

S. 546, to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Advisory Council to provide recommendations on emergency responder training and resources relating to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads;

S. 242, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide leave to any new Federal employee who is a veteran with a service-connected disability rated at 30 percent or more for purposes of undergoing medical treatment for such disability; and

S. 136, to amend chapter 21 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that fathers of certain permanently disabled or deceased veterans shall be included with mothers of such veterans as preference eligibles for treatment in the civil service.

IRRIGATE ACT

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 438, to provide for the repair, replacement, and maintenance of certain Indian irrigation projects, including deferred maintenance and financial sustainability issues, after receiving testimony from Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs; Anne-Marie Fennell,

Director, Natural Resources and Environment, Government Accountability Office; Harry C. LaBonde Jr., Wyoming Water Development Commission, Cheyenne; Charles Headdress, Sr., Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation, Poplar, Montana; and Mitchel T. Cottenoir, Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes Office of the Tribal Water Engineer, Ft. Washakie, Wyoming.

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine whistleblower retaliation at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, focusing on improving protections and oversight, including additional actions needed to improve Department of Justice's handling of FBI retaliation complaints, after receiving testimony from Kevin L. Perkins, Associate Deputy Director, and J. Richard Kiper, Special Agent, both of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Michael E. Horowitz, Inspector General, all of the Department of Justice; David Maurer, Director, Homeland Security and Justice, Government Accountability Office; Michael German, New York University Law School Brennan Center for Justice, New York, New York; and Stephen M. Kohn, National Whistleblowers Center, Washington, D.C.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 105 public bills, H.R. 1232–1336; 1 private bill, H.R. 1337; and 8 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 23–24; and H. Res. 142–147 were introduced. **Pages H1609–14**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H1618**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Carter (GA) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1569**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:43 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015: The House passed H.R. 749, to reauthorize Federal support for passenger rail programs, by a yea-and-nay vote of 316 yeas to 101 nays, Roll No. 112. **Pages H1578–96, H1596–H1603**

Rejected the Sean Patrick Maloney (NY) motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an

amendment, by a recorded vote of 184 yeas to 232 noes, Roll No. 111. **Pages H1600–02**

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114–9 shall be considered as read.

Page H1585

Agreed to:

McNerney amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 114–36) that ensures that socially and economically disadvantaged businesses request for proposals are considered for station development opportunities under Section 208 of the bill; **Page H1593**

Fitzpatrick amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 114–36) that adds veteran-owned small businesses to the participation study required under Section 305; **Pages H1593–94**

Mica amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 114–36) that proposes Northeast Corridor Express Service; **Pages H1594–95**

Brownley (CA) amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 114–36) that requires each state to develop a grade crossing action plan, identifying specific solutions for improving safety at crossings, including

highway-rail grade crossing closures or grade separations; and focuses on crossings that have experienced recent grade crossing accidents or multiple accidents, or are at high risk for accidents; **Pages H1595–96**

Perlmutter amendment (No. 5 printed in H. Rept. 114–36) that requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to submit to Congress a report evaluating the effectiveness of the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) 2005 rule on the use of locomotive horns at rail crossings; and

Pages H1596–97

Lipinski amendment (No. 7 printed in H. Rept. 114–36) that clarifies that passengers using or transporting non-motorized transportation are to be considered in the Amtrak Office of Inspector General's report on boarding procedures in Section 211.

Pages H1599–H1600

Rejected:

McClintock amendment (No. 6 printed in H. Rept. 114–36) that restricts operating subsidies for Amtrak.

Pages H1597–99, H1600

H. Res. 134, the rule providing for consideration of (H.R. 749) was agreed to yesterday, March 3.

Office of Compliance Administrative and Technical Corrections Act of 2015: The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass (H.R. 1213), to make administrative and technical corrections to the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995.

Page H1603

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Friday, March 6th.

Page H1603

House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members to the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards: Representative Miller (MI), Chairman; Representatives Latta and Rodney Davis (IL).

Page H1603

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Wilson (FL) wherein she resigned from the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Page H1603

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he designated funding for Overseas Contingency Operations and the Global War on Terrorism—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 114–15).

Pages H1606–07

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today and messages received from the Senate today appear on pages H1596 and H1604.

Senate Referral: S.J. Res. 8 was held at the desk.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1600, H1601–02, H1602–03. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Committee Meetings

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Department of Veterans Affairs budget. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Veterans Affairs officials: Robert A. McDonald, Secretary; Carolyn M. Clancy, Interim Under Secretary for Health; Allison A. Hickey, Under Secretary for Benefits; Stephen W. Warren, Executive in Charge for Information and Technology; Helen Tierney, Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer; and Glen R. Powers, Deputy Under Secretary for Field Programs.

APPROPRIATIONS—FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Food and Drug Administration budget. Testimony was heard from Margaret Hamburg, Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration; Jay Tyler, Chief Financial Officer, Food and Drug Administration; and Norris Cochran, Director, Office of Budget, Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing on Department of Defense budget. Testimony was heard from Ashton B. Carter, Secretary, Department of Defense; General Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Mike McCord, Undersecretary of Defense, Comptroller.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education held a hearing on Department of Education budget. Testimony was heard from Arne Duncan, Secretary, Department of Education.