

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2661–S2757

Measures Introduced: Eleven bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 621–631, S.J. Res. 7–9, and S. Res. 82. **Pages S2734–35**

Measures Passed:

Welfare Reform Extension Act: Senate passed H.R. 1160, to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program through June 30, 2005, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S2754**

Concurrent Budget Resolution: Senate continued consideration of S. Con. Res. 18, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2005 and 2007 through 2010, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S2661–S2728**

Adopted:

By a unanimous vote of 100 yeas (Vote No. 46), Graham Modified Amendment No. 152, to express the sense of the Senate regarding the urgent need for legislation to ensure the long-term viability of the Social Security program. **Pages S2686–92**

By 56 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 48), DeMint Amendment No. 150, to express the sense of the Senate that failing to address the financial condition of Social Security will result in massive debt, deep benefit cuts and tax increases. **Pages S2685–86, S2692–93**

Rejected:

By 45 yeas to 55 nays (Vote No. 47), Conrad Amendment No. 144, to ensure that 75-year solvency has been restored to Social Security before Congress considers new deficit-financed legislation that would increase mandatory spending or cut taxes. **Pages S2668–76, S2680–85, S2692**

By 50 yeas to 50 nays (Vote No. 49), Nelson Amendment No. 145, to express the sense of the Senate that Congress should reject any Social Security plan that requires deep benefit cuts or a massive increase in debt. **Pages S2676–78, S2693**

By 46 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 50), Stabenow Amendment No. 147, to protect the American people from terrorist attacks by providing the necessary resources to our firefighters, police, EMS workers and other first-responders by restoring \$1,626 billion in cuts to first-responder programs. **Pages S2678–80, S2693–94**

Pending:

Byrd Amendment No. 158, to provide adequate funding of \$1.4 billion in fiscal year 2006 to preserve a national intercity passenger rail system. **Pages S2694–S2706**

Cantwell Amendment No. 168, to strike section 201(a)(4) relative to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. **Pages S2716–20**

Akaka Amendment No. 149, to increase veterans medical care by \$2.8 billion in 2006. **Pages S2720–24**

Ensign Amendment No. 171, to increase veterans medical care by \$410,000,000 in fiscal year 2006. **Pages S2724–28**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the resolution at 9 a.m., on Wednesday, March 16, 2005, and that Senator Feinstein be recognized for up to 20 minutes; that Senator Specter be recognized to offer an amendment relative to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), on which there will be 45 minutes for debate equally divided; that following that debate, the Senate begin 90 minutes of debate equally divided in relation to the Cantwell Amendment No. 168 (listed above); that there then be 45 minutes equally divided for debate relative to Ensign Amendment No. 171 (listed above) and Akaka Amendment No. 149 (listed above); and that at 1 p.m., the Senate vote on, or in relation to, certain amendments. **Page S2755**

Appointments:

President's Export Council: The Chair, pursuant to Executive order 12131, as amended, appointed the following Members to the President's Export Council: Senators Baucus and Dorgan. **Page S2754**

National Council on the Arts: The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to Public

Law 105–63, announced the appointment of the following individual to serve as members of the National Council on the Arts: Senator Leahy, vice Senator Reid.

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Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

James H. Bilbray, of Nevada, to be a Member of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

Philip Coyle, of California, to be a Member of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr., United States Navy, Retired, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

James V. Hansen, of Utah, to be a Member of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

General James T. Hill, United States Army, Retired, of Florida, to be a Member of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission. (Position)

Claude M. Kicklighter, of Georgia, to be a Member of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

Samuel Knox Skinner, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

Brigadier General Sue Ellen Turner, United States Air Force, Retired, of Texas, to be a Member of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

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Messages From the House: **Pages S2732–33**

Measures Referred: **Page S2733**

Executive Communications: **Pages S2733–34**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S2734**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S2735**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2735–46**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2730–32**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S2746–53**

Authority for Committees to Meet: **Pages S2753–54**

Privilege of the Floor: **Page S2754**

Record Votes: Five record votes were taken today. (Total—50) **Pages S2691–94**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 10:06 p.m., until 9 a.m., on Wednesday, March 16, 2005. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2755.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine school nutrition programs, focusing on the elimination of reduced price meals, the Summer Food Service Program, and nutrition education and promotion, after receiving testimony from Senator Dole; Dora Rivas, Dallas Independent School District, Dallas, Texas; Annette Bomar Hopgood, Georgia Department of Education, Atlanta; Karen Johnson, Child Nutrition Programs, Yuma, Arizona, on behalf of the School Nutrition Association; and Ruth Jonen, Hoffman Estates, Palatine, Illinois.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, after receiving testimony from R. James Nicholson, Secretary, Jonathan B. Perlin, Acting Under Secretary for Health, Veterans' Health Administration, Vice Admiral Daniel L. Cooper (USN Ret.), Under Secretary for Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration, Richard A. Wannemacher, Acting Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Administration, Tim McClain, General Counsel, and Rita A. Reed, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Labor, after receiving testimony from Elaine L. Chao, Secretary of Labor.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, Judiciary and Housing and Urban Development concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Transportation, after receiving testimony from Norman Y. Mineta, Secretary of Transportation.