

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed S. 2349, Legislative Transparency and Accountability Act.
House Committees ordered reported 25 sundry measures, including the
Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2007.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2483–S2546

Measures Introduced: Thirteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2468–2480 and S. Res. 412–414. **Pages S2533–34**

Measures Passed:

Legislative Transparency and Accountability Act: By 90 yeas to 8 nays (Vote No. 82), Senate continued consideration of S. 2349, to provide greater transparency in the legislative process, after taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S2490–S2511**

Adopted:

Dodd (for Obama/Coburn) Amendment No. 2930, to clarify that availability of legislation does not include nonbusiness days. **Page S2490**

Dodd (for Levin) Amendment No. 2960, to require electronic filing and establish a public database for lobbyists for foreign governments. **Page S2491**

Lott (for Cornyn) Modified Amendment No. 2961, to require lobbyists to distinguish whether clients are public or private entities. **Pages S2492, S2499**

Dodd (for Feingold) Amendment No. 2963, to remove lobbyists altogether from Member trips. **Page S2491**

Lott (for Sununu/McCain) Amendment No. 2970, to revise the time period for Internet availability in the provisions relating to earmarks and availability of conference reports from 24 hours to 48 hours. **Page S2492**

Dodd (for Byrd) Modified Amendment No. 3181, to clarify the termination date of the Commission. **Pages S2491, S2499**

Dodd (for Byrd) Amendment No. 3182, to clarify the subpoena powers of the Commission. **Page S2491**

Lott (for Collins) Amendment No. 2979, to clarify disclosure requirements. **Page S2499**

Lott Amendment No. 3184, of a technical nature. **Page S2499**

Lott Amendment No. 3185, to clarify that lobbying contacts for Congressional staff do not include seeking lobbying disclosure compliance information from the Clerk of the House of Representatives or the Secretary of the Senate. **Page S2499**

Lott Amendment No. 3186, of a technical nature. **Page S2499**

Lott (for Collins) Amendment No. 3187, of a technical nature. **Page S2499**

Lott (for Collins) Amendment No. 3188, of a technical nature. **Page S2499**

Rejected:

Feingold Amendment No. 2962, to clarify the application of the gift rule to lobbyists. (By 68 yeas to 30 nays (Vote No. 80), Senate tabled the amendment.) **Pages S2493, S2498**

Lott (for Ensign/McCain) Amendment No. 2980, to include Federal entities in the definition of earmarks. (By 57 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. 81), Senate tabled the amendment.) **Pages S2491, S2507–09**

Withdrawn:

Lott (for Ensign/McCain) Amendment No. 2981, to clarify the treatment of out of scope matters in conference reports. **Pages S2506–07**

Lott (for Ensign/McCain) Amendment No. 2983, to permit a Senator to raise a single point of order that several provisions violate Section 102. **Pages S2492, S2509**

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

Chair sustained a point of order against the following amendments, as being in violation of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and the amendments thus fell:

Lott (for Inhofe) Amendment No. 2936, to provide a 1-year prohibition against lobbying for senior career staff of executive branch agencies.

Pages S2492–93

Lott (for Inhofe) Amendment No. 2937, to amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to extend coverage to all executive branch employees.

Page S2493

Dodd (for Baucus) Amendment No. 2954, to prohibit Members from using 501(c)(3) organizations for personal or political gain.

Page S2493

Dodd (for Obama/Coburn) Amendment No. 2965, to ban employment negotiations to become lobbyists by Members of Congress and required recusal for senior congressional staff while in office.

Page S2490

Lott (for Inhofe) Amendment No. 2982, to provide criminal penalties for lobbying by exempt organizations.

Page S2493

Lott (for Coburn/Obama) Amendment No. 3175, to require full disclosure of all entities and organizations receiving Federal funds.

Page S2492

Dodd (for Obama) Amendment No. 2995, to expand the prohibition on lobbying in the year after leaving service to the Senate to include a prohibition on paid coordination activities.

Page S2491

Military Recruiters: Committee on Armed Services was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 385, expressing the gratitude and appreciation to the men and women of the Armed Forces who serve as military recruiters, commending their selfless service in recruiting young men and women to serve in the United States military, particularly in support of the global war on terrorism, and the resolution was then agreed to.

Page S2540

Commending the Virginia Wesleyan College Marlins Men's Basketball Team: Senate agreed to S. Res. 413, commending the Virginia Wesleyan College Marlins men's basketball team for winning the 2006 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III National Basketball Championship.

Pages S2540–41

Celebrating Country Music: Senate agreed to S. Res. 414, celebrating the musical and cultural heritage of country music and recognizing the "Country: A Celebration of America's Music" festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Page S2541

Financial Literacy Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 410, designating April 2006 as "Financial Literacy Month", after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S2541–42

Sessions (for Akaka) Amendment No. 3190, to amend the preamble.

Page S2541

Prior to the above-listed action, Senate vitiated the March 28, 2006 adoption of S. Res. 410.

Page S2541

Securing America's Borders Act: Senate began consideration of S. 2454, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for comprehensive reform.

Pages S2511–26

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 30, 2006, and that the time until 12 noon be equally divided between the Majority Leader and the Democratic Leader, or their designees, for debate only; that at 12 noon, the Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary be recognized to offer an amendment; and that the time until 5 p.m. be equally divided between the Majority Leader and the Democratic Leader, or their designees, for debate only.

Page S2543

China Currency—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached to amend the order of November 16, 2005, with respect to S. 295, to authorize appropriate action in the negotiations with the People's Republic of China regarding China's undervalued currency are not successful, providing that the Majority Leader, after consultation with the Democratic Leader, shall, no later than the September 29, 2006, or the last day of the second session of the 109th Congress, whichever is earlier, call up the bill; and that all other provisions of the order remaining constant.

Page S2543

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

Randall L. Tobias, of Indiana, to be Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Page S2546

Nominations Discharged: The following nomination was discharged from further committee consideration and placed on the Executive Calendar:

Eric M. Thorson, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Small Business Administration, which was sent to the Senate on June 28, 2005, from the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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Messages From the House: Pages S2531–32

Measures Referred: Page S2532

Executive Communications: Pages S2532–33

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S2534–35

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S2535–38

Additional Statements: Pages S2429–31

Amendments Submitted: Pages S2538–39

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Pages S2539–40

Privileges of the Floor: Page S2540

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—82) **Pages S2498, S2509 S2511**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 8:11 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, March 30, 2006. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2543.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (AIR FORCE)

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Air Force, after receiving testimony from Michael W. Wynne, Secretary, and General T. Michael Moseley, Chief of Staff, both of the United States Air Force, Department of Defense.

APPROPRIATIONS: VA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for Department of Veterans Affairs, after receiving testimony from R. James Nicholson, Secretary, Jonathan B. Perlin, Under Secretary for Health, Daniel L. Cooper, Under Secretary for Benefits, and William F. Tuerk, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities concluded a hearing to examine the proposed defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years defense program, focusing on the U.S. nonproliferation strategy and the roles and missions of the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy in nonproliferation, after receiving testimony from Peter C.W. Flory, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy; General James E. Cartwright, USMC, Commander, U.S. Strategic Command; and Jerald S. Paul, Deputy Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Security and Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces concluded a hearing to examine the proposed defense authorization request for fiscal year, focusing on the Global Strike Plans and Programs, after receiving testimony from Peter C.W. Flory, As-

sistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy; General James E. Cartwright, USMC, Commander, U.S. Strategic Command; Rear Admiral Charles B. Young, USN, Director, Strategic Systems Programs, Department of the Navy; and Major General Stanley Gorenc, USAF, Director, Operational Capability Requirements, Deputy Chief of Staff for Air and Space Operations, Headquarters, U.S. Air Force.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Seapower concluded a hearing to examine the proposed defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years defense program, focusing on the Navy/Marine Corps force structure and future capabilities, after receiving testimony from Vice Admiral Lewis W. Crenshaw, Jr., USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Resources, Requirements and Assessments; Lieutenant General Emerson N. Gardner, Jr., USMC, Deputy Commandant of the Marine Corps for Programs and Resources; Lieutenant General James N. Mattis, USMC, Deputy Commandant of the Marine Corps for Combat Development and Integration; and Rear Admiral Mark J. Edwards, USN, Director, Warfare Integration (N8F), Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on International Trade and Finance concluded a hearing to examine the reauthorization of the U.S. Export-Import Bank, focusing on ways to improve the Bank's economic impact procedures, after receiving testimony from James H. Lambright, Acting President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States; Steven R. Appleton, Micron Technology, Inc., Boise, Idaho; and Thomas M. Sneeringer, United States Steel Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

BASIC RESEARCH IN COMPETITIVENESS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness concluded a hearing to examine the importance of basic research to United States' competitiveness, focusing on the importance and priority of Federally-funded basic research, after receiving testimony from John Marburger III, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy; Arden L. Bement, Jr., Director, National Science Foundation; William Jeffrey, Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Technology Administration, Department of Commerce; Steven Knapp, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland; Leonard J. Pietrafesa, North Carolina State University, Raleigh,