589, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 1993 income tax increase on Social Security benefits. **Pages S6197-98**

Burns Amendment No. 593, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the expensing of broadband Internet access expenditures. **Pages S6198-S6200**

Grassley Amendment No. 594, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to enhance beneficiary access to quality health care services in rural areas under the Medicare program. **Pages S6200-01**

Harkin Amendment No. 595, to help rural health care providers and hospitals receive a fair reimbursement for services under Medicare by reducing tax cuts regarding dividends. **Pages S6201-04**

Collins Amendment No. 596, to provide temporary State and local fiscal relief. **Pages S6204-10**

Murray Amendment No. 564, to provide temporary State fiscal relief. **Pages S6210-14**

Stabenow Amendment No. 614, to ensure the enactment of a Medicare prescription drug benefit. **Pages S6214-16**

Warner Modified Amendment No. 550, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the

above-the-line deduction for teacher classroom supplies and to expand such deduction to include qualified professional development expenses.

Pages S6216–17

Voinovich Amendment No. 592, to establish a blue ribbon commission on comprehensive tax reform.

Pages S6217–20

Graham (FL) Amendment No. 617, in the nature of a substitute.

Pages S6220–22

Kyl Amendment No. 575, to further enhance the denial of deduction for certain fines, penalties, and other amounts.

Pages S6222–26

Landrieu Amendment No. 619, in the nature of a substitute.

Pages S6233–38

Landrieu Amendment No. 620, to provide pay protection for members of the Reserve and the National Guard.

Pages S6238–39

Landrieu Amendment No. 621, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers in renewal communities to qualify for the renewal community employment credit by employing residents of certain other renewal communities.

Page S6239

Ensign Amendment No. 622, to encourage the investment of foreign earnings within the United States for productive business investments and job creation.

Pages S6239–41

Schumer Amendment No. 557, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make higher education more affordable.

Pages S6241–46

Conrad Amendment No. 611, to make the child tax credit acceleration applicable to 2002.

Pages S6246–47

Baucus (for McCain) Amendment No. 612, to add the provisions of the Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act of 2003.

Pages S6247–48

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

By 44 yeas to 53 nays (Vote No. 147), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to waive section 305(b)2 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, with respect to Reid Amendment No. 560, to ensure that Social Security surpluses are not raided in order to fund tax cuts on corporate dividends.

Subsequently, the point of order that the amendment was in violation of section 305(b)2 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 relative to germaneness was sustained, and the amendment thus falls.

Pages S6164–74

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at 9:15 a.m., on Thursday, May 15, 2003; that all time under the statutory limit be expired; that the Senate proceed to vote on or in relation to the pending amendments in the order offered beginning with

Bunning/McConnell Amendment No. 589 (listed above); that following the disposition of amendments, the bill be read a third time, the Senate then proceed to consideration of H.R. 2 (House companion measure), all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of S. 1054, as amended, if amended, be inserted in lieu thereof, the bill be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to a vote on passage of the bill; that the Senate then insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House thereon, the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate with a ratio of 3 to 2; and that no points of order be waived by this agreement.

Pages S6196–97

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for the vote sequence relative to the pending amendments (listed above).

Page S6226

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that no second degree amendments be in order to the pending amendments (listed above).

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Global HIV/AIDS Bill—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that immediately following passage of H.R. 2, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2004, Senate proceed to H.R. 1298, to provide assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and that only relevant first degree amendments be in order; that only second degree amendments which are relevant to the first degree amendment to which they are offered, when offered, be in order; and that upon disposition of all amendments, the bill, as amended, if amended, be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to a vote on passage of the bill.

Messages From the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a periodic report relative to the national emergency with respect to Iran which was declared in Executive Order No. 12170; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–32)

Page S6252

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

April H. Foley, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2007.

Nicole R. Nason, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

Greta N. Morris, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

James C. Miller III, of Virginia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for the term expiring December 8, 2010.

Neil McPhie, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of seven years expiring March 1, 2009.

Peter Eide, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years.

Stanley C. Suboleski, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of six years expiring August 30, 2006.

Naomi Churchill Earp, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2005.

William A. Schambra, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring September 14, 2006.

Donna N. Williams, of Texas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2006.

Thomas A. Fuentes, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2005.

Lillian R. BeVier, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2004.

R. Bruce Matthews, of New Mexico, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2005.

29 Army nominations in the rank of general.

Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general.

29 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Marine Corps, Navy.

Pages S6227–31

Messages From the House: Page S6253

Measures Referred: Page S6253

Executive Communications: Page S6253

Petitions and Memorials: Pages S6253–55

Executive Reports of Committees: Page S6255

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S6256–57

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S6257–65

Additional Statements: Pages S6251–52

Amendments Submitted: Pages S6265–66

Authority for Committees to Meet: Pages S6404–05

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today.
(Total—147) Page S6174

Adjournment: Senate met at 9:15 a.m., and adjourned at 12:16 a.m., on Thursday, May 15, 2003 and will reconvene at 9:15 a.m. on the same day. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6226.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

FARM BILL

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded oversight hearings to examine the implementation of the Farm Securities and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (P.L. 107–171), including the status of implementation of the Agricultural Assistance Act of 2003 (P.L. 108–7), after receiving testimony from Anne M. Veneman, Secretary of Agriculture, who was accompanied by several of her associates.

APPROPRIATIONS: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOSTER CARE SYSTEM

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the District of Columbia concluded hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2004 for the government of the District of Columbia, focusing on the foster care system, after receiving testimony from Judith Sandalow, Children's Law Center, Marilyn R. Egerton, Foster and Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center, Sr. Ann Patrick Conrad, Catholic University of America National Catholic School of Social Service, and Jacqueline Bowen and Joseph Wright, both of Children's National Medical Center, and Damian Miller, all of Washington, D.C.

HEALTH CARE ACCESS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies concluded hearings to examine health care access and affordability and its impact on the economy, focusing on the costs of medical benefits and the implications for business, and the economic consequences of being uninsured, after receiving testimony from John F. Diedrich, Exelon Corporation, Chicago, Illinois, on behalf of the National Coalition on Health Care; Leo W. Gerard, United Steelworkers of America, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Jack Hadley, Urban Institute, Washington, D.C.; Paul Burrow, Oskaloosa, Iowa; and Ken Weinstein, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.