

Stewart Verdery, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Policy, Border and Transportation Security Directorate, both of the Department of Homeland Security; Donna Bucella, Director, Terrorist Screening Center, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice; Daniel Griswald, Cato Institute, Washington, D.C.; and Margaret D. Stock, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Veterans Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Robert N. Davis, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, who was introduced by Senators Cochran and Lott; and Pamela M. Iovino, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Congressional Affairs, who was introduced by Representative Murphy, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 26 public bills, H.R. 4101–4126 and 2 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 403, and H. Res. 594, were introduced. **Pages H2018–19**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H2019**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

Conference report on H.R. 3108, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to temporarily replace the 30-year Treasury rate with a rate based on long-term corporate bonds for certain pension plan funding requirements and other provisions (H. Rept. 108–457). **Page H2018**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered today by Monsignor James C. Kidder, Pastor, Holy Trinity Catholic Church in El Dorado, California. **Page H1793**

Transportation Equity Act—A Legacy for Users: The House began consideration of H.R. 3550, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs. Further proceedings will resume in Friday, April 2.

Pages H1796–H1997, H2021–36

The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure now printed in the bill, modified by the amendments printed in part A of H. Rept. 108–456 was considered as adopted and that the bill as amended shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment. **Page H2034**

Consideration began today on the Bradley amendment No. 20 printed in H. Rept. 108–456 that increases the allowable weight of vehicles permitted to travel on interstate highways 93 and 89, in New Hampshire, from 80,000 to 99,000 pounds and instructs the New Hampshire Department of Transportation to conduct a study to discern the eco-

nomics, safety and infrastructure impact to the exemption. Further proceedings on the amendment will continue on Friday, April 2. **Pages H2034–36**

Agreed to:

Young of Alaska manager's amendment No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–456, as modified, that makes various substantive and technical changes; **Page H1983**

Eddie Bernice Johnson amendment No. 2 printed in Part B of H. Rept. 108–456 that requires the Transportation Department to make its report on how federal surface transportation funds are allocated available to the public via the Internet in a user-friendly format; **Pages H1983–84**

Schiff amendment No. 6 printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–456 that strikes the toll requirement placed on hybrid gasoline-electric car users regarding the use of high-occupancy vehicle lanes; **Pages H1990–91**

Baird amendment No. 10 printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–456 that expresses the Sense of Congress to clarify that the Buy America Act applies to overall projects, and not their component parts; **Pages H1995–96**

LoBiondo amendment No. 13 printed in H. Rept. 108–456 that provides states eligibility to receive Section 410, Alcohol-Impaired Countermeasures grant funding to cover the costs of DWI vehicle impoundment programs; **Pages H2023–24**

Wu amendment No. 14 printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–456, as modified, that exempts projects, for which the Secretary of Transportation has received an application for final design, from the small start provisions of the bill and allows recommended new start projects, which have applied for final design, to move forward on their original timeline and avoid unnecessary delay; **Pages H2024–25**

LaTourette amendment No. 15 printed in H. Rept. 108–456, as modified, that requires that in the case of construction projects steel or iron used must be of U.S. origin; more than 60% of the cost components and subcomponents of all manufactured products shall be of U.S. origin; and in the case of manufactured components final assembly must occur in the U.S.;

Pages H2025–27

Bereuter amendment No. 18 printed in H. Rept. 108–456, as modified, that continues the farm supply and agricultural commodity exemption to the hours of service for drivers rules and clarifies the definition of “agricultural commodities” and “farm supplies for agricultural purposes” and

Pages H2030–31

Bachus amendment No. 17 printed in H. Rept. 108–456 that exempts motion picture and television production truck drivers from the new hours of service regulations that went into effect at the beginning of this year (agreed to by a recorded vote of 365 ayes to 62 noes, Roll No. 109).

Pages H2028–30, H2033–34

Rejected:

Graves amendment No. 8 printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–456 that sought to eliminate liability under state law for an owner of a motor vehicle who is engaged in the business of renting and leasing motor vehicles provided there is no negligence or criminal wrongdoing on the part of the motor vehicle owner;

Pages H1992–93

Holt amendment No. 11 printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–456, as modified, that sought to preserve the authority and right of the State of New Jersey to restrict trucks to only using interstate highways, the New Jersey Turnpike, and the Atlantic City Expressway in New Jersey unless they are traveling to a terminal or making pickups or deliveries on other roads in New Jersey;

Pages H1996–97

Waters amendment No. 12 printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–456 that sought to prohibit the use of funds for surface transportation projects that are planned or required to implement any proposal to build a remote passenger check-in facility at Los Angeles International Airport;

Pages H2022–23

Crowley amendment No. 16 printed in H. Rept. 108–456 that sought to create a pilot program that facilitates the use of natural gas buses at the nation’s top 25 busiest airports;

Pages H2027–28

Flake amendment No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 108–456 that sought to subtract the amount that states receive in High Priority Program earmarks from their formula totals for the Surface Transportation Program; also prevents the Minimum Guaranty Program from backfilling for what comes out of states’ Surface Transportation Program funding; and apportions to states, via formula, any funding remaining in the High Priority Program (rejected by

a recorded vote of 60 ayes to 367 noes, Roll No. 106);

Pages H1984–86, H2031–32

Jackson-Lee amendment No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 108–456 that sought to allow states to receive toll credits for any local, state, or private funds contributed to a toll project that exceed the minimum nonfederal 20% threshold required for federal match (rejected by a recorded vote of 50 ayes to 376 noes, Roll No. 107); and

Pages H1986–88, H2032

Chocola amendment No. 9 printed in H. Rept. 108–456 that sought to provide for a 400-pound weight limit exclusion for any motor vehicle equipped with an idling reduction technology verified by the Environmental Protection Agency (rejected by a recorded vote of 198 ayes to 228 noes, Roll No. 108).

Pages H1993–95, H2032–33

Withdrawn:

Shadegg amendment No. 5 printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–456 that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have ensured that Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program funds will be made available for areas which are not in attainment of air quality standards for either coarse particulate matter or fine particular matter;

Pages H1988–90

Vitter amendment No. 7 printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–456 that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have ensured the Interstate Route 49 Corridor is given priority consideration under the new National Corridor Infrastructure Improvement Program; and

Pages H1991–92

Kirk amendment No. 21 printed in H. Rept. 108–456 that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have authorized states the authority to administer requirements governing the sounding of a locomotive horn when a train approaches and enters upon public highway-rail grade crossings.

Page H2036

General debate on the bill proceeded according to a unanimous consent agreement reached on Tuesday, March 30.

Further consideration of the bill proceeded according to H. Res. 593, which was agreed to by a voice vote, after agreeing to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 229 yeas to 194 nays, Roll No. 105.

Page H1845

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourn today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. on Friday, April 2.

Page H2014

Late Report: Agreed that the Committee on Science have until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 14 to file reports on H.R. 3970 and H.R. 4030.

Page H2034

Law Revision Counsel—Resignation: Read a letter from John R. Miller wherein he retired as Law Revision Counsel, effective May 3, 2004.

Page H2036

Law Revision Counsel—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of Mr. Peter LeFevre as Law Revision Counsel for the House of Representatives, effective May 4, 2004. **Page H2037**

Pension Funding Equity Act of 2003—Order of Business: Agreed that it be in order at any time to consider a conference report to accompany H.R. 1308, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to temporarily replace the 30-year Treasury rate with a rate based on long-term corporate bonds for certain pension plan funding requirements and other provisions; that the conference report be considered as read; and that all points of order against the conference report and its consideration be waived. **Pages H1997–H2014**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H1793.

Senate Referral: S. 275 was referred to the Committees on Education and the Workforce and Energy and Commerce. **Page H2014**

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and four recorded votes developed during the proceedings today and appear on pages H1845, H2031–32, H2032, H2032–33, and H2033–34. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at p.m.

Committee Meetings

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE, JUDICIARY AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, Judiciary and Related Agencies held a hearing on Broadcasting Board of Governors. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Broadcasting Board of Governors: Kenneth Tomlinson, Chairman; and Norman Pattiz, member of the Board.

The Subcommittee held a hearing on Department of State International Organizations. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of State: Ambassador John D. Negroponte, U. S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations; and Kim Holmes, Assistant Secretary.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on the Legal Services Corporation. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Legal Services Corporation: Helanine Barnett; President; and Frank B. Strickland, Chairman.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on District of Columbia held a hearing on Public Defender Services, Court Services, and Offender Supervision. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the District of Columbia: Ronald S. Sullivan, Director, Public Defender Services; and Paul A. Quander, Jr., Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs held a hearing on U.S. Agency for International Development. Testimony was heard from Andrew S. Natsios, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, Department of State.

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing on Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection. Testimony was heard from LTG Frank Libutti, Under Secretary, Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior held a hearing on the National Endowment for the Arts and on the National Endowment for the Humanities. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities: Dana Gioia, Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts; and Bruce Cole, Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities.

LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies held a hearing on Workforce Preparation and Training. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Education: Susan K. Sclafani, Assistant Secretary, Office of Vocational and Adult Education; and Sally Stroup, Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, Independent Agencies held a hearing on the Executive Office of the President. Testimony was heard from Tim Campen, Assistant to the President and Director of Office of Administration.