

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5431–S5475

Measures Introduced: Nineteen bills were introduced, as follows: S. 1825–1843. **Page S5455**

Measures Reported:

S. 1297, to update the Commercial Space Launch Act by amending title 51, United States Code, to promote competitiveness of the U.S. commercial space sector, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114–88) **Page S5455**

Measures Passed:

Criminal Antitrust Anti-Retaliation Act: Senate passed S. 1599, to provide anti-retaliation protections for antitrust whistleblowers, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S5474–75**

Measures Considered:

Hire More Heroes Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 22, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. **Page S5451**

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

The motion to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on Tuesday, July 21, 2015, was agreed to. **Page S5451**

The motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on Tuesday, July 21, 2015, was agreed to. **Page S5451**

By 62 yeas to 36 nays (Vote No. 251), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate, upon reconsideration, agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S5451**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, post-cloture, at

approximately 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, July 23, 2015; and that all time during the adjournment of the Senate count post-cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S5475**

Messages from the House: **Page S5454**

Measures Referred: **Page S5454**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Pages S5454–55**

Executive Communications: **Page S5455**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S5455–56**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S5556–68**

Additional Statements: **Pages S5452–54**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S5468–73**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S5473**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S5473**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S5474**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—251) **Page S5451**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:22 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2015. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S5475.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government approved for full committee consideration an original bill entitled, “Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2016”.

FINANCIAL STABILITY OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment concluded a hearing to examine the Financial Stability Oversight Council designation process, after

receiving testimony from Patrick Pinschmidt, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Stability Oversight Council.

NOMINATION

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Marie Therese Dominguez, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Warner, testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Paul Wayne Jones, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Poland, Hans G. Klemm, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to Romania, Kathleen Ann Doherty, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus, James Desmond Melville, Jr., of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Estonia, and Samuel D. Heins, of Minnesota, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway, who was introduced by Senators Franken and Klobuchar, all of the Department of State, and Thomas O. Melia, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

PROTECTING THE ELECTRIC GRID

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine protecting the electric grid from the potential threats of solar storms and electromagnetic pulse, after receiving testimony from Joseph McClelland, Director, Office of Energy Infrastructure Security, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy; Christopher P. Currie, Director, Homeland Security and Justice, Government Accountability Office; R. James Woolsey, Foundation for Defense of Democracies, Washington, D.C.; Richard L. Garwin, IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights, New York; and Bridgette Bourge, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Arlington, Virginia.

HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, focusing on exploring barriers and opportunities within innovation, after receiving testimony from Jamie P. Merisotis, Lumina Foundation, Indianapolis, Indiana; Barbara Gellman-Danley, Higher Learning Commission, Chi-

cago, Illinois; Paul LeBlanc, Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester; and Michael B. Horn, Clayton Christensen Institute, San Mateo, California.

BUSINESS MEETING

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

S. 1704, to amend the Indian Tribal Justice Act to secure urgent resources vital to Indian victims of crime, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

S. 1776, to enhance tribal road safety, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

INDIAN GAMING OVERSIGHT

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine safeguarding the integrity of Indian gaming, focusing on regulation and oversight by the Federal government, States, and Tribes, after receiving testimony from Anne-Marie Fennell, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, Government Accountability Office; David Trujillo, Washington State Gambling Commission Director, Olympia; Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri, National Indian Gaming Commission, and Ernest Stevens, Jr., National Indian Gaming Association, both of Washington, D.C.; and Jamie Hummingbird, Cherokee Nation Gaming Commission, Oneida, Wisconsin, on behalf of the National Tribal Gaming Commissioners and Regulators Association.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of John Michael Vazquez, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, who was introduced by Senator Menendez, Wilhelmina Marie Wright, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota, who was introduced by Senators Klobuchar and Franken, Paula Xinis, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, who was introduced by Senators Mikulski and Cardin, and Cono R. Namorato, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

SUPREME COURT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights and Federal Courts concluded a hearing to examine Supreme Court activism and possible solutions, after receiving testimony from John C. Eastman, Chapman University's Dale E. Fowler School of Law, Orange, California, on behalf of the Claremont Institute's Center for Constitutional Jurisprudence; Neil S. Siegel,

Duke Law School, Durham, North Carolina; and Edward Whelan, Ethics and Public Policy Center, Washington, D.C.

TARGETED TAX REFORM

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine targeted tax reform, focusing on solutions to relieve the tax compliance burden for America's small businesses, including S. 1827, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the tax treatment of small businesses, after receiving testimony from Diana Beebe, ProSys, Inc., Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Donald Begneaud, Begneaud Manufacturing, Scott, Louisiana; Cori O'Steen, Upak, Inc., Aiken, South Carolina; Jeffrey A. Porter, Porter and Associates, Huntington, West Virginia, on behalf of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants; Tom Mathison, Mathison Mathison Architects, Grand Rapids, Michigan, on behalf of the National Small Business Association; and Caroline Bruckner, American University Kogod School of Business Tax Policy Center, Nicholas Karellas, National Federation of Independent Business, and Dean Zerbe, alliantgroup, all of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1493, to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2015, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans;

S. 1203, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1082, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal or demotion of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs based on performance or misconduct;

S. 833, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain major medical facility projects for which appropriations were made for fiscal year 2015, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

S. 627, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to revoke bonuses paid to employees involved in electronic wait list manipulations.

MEDICARE PROVIDER ENROLLMENT FRAUD

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine combating medicare provider enrollment fraud, focusing on additional actions needed to improve eligibility verification of providers and suppliers, after receiving testimony from Seto J. Bagdoyan, Director, Forensic Audits and Investigative Service, Government Accountability Office; Shantanu Agrawal, Deputy Administrator and Director, Center for Program Integrity, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services; and Katherine Leff, CareSource Management Group, Dayton, Ohio.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 24 public bills, H.R. 3149–3172; and 2 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 64; and H. Res. 371, were introduced.

Pages H5401–03

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H5404–05

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 521, to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–217, Part 1);

H.R. 2770, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require certain maintenance of security-

related technology at airports, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–218);

H.R. 998, to establish the conditions under which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish preclearance facilities, conduct preclearance operations, and provide customs services outside the United States, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–219, Part 1);

H.R. 2127, to direct the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to limit access to expedited airport security screening at an airport security checkpoint to participants of the PreCheck program and other known low-risk passengers, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–220);