

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 1356, National Defense Authorization Act.

Senate passed H.R. 2029, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, as amended.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7869–S7957

Measures Introduced: Twenty bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2262–2281, and S. Res. 312. **Pages S7912–13**

Measures Reported:

Report to accompany S. 1334, to strengthen enforcement mechanisms to stop illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, to amend the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 to implement the Antigua Convention. (S. Rept. No. 114–166)

S. Res. 302, expressing the sense of the Senate in support of Israel and in condemnation of Palestinian terror attacks. **Page S7912**

Measures Passed:

National Defense Authorization Act: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 90, directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a technical correction in the enrollment of S. 1356, after taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S7878**

Adopted:

McCain Amendment No. 2796, to modify the resolution. **Page S7878**

Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act: By a unanimous vote of 93 yeas (Vote No. 302), Senate passed H.R. 2029, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, after withdrawing the committee reported substitute amendment, and taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S7871–75, S7878–81

Adopted:

Kirk (for Moran) Amendment No. 2774 (to Amendment No. 2763), to prohibit the use of funds to pay for the transfers or relocations of senior executives of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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McConnell (for Murkowski) Amendment No. 2775 (to Amendment No. 2763), to require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress a report evaluating the implementation by the Department of Veterans Affairs of section 101 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014.

Page S7879

McConnell (for Murkowski) Amendment No. 2776 (to Amendment No. 2763), to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the provision of health care to veterans in Alaska through the use of non-Department of Veterans Affairs health care providers. **Page S7879**

Tester (for Blumenthal) Amendment No. 2779 (to Amendment No. 2763), to require that amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for medical and prosthetic research are used to ensure the provision of gender appropriate prosthetics and to conduct research related to toxic exposure.

Page S7879

Tester (for Blumenthal) Amendment No. 2781 (to Amendment No. 2763), to require that amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for medical supplies and equipment are used to procure gender appropriate prosthetics. **Page S7879**

Kirk (for Toomey/Casey) Amendment No. 2785 (to Amendment No. 2763), to prohibit the use of funds to carry out Fast Letter 13–10 or create or maintain certain patient record-keeping systems.

Page S7879

Kirk (for Sullivan/Murkowski) Amendment No. 2786 (to Amendment No. 2763), to require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress a report on the recruitment and retention of health care providers by the Department of Veterans Affairs. **Page S7879**

Kirk (for Sullivan) Amendment No. 2787 (to Amendment No. 2763), to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the implementation by the Department of Veterans Affairs of section 101 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 in rural areas. **Page S7880**

Kirk (for Collins) Amendment No. 2788 (to Amendment No. 2763), to require a report on the use of social security numbers by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the plans of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to discontinue such use. **Page S7880**

Kirk (for Cornyn/Cruz) Amendment No. 2789 (to Amendment No. 2763), to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on wait times for medical appointments at the South Texas Veterans Health Care System of the Department of Veterans Affairs. **Page S7880**

Tester (for Bennet) Amendment No. 2795 (to Amendment No. 2763), to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the impact of combat service on suicide rates and other mental health issues among members of the Armed Forces and veterans. **Page S7880**

Tester (for Durbin) Amendment No. 2794 (to Amendment No. 2763), to modify the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for medical services and medical and prosthetic research. **Page S7880**

Tester (for Boxer) Amendment No. 2798 (to Amendment No. 2763), to make available \$5,000,000 for a pilot program on awarding grants to provide furniture, household items, and other assistance to formerly homeless veterans moving into permanent housing. **Page S7880**

Tester (for Brown/Tillis) Amendment No. 2801 (to Amendment No. 2763), to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and publish an action plan for improving the vocational rehabilitation services and assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. **Page S7880**

Kirk/Tester Amendment No. 2763, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S7871, S7881**

Withdrawn:

Kirk Amendment No. 2764 (to Amendment No. 2763), to clarify the term “congressional defense committees.” **Pages S7871, S7881**

21st Century Veterans Benefits Delivery Act: Senate passed S. 1203, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the furnishing of health care

to veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs, to improve the processing by the Department of claims for disability compensation, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, the title amendment, and the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S7939–54**

Murkowski (for Isakson) Amendment No. 2806, relating to reports on public access to Department of Veterans Affairs research. **Page S7946**

SPACE Act: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2262, to facilitate a pro-growth environment for the developing commercial space industry by encouraging private sector investment and creating more stable and predictable regulatory conditions, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S7954**

Murkowski (for Cruz) Amendment No. 2805, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7954**

Promote Pro Bono Legal Services: Senate passed S. 2280, to promote pro bono legal services as a critical way in which to empower survivors of domestic violence. **Pages S7954–55**

Expressing Support of Israel: Senate agreed to S. Res. 302, expressing the sense of the Senate in support of Israel and in condemnation of Palestinian terror attacks, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S7955–56**

Murkowski (for Blumenthal) Amendment No. 2807, to urge the international community to condemn the Palestinian terror attacks. **Page S7955**

Murkowski (for Blumenthal) Amendment No. 2808, to add a whereas clause regarding President Obama’s condemnation of Palestinian violence against innocent Israeli citizens. **Page S7956**

House Messages:

National Defense Authorization Act: By 91 yeas to 3 nays (Vote No. 301), Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 1356, to clarify that certain provisions of the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014 will not take effect until after the Director of the Office of Personnel Management promulgates and makes effective regulations relating to such provisions. **Pages S7875–78**

Developing a Reliable and Innovative Vision for the Economy Act—Motions To Instruct Conferees: Senate began consideration of the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 22, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, disagreed to the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the

Senate to the bill, agreed to the request from the House of Representatives for a conference, and authorized the Presiding Officer to appoint conferees, after taking action on the following motions to instruct conferees on the part of the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill to be instructed to insist on the inclusion in the final conference report the following motions proposed thereto: **Pages S7881–87**

Adopted:

By 56 yeas to 31 nays (Vote No. 304), Wicker Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist upon inclusion of the following section in title XXXII: Truck Tractor-Semitrailer-Trailer Combination Length Limitation. The Secretary may promulgate a rule to increase the minimum length limitation that a State may prescribe for a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination under section 31111(b)(1)(A) of title 49, United States Code, from 28 feet to 33 feet if the Secretary makes a statistically significant finding, based on the final Comprehensive Truck Size and Weight Limit Study required under section 32801 of the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Enhancement Act of 2012 (title II of division C of Public Law 112–141), that such increase would not have a net negative impact on public safety. **Pages S7886–87**

Blumenthal Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist upon the inclusion of the rail safety provisions contained in the amendment passed by the Senate on July 30, 2015, including the authorization of grants for the installment of positive train control. **Page S7887**

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

By 82 yeas to 7 nays (Vote No. 303), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to disagree to the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, agree to the request from the House of Representatives for a conference, and authorize the Presiding Officer to appoint conferees. **Page S7886**

The Chair was authorized to appoint the following conferees on the part of the Senate: Senators Inhofe, Thune, Hatch, Murkowski, Fischer, Barrasso, Cornyn, Boxer, Brown, Nelson, Wyden, Durbin, and Schumer. **Page S7887**

Hall Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 5 p.m., on Monday, November 16, 2015, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of LaShann Moutique DeArcy Hall, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York; that there be 30 minutes of debate on the nomination, and that following the use or yielding

back of time, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination, without intervening action or debate; and that no further motions be in order to the nomination. **Page S7955**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Routine lists in the Foreign Service.

Pages S7955, S7957

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Beth F. Cobert, of California, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years.

A routine list in the Foreign Service.

Pages S7955, S7957

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

Page S7957

Messages from the House:

Page S7911

Executive Communications:

Pages S7911–12

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S7913–15

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S7915–17

Additional Statements:

Pages S7910–11

Amendments Submitted:

Pages S7918–38

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Pages S7938–39

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—304) **Pages S7878, S7881, S7886–87**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned, pursuant to the provisions of H. Con. Res. 92, at 7:05 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, November 16, 2015. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7957.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

GOLDWATER-NICHOLS REFORM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine 30 years of Goldwater-Nichols reform, after receiving testimony from John J. Hamre, Center for Strategic and International Studies, on behalf of the Defense Policy Board Advisory Committee, James R. Locher III, Joint Special Operations University, and Jim Thomas, Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, all of Washington, D.C.