

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.

Page S7879

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.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 2184, to direct the President to establish guidelines for United States foreign development and economic assistance programs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

H.R. 515, to protect children from exploitation, especially sex trafficking in tourism, by providing advance notice of intended travel by registered child-sex offenders outside the United States to the government of the country of destination, requesting foreign governments to notify the United States when a known child-sex offender is seeking to enter the United States, with amendments;

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

An original resolution calling upon the President to condemn the ongoing sexual violence against women and children from Yezidi, Christian, Shabak, Turkmen, and other religious communities by Islamic State of Iraq and Syria militants and to urge the prosecution of the perpetrators and those complicit in these crimes;

Protocol Amending the Convention between the United States of America and the Swiss Confederation for the Avoidance of Double Taxation with Respect to Taxes on Income, signed at Washington on October 2, 1996, signed on September 23, 2009, at Washington, as corrected by an exchange of notes effected November 16, 2010 and a related agreement effected by an exchange of notes on September 23, 2009 (Treaty Doc. 112-01);

Protocol Amending the Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed on May 20, 2009, at Luxembourg (the “proposed Protocol”) and a related agreement effected by the exchange of notes also signed on May 20, 2009 (Treaty Doc. 111-08);

Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Hungary for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, signed on February 4, 2010, at Budapest (the “proposed Convention”) and a related agreement effected by an exchange of notes on February 4, 2010 (Treaty Doc. 111-07);

The Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Chile for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed in

Washington on February 4, 2010, with a Protocol signed the same day, as corrected by exchanges of notes effected February 25, 2011, and February 10 and 21, 2012, and a related agreement effected by exchange of notes (the “related Agreement”) on February 4, 2010 (Treaty Doc. 112-08);

The Protocol Amending the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters, done at Paris on May 27, 2010 (the “proposed Protocol”), which was signed by the United States on May 27, 2010 (Treaty Doc. 112-05);

The Protocol Amending the Convention between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and its Protocol, signed at Madrid on February 22, 1990 (Treaty Doc. 113-04);

The Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Poland for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, signed on February 13, 2013, at Warsaw (Treaty Doc. 113-05);

The Protocol Amending the Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Japan for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and a related agreement entered into by an exchange of notes (together the “proposed Protocol”), both signed on January 24, 2013, at Washington, together with correcting notes exchanged March 9 and March 29, 2013 (Treaty Doc. 114-01); and

The nominations of Linda I. Etim, of Wisconsin, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, Kenneth Damian Ward, of Virginia, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, John Morton, of Massachusetts, to be Executive Vice President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and Roberta S. Jacobson, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the United Mexican States, Marc Jonathan Sievers, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, Elisabeth I. Millard, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Tajikistan, Deborah R. Malac, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Uganda, Lisa J. Peterson, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Swaziland, H. Dean Pittman, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mozambique, Peter William Bodde, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to Libya, and Thomas A. Shannon, Jr., of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary (Political Affairs), all of the Department of State.

ISIS IN SYRIA

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee received a closed briefing on the campaign against ISIS in Syria from Brett McGurk, Deputy Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL, Department of State.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, November 16, 2015, pursuant to the provisions of H. Con. Res. 92.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1174)

H.R. 313, 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. Signed on November 5, 2015. (Public Law 114–75)

H.R. 322, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16105 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the “Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office”. Signed on November 5, 2015. (Public Law 114–76)

H.R. 323, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 Grasso Plaza in St. Louis, Missouri, as the “Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson Post Office”. Signed on November 5, 2015. (Public Law 114–77)

H.R. 324, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11662 Gravois Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the “Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office”. Signed on November 5, 2015. (Public Law 114–78)

H.R. 558, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 South Pioneer Boulevard in Springboro, Ohio, as the “Richard ‘Dick’ Chenault Post Office Building”. Signed on November 5, 2015. (Public Law 114–79)

H.R. 623, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group. Signed on November 5, 2015. (Public Law 114–80)

H.R. 774, to strengthen enforcement mechanisms to stop illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, to amend the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 to implement the Antigua Convention. Signed on November 5, 2015. (Public Law 114–81)

H.R. 1442, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Cornell Street in Kingston, New York, as the “Staff Sergeant Robert H. Dietz Post Office Building”. Signed on November 5, 2015. (Public Law 114–82)

H.R. 1884, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 206 West Commercial Street in East Rochester, New York, as the “Officer Daryl R. Pierson Memorial Post Office Building”. Signed on November 5, 2015. (Public Law 114–83)

H.R. 3059, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4500 SE 28th Street, Del City, Oklahoma, as the James Robert Kalsu Post Office Building. Signed on November 5, 2015. (Public Law 114–84)

S. 1362, to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to clarify waiver authority regarding programs of all-inclusive care for the elderly (PACE programs). Signed on November 5, 2015. (Public Law 114–85)

S. 2162, to establish a 10-year term for the service of the Librarian of Congress. Signed on November 5, 2015. (Public Law 114–86)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2015

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3 p.m., Monday, November 16

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 p.m., Monday, November 16

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 5 p.m.), Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of LaShann Moutique DeArcy Hall, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, with a vote on confirmation of the nomination at approximately 5:30 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Monday: The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, November 16, 2015, pursuant to the provisions of H. Con. Res. 92.



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