

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate stands in recess until 11 a.m., on Thursday, October 27, 2011.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 7 public bills, H.R. 3254–3260; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 447, 449 were introduced. **Page H7068**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H7068–69**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.J. Res. 70, to grant the consent of Congress to an amendment to the compact between the States of Missouri and Illinois providing that bonds issued by the Bi-State Development Agency may mature in not to exceed 40 years, with an amendment (H. Rept. 112–259);

H.R. 2146, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 112–260); and

H. Res. 448, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2576) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the calculation of modified adjusted gross income for purposes of determining eligibility for certain healthcare-related programs, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 674) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the imposition of 3 percent withholding on certain payments made to vendors by government entities (H. Rept. 112–261). **Page H7068**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Fitzpatrick to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H7011**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:12 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H7018**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest chaplain, Reverend Morris Matthis, Christ United Methodist Church, Sugarland, Texas. **Page H7019**

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Fleischmann, wherein he resigned from the Committee on Natural Resources. **Pages H7023–24**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Granting the congressional gold medal to the Montford Point Marines: H.R. 2447, to grant the congressional gold medal to the Montford Point Marines, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 422 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 804 and

Pages H7024–30, H7043–44

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards Act of 2011: H.R. 2042, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to establish a program to issue Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards. **Pages H7034–36**

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed:

National Baseball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act: H.R. 2527, amended, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the National Baseball Hall of Fame. **Pages H7030–34**

Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2011—Rule for Consideration: The House agreed to H. Res. 444, the rule that is providing for consideration of H.R. 1904, to facilitate the efficient extraction of mineral resources in southeast Arizona by authorizing and directing an exchange of Federal and non-Federal land, by a yea-and-nay vote of 245 yeas to 178 nays, Roll No. 803,

after the previous question was ordered without objection. **Pages H7036–43**

Committee Election: The House agreed to H. Res. 447, electing a certain Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives. **Page H7051**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the related measures blocking the property of certain persons contributing to the conflict in that country, are to continue in effect beyond October 27, 2011—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 112–67). **Page H7024**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H7042–43 and H7043–44. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MILITARY RETIREMENT REFORM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing on military retirement reform. Testimony was heard from Jo Ann Rooney, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; Vee Penrod, Deputy Assistance Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy; and public witnesses.

GOVERNMENT-RUN STUDENT LOANS

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training held a hearing on “Government-Run Student Loans: Ensuring the Direct Loan Program is Accountable to Students and Taxpayers.” Testimony was heard from James W. Runcie, Chief Operating Officer, Office of Federal Student Aid, Department of Education; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing on H.R. 1633, the “Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act of 2011.” Testimony was heard from Rep. Noem; Rep. Hurt; Gina McCarthy, Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, Environmental Protection Agency; and public witnesses.

INTERNET GAMING

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade held a hearing

entitled “Internet Gaming: Is there a Safe Bet?” Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

INSURANCE OVERSIGHT

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity held a hearing entitled “Insurance Oversight: Policy Implications for U.S. Consumers, Businesses and Jobs, Part 2.” Testimony was heard from Michael McRaith, Director, Federal Insurance Office, Department of the Treasury.

EUROZONE CRISIS

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade held a hearing entitled “The Eurozone Crisis and Implications for the United States.” Testimony was heard from Charles Collyns, Assistant Secretary for International Finance, Department of the Treasury; and public witnesses.

DEPLOYMENT OF U.S. FORCES IN CENTRAL AFRICA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Deployment of U.S. Forces in Central Africa and Implementation of The Lord’s Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act.” Testimony was heard from Donald Yamamoto, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Department of State; and Alexander Vershbow, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, Department of Defense.

POST KATRINA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REFORM ACT

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications held a hearing entitled “Five Years Later: An Assessment of the Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act.” Testimony was heard from W. Craig Fugate, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 3010, the “Regulatory Accountability Act of 2011.” Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee began markup of the following: H.R. 822, the “National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act of 2011”; H.R. 420, the “Veterans’ Heritage Firearms Act of 2011”; H.R. 10, the “Regulations From the Executive in Need of

Scrutiny Act of 2011”; H.R. 2870, the “Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act of 2011”; H.R. 1254, the “Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2011”; and H.R. 3012, the “Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act”. H.R. 10 and H.R. 822 were ordered reported, as amended. The markup will continue on Thursday, October 27, at 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands held a hearing on the following: H.R. 41, the “Beauty Mountain and Agua Tibia Wilderness Act of 2011”; H.R. 113, the “Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests Protection Act”; H.R. 490, to modify the boundaries of Cibola National Forest in the State of New Mexico, to transfer certain Bureau of Land Management land for inclusion in the Manzano Mountain Wilderness, and for other purposes; H.R. 608, the “Alpine Lakes Wilderness Additions and Pratt and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Rivers Protection Act”; H.R. 977, the “Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Conservation and Recreation Act”; H.R. 1126, the “Disposal of Excess Federal Lands Act of 2011”; H.R. 1413, the “Devil’s Staircase Wilderness Act of 2011”; and H.R. 2050, the “Idaho Wilderness Water Resources Protection Act”. Testimony was heard from Rep. Dreier; Rep. Issa; Rep. Huizenga; H.R. Reichert; H.R. Simpson; Rep. Chaffetz; Rep. DeFazio; Rep. Heinrich; Mike Pool, Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs held a hearing on the following: H.R. 2027, to revise the boundaries of John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Sachuest Point Unit RI-04P, Easton Beach Unit RI-05P, Almy Pond Unit RI-06, and Hazards Beach Unit RI-07 in Rhode Island; H.R. 2154, to correct the boundaries of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Gasparilla Island Unit FL-70P; H.R. 2236, the “Wildlife Refuge System Conservation Semipostal Stamp Act of 2011”; H.R. 2714, to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to allow the transport, purchase, and sale of pelts of, and handicrafts, garments, and art produced from Southcentral and Southeast Alaska northern sea otters that are taken for subsistence purposes; H.R. 2719, the “Rattlesnake Mountain Public Access Act of 2011”; H.R. 3009, the “National Wildlife Refuge Review Act of 2011”; H.R. 3117, the “Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2011”. Testimony was heard from Rep. Dingell; James W. Kurth, Acting Assistant Director, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife

Service; Tim Ragen, Executive Director, Marine Mammal Commission; and public witnesses.

TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO REPEAL THE IMPOSITION OF 3 PERCENT WITHHOLDING ON CERTAIN PAYMENTS MADE TO VENDORS BY GOVERNMENT ENTITIES; AND TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO MODIFY THE CALCULATION OF MODIFIED ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN HEALTHCARE-RELATED PROGRAMS

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on the following: H.R. 674, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the imposition of 3 percent withholding on certain payments made to vendors by government entities; and H.R. 2576, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the calculation of modified adjusted gross income for purposes of determining eligibility for certain healthcare-related programs.

The Committee granted, by record vote of 8 to 2, a closed rule for H.R. 2576. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of H.R. 2576 and provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in H.R. 2576. The rule provides one motion to recommit H.R. 2576.

The resolution also provides for consideration of H.R. 674 under a closed rule and provides one hour of debate on H.R. 674 equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of H.R. 674. The rule provides that the amendment to H.R. 674 printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution shall be considered as adopted. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in H.R. 674, as amended. The rule provides that H.R. 674, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule provides one motion to recommit H.R. 674 with or without instructions.

The resolution directs the Clerk to, in the engrossment of H.R. 674, add the text of H.R. 2576, as passed by the House, as new matter at the end of H.R. 674, and to make technical and conforming changes. Finally, the rule provides that upon the addition of the text of H.R. 2576, as passed by the House, to the engrossment of H.R. 674, H.R. 2576 shall be laid on the table.

On H.R. 674 testimony was heard from Rep. Herger and Rep. Levin. On H.R. 2576 testimony was heard from Rep. Black; and Rep. Levin.

U.S.-CHINA ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a hearing on the U.S.-China economic relationship. Testimony was heard from Lael Brainard, Under Secretary of International Affairs, Department of Treasury; Demetrios Marantis, Ambassador, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2011

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing on economic consequences of defense sequestration, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing on Army acquisition and modernization, 2:00 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Full Committee, markup of H.R. 3094, the "Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act." 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations; and the Subcommittee on Health, joint hearing entitled "CLASS Cancelled: An Unsustainable Program and Its Consequences for the Nation's Deficit." 9 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, markup of the following: H.R. 2940, the "Access to Capital for Job Creators Act"; H.R. 2167, the "Private Company Flexibility and Growth Act"; H.R. 1965, to amend the

securities laws to establish certain thresholds for shareholder registration, and for other purposes; and H.R. 2930, the "Entrepreneur Access to Capital Act." 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, hearing entitled "The Expanding U.S.-Korea Alliance." 11 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence; and Subcommittee on Oversight Investigations and Management, joint hearing entitled "Iranian Terror Operations on American Soil." 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Oversight Hearing on the Department of Homeland Security." 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Constitution, hearing entitled "The State of Religious Liberty in the United States." 2:30 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The President's New National Ocean Policy—A Plan for Further Restrictions on Ocean, Coastal and Inland Activities." 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, hearing entitled "NASA's Commercial Crew Development Program: Accomplishments and Challenges." 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Oversight of the Small Business Administration's Financing Programs." 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled "The Economic Importance of Seaports: Is the United States Prepared for 21st Century Trade Realities?" 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Joint Meetings

Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction: to hold hearings to examine an overview of discretionary outlays, security and non-security, 10 a.m., SH-216.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

11 a.m., Thursday, October 27

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, October 26

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 1904—Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2011 (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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