

Conference Reports:

CPSC Reform Act: By 89 yeas to 3 nays (Vote No. 193), Senate agreed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 4040, to establish consumer product safety standards and other safety requirements for children's products and to reauthorize and modernize the Consumer Product Safety Commission, clearing the measure for the President. **Pages S7867–78**

College Opportunity and Affordability Act: By 83 yeas to 8 nays, 1 responding present (Vote No. 194), Senate agreed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 4137, to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, clearing the measure for the President. **Pages S7845–67, S7878**

Appointments:

Commission on Wartime Contracting: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 110–181, appointed the following individual to the Commission on Wartime Contracting: Robert J. Henke of Virginia. **Page S7981**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Deborah Hersman, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2013.

Sung Y. Kim, of California, a Foreign Service Officer of Class One, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Special Envoy for the Six Party Talks.

Anthony W. Ryan, of Massachusetts, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury.

John J. Tharp, Jr., of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

J. Richard Barry, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi.

Thomas Marcelle, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York.

Gineen Bresso Beach, of Florida, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission for the remainder of the term expiring December 12, 2009.

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Messages from the House: **Pages S7900–01**

Measures Referred: **Page S7901**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S7901–02 S7981**

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Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total–196) **Pages S7778–80**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 10:20 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Friday, August 1, 2008. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7981.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NORTH KOREAN SIX-PARTY TALKS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded open and closed hearings to examine the North Korean Six-Party Talks and implementation activities, after receiving testimony from Christopher R. Hill, Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs; William H. Tobey, Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy; and Joseph R. DeTrani, Mission Manager for North Korea, and Vann H. Van Diepen, National Intelligence Officer for Weapons of Mass Destruction and Proliferation, both of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of General Norton A. Schwartz, USAF for reappointment to the grade of general and, to be Chief of Staff, United States Air Force, and General Duncan J. McNabb, USAF for reappointment to the grade of general and, to be Commander, United States Transportation Command, and 519 nominations in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, all of the Department of Defense.

NATION'S TRANSMISSION GRID

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the state of the nation's transmission grid, focusing on the implementation of the transmission provisions of the Energy Policy Act (Public Law 109–58), including reliability, siting, and infrastructure investment, after receiving testimony from Joseph T. Kelliher, Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; Kevin

M. Kolevar, Assistant Secretary of Energy for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability; Marsha H. Smith, Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Boise, on behalf of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners; James J. Hoecker, Working Group on Investment in Reliable and Economic Electric Systems (WIRES), Washington, D.C.; Colin Whitley, American Public Power Association, Wichita, Kansas; George C. Loehr, eLucem, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Terry Boston, PJM Interconnection, Norristown, Pennsylvania; and Susan Tomasky, American Electric Power, Columbus, Ohio.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee ordered favorably reported the following:

S. 906, to prohibit the sale, distribution, transfer, and export of elemental mercury, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 3109, to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a hazardous waste electronic manifest system;

S. 24, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require a health advisory and monitoring of drinking water for perchlorate, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 150, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to protect the health of pregnant women, fetuses, infants, and children by requiring a health advisory and drinking water standard for perchlorate, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1911, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to protect the health of susceptible populations, including pregnant women, infants, and children, by requiring a health advisory, drinking water standard, and reference concentration for trichloroethylene vapor intrusion;

S. 1933, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide grants to small public drinking water systems;

S. 2549, to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish an Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice to provide guidance to Federal agencies on the development of criteria for identifying disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations;

S. 642, to codify Executive Order 12898, relating to environmental justice, to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to fully implement the recommendations of the Inspector General of the Agency and the Comptroller General of the United States;

S. 199, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Amendments of 1996 to modify the grant program to improve sanitation in rural and Native villages in the State of Alaska;

S. 2994, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide for the remediation of sediment contamination in areas of concern.

HEALTH BENEFITS

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine health benefits in the tax code, focusing on government health expenditures and the increasing costs of health care plans, after receiving testimony from Edward D. Kleinbard, Chief of Staff, Joint Committee on Taxation, United States Congress; Jonathan Gruber, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge; and Katherine Baicker, Harvard University School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts.

MILITARY ROLE IN FOREIGN POLICY

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine ways to define the military's role relative to foreign policy, after receiving testimony from John D. Negroponte, Deputy Secretary of State; Eric Edelman, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy; George Rupp, International Rescue Committee, New York, New York; and Reuben E. Brigety, II, Center for American Progress, Robert M. Perito, United States Institute of Peace, and Mary Locke, all of Washington, D.C.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security concluded a hearing to examine the state of information technology planning in the federal government, after receiving testimony from Karen S. Evans, Administrator, Office of E-Government and Information Technology, and Paul A. Denett, Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy, both of the Office of Management and Budget; David A. Powner, Director, Information Technology Management Issues, Government Accountability Office; Tom Jarrett, Delaware Department of Technology and Information, Dover; Al Grasso, MITRE Corporation, McLean, Virginia; and Norm Brown, Center for Program Transformation, Arlington, Virginia.

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BUREAUCRACY

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia concluded a hearing to examine the structures of the State Department responsible

for coordinating U.S. foreign assistance, processes in place for implementing foreign assistance policy, the responsiveness of the organizational structures to the executive branch's foreign assistance policies, human capital issues, and any recommendations for improving the foreign assistance bureaucracy, after receiving testimony from Richard L. Greene, Deputy Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance, Department of State; Leo Hindery, Jr., Commission on Helping to Enhance the Livelihood of People Around the Globe, New York, New York; and Gordon Adams, American University School of International Service, Anne C. Richards, International Rescue Committee, Samuel A. Worthington, InterAction, and Gerald F. Hyman, Center for Strategic and International Studies, all of Washington, D.C.

SURVIVORS OF CATASTROPHES

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Disaster Recovery concluded a joint hearing with the House Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness to examine ways to ensure the delivery of donated goods to survivors of catastrophes, after receiving testimony from William Eric Smith, Assistant Administrator, Logistics Management Directorate, and Carlos J. Castillo, Assistant Administrator, Disaster Assistance Directorate, both of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security; Barney L. Brasseux, Deputy Commissioner, Federal Acquisition Service, General Services Administration; Paul Rainwater, Louisiana Recovery Authorization, Baton Rouge; Bill Stallworth, East Biloxi Coordination and Relief Center, Biloxi, Mississippi; Valerie Keller, Outreach Center, Lafayette, Louisiana; and Oliver R. Davidson, Humane Society of the United States, Arlington, Virginia.

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE MANAGEMENT

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the management of the Indian Health Service, focusing on lost property, wasteful spending and document fabrication, after receiving testimony from Gregory D. Kutz, Managing Director, Forensic Audits and Special Investigations, Government Accountability Office; and Robert G. McSwain, Director, and Fernand R. Verrier, former Deputy Director of the Office of Finance and Accounting, and Chief Financial Officer, both of the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following:

S. 952, to amend the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental and Native American Public Policy Act of 1992 to provide funds for training in tribal leadership, management, and policy; and

S. 3192, to amend the Act of August 9, 1955, to authorize the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, the Coquille Indian Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians of Oregon to obtain 99-year lease authority for trust land, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the following:

S. 3155, to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, with amendments;

S. 3061, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2008 through 2011 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, to enhance measures to combat trafficking in persons, with an amendment;

S. Res. 620, designating the week of September 14–20, 2008, as National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week, to raise public awareness and understanding of polycystic kidney disease, and to foster understanding of the impact polycystic kidney disease has on patients and future generations of their families;

S. Res. 622, designating the week beginning September 7, 2008, as “National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week”; and

S. Res. 624, designating August 2008 as “National Truancy Prevention Month”.

PENNSYLVANIA HEALTH INSURANCE INDUSTRY

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights concluded a hearing to examine consolidation in the Pennsylvania health insurance industry, after receiving testimony from Joseph A. Frick, Independence Blue Cross, and Sam Marshall, Insurance Federation of Pennsylvania, both of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Kenneth R. Melani, Highmark Inc., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Carolyn F. Scanlan, Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg; David Balto, Center for American Progress, Washington, D.C.; Henry S. Allen, American Medical Association, Chicago, Illinois; Michael B. Laign, Holy Redeemer Health System, Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania; and Henry Miller, Navigant Consulting, Inc., Baltimore, Maryland, on behalf of the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center Health Plan.

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.

HEALTH CARE

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine aging in rural areas of the United States, focusing on preserving elderly citizens' access to health care, after receiving testimony from John Hammarlund, Regional Administrator, Seattle and Chicago Regional Offices, Centers for

Medicare and Medicaid, and Tom Morris, Associate Administrator, Office of Rural Health Policy, Health Resources and Services Administration, both of the Department of Health and Human Services; Margaret Davidson, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), LeGrande, Oregon; Bill Finerfrock, National Association of Rural Health Clinics, Washington, D.C.; Scott Ekblad, Oregon Health and Science University, Portland; Dennis E. Burke, Good Shepherd Health Care System, Hermiston, Oregon; and Tim Size, Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative, Sauk City.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 87 public bills, H.R. 6684–6771; and 23 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 400–408; and H. Res. 1394–1398, 1400–1408, were introduced. **Pages H7784–88**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H7789–90**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1907, to authorize the acquisition of land and interests in land from willing sellers to improve the conservation of, and to enhance the ecological values and functions of, coastal and estuarine areas to benefit both the environment and the economies of coastal communities, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–811);

H.R. 2535, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility and suitability of constructing a storage reservoir, outlet works, and a delivery system for the Tule River Indian Tribe of California to provide a water supply for domestic, municipal, industrial, and agricultural purposes (H. Rept. 110–812);

H.R. 3437, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the Jackson Gulch rehabilitation project in the State of Colorado, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–813);

H.R. 6041, to redesignate the Rio Grande American Canal in El Paso, Texas, as the “Travis C. Johnson Canal” (H. Rept. 110–814);

H.R. 5293, to approve the settlement of the water rights claims of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation in Nevada, to require the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the settlement, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–815); and

H. Res. 1399, providing for proceedings during the period from August 1, 2008, through September 4, 2008 (H. Rept. 110–816). **Pages H7783–84**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Rev. William H. Hild, Jr., First Baptist Church, Sarasota, Florida. **Page H7633**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by a recorded vote of 223 ayes to 203 noes, Roll No. 545. **Pages H7673–74**

College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2008—Conference Report: The House agreed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 4137, to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, by a yea-and-nay vote of 380 yeas to 49 nays, Roll No. 544. **Pages H7643–49, H7658–73**

H. Res. 1389, the rule providing for consideration of the conference report, was agreed to by voice vote after agreeing to order the previous question. **Page H7643**

Point of Personal Privilege: Representative Rangel rose to a point of personal privilege and was recognized. **Page H7674**

Privileged Resolution: The House agreed to table H. Res. 1396, raising a question of the privileges of the House, by a recorded vote of 254 ayes to 138 noes with 34 voting “present”, Roll No. 546. **Pages H7674–76**

Order of Procedure: Agreed by unanimous consent that, during further proceedings today in the House and the Committee of the Whole, the Chair is authorized to reduce to two minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any question that otherwise could be subjected to five-minute voting