

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1495–S1557

Measures Introduced: Nine bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2174–2182, and S. Res. 391–393. **Page S1540**

Measures Passed:

World Plumbing Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 393, designating March 11, 2012, as “World Plumbing Day”. **Page S1557**

Measures Considered:

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of S. 1813, to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S1504–36**

Adopted:

By 82 yeas to 16 nays (Vote No. 29), Baucus Amendment No. 1825, to reauthorize for 1 year the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 and to provide full funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes program for 1 year. (Pursuant to the order of Wednesday, March 7, 2012, the amendment having achieved 60 affirmative votes, was agreed to.) **Pages S1525–26, S1527–28**

By 76 yeas to 22 nays (Vote No. 32), Nelson (FL) Amendment No. 1822, to provide for the restoration of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of Gulf Coast States and to provide funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. (Pursuant to the order of Wednesday, March 7, 2012, the amendment having achieved 60 affirmative votes, was agreed to.) **Pages S1507–08, S1524–25, S1529**

Levin/Conrad Amendment No. 1818, to authorize special measures against foreign jurisdictions, financial institutions, and others that significantly impede United States tax enforcement. **Pages S1531–32**

Rejected:

By 44 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 28), Vitter Amendment No. 1535, to provide for an extension of the Draft Proposed Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program 2010–2015. (Pursuant to

the order of Wednesday, March 7, 2012, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Pages S1505–07, S1526**

By 52 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. 30), Collins Amendment No. 1660, to provide additional time for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue achievable standards for industrial, commercial, and institutional boilers, process heaters, and incinerators. (Pursuant to the order of Wednesday, March 7, 2012, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Pages S1508–11, S1513–15, S1528**

By 52 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. 31), Coburn Amendment No. 1738, to prevent the creation of duplicative and overlapping Federal programs. (Pursuant to the order of Wednesday, March 7, 2012, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Pages S1511–13, S1518–19, S1528–29**

By 33 yeas to 65 nays (Vote No. 33), Wyden Amendment No. 1817, to ensure the expeditious processing of Keystone XL permit applications consistent with current law, prohibit the export of crude oil produced in Canada and transported by the Keystone XL pipeline and related facilities unless the prohibition is waived by the President, and require the use of United States iron, steel, and manufactured goods in the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline and related facilities with certain exceptions. (Pursuant to the order of Wednesday, March 7, 2012, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Pages S1517–18, S1529–30**

By 56 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 34), Hoeven Amendment No. 1537, to approve the Keystone XL pipeline project and provide for environmental protection and government oversight. (Pursuant to the order of Wednesday, March 7, 2012, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Pages S1515–17, S1519–23, S1530**

Pending:

Roberts Amendment No. 1826, of a perfecting nature. **Pages S1523–24**

McCain Modified Amendment No. 1669, to enhance the natural quiet and safety of airspace of the Grand Canyon National Park. **Page S1533**

Corker Amendment No. 1785, to lower the FY13 discretionary budget authority cap as set in the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 by \$20,000,000,000 in order to offset the general fund transfers to the Highway Trust Fund.

Pages S1518, S1533–34

Corker Amendment No. 1810, to ensure that the aggregate amount made available for transportation projects for a fiscal year does not exceed the estimated amount available for those projects in the Highway Trust Fund for the fiscal year.

Pages S1533–34

Portman/Coburn Amendment No. 1736, to free States to spend gas taxes on their transportation priorities.

Page S1534

Portman Amendment No. 1742, to allow States to permit nonhighway uses in rest areas along any highway.

Page S1534

Coats (for Alexander) Amendment No. 1779, to make technical corrections to certain provisions relating to overflights of National Parks.

Page S1535

Coats (for DeMint) Amendment No. 1589, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to terminate certain energy tax subsidies and lower the corporate income tax rate.

Page S1535

Coats (for DeMint) Amendment No. 1756, to return to the individual States maximum discretionary authority and fiscal responsibility for all elements of the national surface transportation systems that are not within the direct purview of the Federal Government.

Page S1535

Coats/Lugar Amendment No. 1517, to modify the apportionment formula to ensure that the percentage of apportioned funds received by a State is the same as the percentage of total gas taxes paid by the State.

Page S1535

Blunt/Casey Amendment No. 1540, to modify the section relating to off-system bridges.

Pages S1535–36

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

By 66 yeas to 31 nays (Vote No. 35), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to waive section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and section 4(g)(3) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010. The point of order that the bill was in violation of provisions of section 311(a)(2)a of the Congressional Budget Act, was not sustained.

Pages S1530–31

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the bill at 4 p.m., on Monday, March 12, 2012; that the Merkley amendment relative to farm vehicles listed under the order of Wednesday, March 7, 2012, be changed from Amendment No. 1653 to Amendment No. 1814; that on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, Senate

resume the sequence of votes remaining under the order of Wednesday, March 7, 2012, at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader after consultation with the Republican Leader, with all other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect.

Pages S1536, S1557

Messages from the House: Page S1537

Measures Referred: Page S1537

Measures Placed on the Calendar: Page S1537

Executive Communications: Pages S1537–40

Executive Reports of Committees: Page S1540

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S1540–41

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S1541–44

Additional Statements: Page S1537

Amendments Submitted: Pages S1544–56

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Pages S1556–57

Privileges of the Floor: Page S1557

Record Votes: Eight record votes were taken today. (Total—35) Pages S1526–31

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 5:52 p.m., until 2 p.m. on Monday, March 12, 2012. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1557.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of Homeland Security, after receiving testimony from Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security.

FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine an overview of the Federal Housing Administration, after receiving testimony from Carol Galante, Acting Federal Housing Administration Commissioner, and Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Housing.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of Justice, after receiving testimony from Eric Holder, Attorney General, Department of Justice.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND THE FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from John M. McHugh, Secretary of the Army, and General Raymond T. Odierno, Chief of Staff, United States Army, both of the Department of Defense.

HOUSING CRISIS

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine addressing the housing crisis in Indian country, focusing on leveraging resources and coordinating efforts, after receiving testimony from Sandra Henriquez, Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Doug O'Brien, Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development; Robert McSwain, Deputy Director, Management Operations, Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services; and Jodi Gillette, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs.

AMERICA'S GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the key to America's global competitiveness, focusing on a quality education, after receiving testimony from

Jenn Mann, SAS, Cary, North Carolina; Charles Kolb, Committee for Economic Development, Washington, D.C.; Richard J. Murnane, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, Massachusetts; and Eric A. Hanushek, Stanford University, Stanford, California.

NATIVE PROGRAMS BUDGET

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2013 for Native Programs, after receiving testimony from Larry Echo Hawk, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs; Yvette Roubideaux, Director, Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services; Fawn Sharp, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Portland, Oregon; Michell Hicks, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Nashville, Tennessee, on behalf of the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.; and Robert Shepherd, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, Rapid City, South Dakota, on behalf of the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1002, to prohibit theft of medical products, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

The nominations of Patty Shwartz, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Jeffrey J. Helmick, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, Mary Geiger Lewis, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, Timothy S. Hillman, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, and Thomas M. Harrigan, of New York, to be Deputy Administrator of Drug Enforcement, Department of Justice.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 30 public bills, H.R. 4165–4194; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 578–580, were introduced. **Pages H1303–05**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H1306**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3992, to allow otherwise eligible Israeli nationals to receive E–2 nonimmigrant visas if similarly situated United States nationals are eligible for

similar nonimmigrant status in Israel (H. Rept. 112–410) and

H.R. 1741, to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State to refuse or revoke visas to aliens if in the security or foreign policy interests of the United States, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to review visa applications before adjudication, to provide for the immediate dissemination of visa revocation information,

and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 112–411, Pt. 1). **Page H1303**

Reopening American Capital Markets to Emerging Growth Companies Act: The House passed H.R. 3606, to increase American job creation and economic growth by improving access to the public capital markets for emerging growth companies, by a recorded vote of 390 ayes to 23 noes, Roll No. 110. Consideration of the measure began yesterday, March 7th. **Pages H1277–85, H1285–89**

Rejected the Eshoo motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Financial Services with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 170 ayes to 244 noes, Roll No. 109. **Pages H1287–88**

Agreed to:

McHenry amendment (No. 11 printed in H. Rept. 112–409) that, with respect to Rule 506 of Regulation D, provides an exemption from registration as a broker or dealer for trading platforms that do not charge a fee in connection with the purchase or sale of the security or permit general solicitations, general advertisements, or similar or related activities by issuers of such securities. Also enables the marketing of private shares to accredited investors through platforms; **Pages H1277–78**

Miller (NC) amendment (No. 12 printed in H. Rept. 112–409) that increases the total number of investors and limits the number of non-accredited investors allowed to be holders of record before registration is required; **Pages H1278–79**

Schweikert amendment (No. 13 printed in H. Rept. 112–409) that authorizes the Securities and Exchange Commission to study whether or not it has the authority to enforce anti-evasion provisions associated with the shareholder threshold; and **Pages H1279–80**

Loeb sack amendment (No. 17 printed in H. Rept. 112–409) that requires information to be made available online, and outreach to be conducted to small and medium-sized businesses, women-owned businesses, veteran-owned businesses, and minority-owned businesses to inform them about changes put in place by this legislation. **Pages H1284–85**

Rejected:

Capuano amendment (No. 14 printed in H. Rept. 112–409) that sought to require the SEC to conduct a study to address anti-evasion concerns and determine if the term “held of record” should mean beneficial owner of the security; **Pages H1280–81**

Peters amendment (No. 15 printed in H. Rept. 112–409) that sought to require publicly traded companies to disclose on an annual basis the total number of employees they have in each country and the percentage increase or decrease in employment in

each country (by a recorded vote of 175 ayes to 239 noes, Roll No. 107); and **Pages H1281–82, H1285–86**

Capps amendment (No. 16 printed in H. Rept. 112–409) that sought to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to issue a report to the Congress one year after enactment on the increase in initial public offerings that resulted from the act, including specific increases in filings by manufacturing and high-technology companies (by a recorded vote of 172 ayes to 236 noes, Roll No. 108). **Pages H1282–84, H1286–87**

Agreed that the Clerk be authorized to make technical and conforming changes to reflect the actions of the House. **Page H1289**

H. Res. 572, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to yesterday, March 7th.

Recess: The House recessed at 11:22 a.m. and reconvened at 11:45 a.m. **Page H1285**

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11 a.m. tomorrow; when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 13th; when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 16th; and when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, March 19th. **Page H1289**

President’s Export Council—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following Members of the House to the President’s Export Council: Representatives Reichert, Gerlach, Tiberi, Sutton, and Linda Sánchez (CA). **Page H1291**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H1285.

Senate Referral: S. 1855 was held at the desk.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1286, H1286–87, H1288, and H1288–89. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Committee Meetings

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development held a hearing on FY 2013 Budget Request for Department of Transportation. Testimony was heard from Ray LaHood, Secretary, Department of Transportation.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM BUDGET

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing on FY 2013 Budget Request for Defense Health Program Budget. Testimony was heard from Jonathan Woodson, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs; Lieutenant General Patricia D. Horoho, Surgeon General of the Army; Vice Admiral Matthew L. Nathan, Surgeon General of the Navy; and Lieutenant General Charles B. Green, Surgeon General of the Air Force.

APPROPRIATIONS—FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing on FY 2013 Budget Request, Food Safety and Inspection Service. Testimony was heard from Elizabeth A. Hagen, Under Secretary for Food Safety, Department of Agriculture; Alfred V. Almanza, Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture; and Michael Young, Budget Officer, Department of Agriculture.

APPROPRIATIONS—IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing on FY 2013 Budget Request for Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Testimony was heard from John Morton, Assistant Secretary, Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

ARMY AND MARINE CORPS GROUND SYSTEM MODERNIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces held a hearing on Army and Marine Corps ground system modernization programs. Testimony was heard from Lieutenant General Robert P. Lennox, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8, U.S. Army; Lieutenant General William N. Phillips, USA, Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary (Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology), U.S. Army; Lieutenant General Richard P. Mills, USMC, Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration, U.S. Marine Corps; Brigadier General Frank L. Kelley, USMC, Commander, Systems Command, U.S. Marine Corps; and William E. Taylor, Program Executive Officer for Land Systems.

REDUCTIONS IN OVERSEAS BASES

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness held a hearing on request for authorization of another BRAC round and additional reductions in overseas bases. Testimony was heard from Brian Lepore, Director, Defense Capabilities Assessment, Government Accountability Office.

NATIONAL SECURITY SPACE ACTIVITIES

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a hearing on Fiscal Year 2013 National Defense Authorization Budget Request for national security space activities. Testimony was heard from General William L. Shelton, USAF, Commander, Air Force Space Command; Gil I. Klinger, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Space and Intelligence; Gregory L. Schulte, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Space Policy; and Betty J. Sapp, Principal Deputy Director, National Reconnaissance Office.

BUDGET COMMITTEE—MEMBERS' DAY

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Members' Day". Testimony was heard from Members of the 112th Congress.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FY 2013 BUDGET REQUEST

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy and Power held a hearing entitled "The FY 2013 DOE Budget". Testimony was heard from Steven Chu, Secretary, Department of Energy.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION USER FEES 2012

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled "FDA User Fees 2012: Hearing on Issues Related to Accelerated Approval, Medical Gas, Antibiotic Development and Downstream Pharmaceutical Supply Chain". Testimony was heard from Janet Woodcock, Director, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration; and public witnesses.

ELIMINATING WASTE, FRAUD, ABUSE, AND DUPLICATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Management held a hearing entitled "Eliminating Waste, Fraud, Abuse, and Duplication in the Department of Homeland Security". Testimony was heard from James Gilmore III, Congressional Advisory Panel to Assess Domestic Response Capabilities for Terrorism Involving Weapons of Mass Destruction; Cathleen Berrick, Managing Director, Homeland Security and Justice Issues, Government Accountability Office; Charles K. Edwards, Acting Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security; and public witness.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution held a hearing on H.R. 2299, the "Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BUDGET AND LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR THE BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT AND BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled “Effects of the President’s FY 2013 Budget and Legislative Proposals for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) on Private Sector Job Creation, Domestic Energy Production, Safety, and Deficit Reduction”. Testimony was heard from Tommy Beaudreau, Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management; James Watson, Director, Bureau of Safety and Environment; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, Forest and Public Lands held a hearing on H.R. 752, the “Molalla River Wild and Scenic Rivers Act”; H.R. 1415, the “Chetco River Protection Act of 2011”; H.R. 3377, the “Pine Forest Range Recreation Enhancement Act of 2011”; and H.R. 3436, to expand the Wild Rogue Wilderness Area in the State of Oregon, to make additional wild and scenic river designations in the Rogue River area, and to provide additional protections for Rogue River tributaries, and for other purposes. Testimony was heard from Representatives Amodei and DeFazio; Mike Pool, Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management; Jim Pena, Associate Deputy Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; and public witness.

FOOD STAMP FRAUD AS A BUSINESS MODEL: USDA’S STRUGGLE TO POLICE STORE OWNERS

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Food Stamp Fraud as a Business Model: USDA’s Struggle to Police Store Owners”. Testimony was heard from Kevin Concannon, Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, Department of Agriculture; Phyllis K. Fong, Inspector General, Department of Agriculture; Kenya Mann Faulkner, Inspector General, Pennsylvania Office of Inspector General; and public witnesses.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Research and Science Education held a hearing entitled “NSF Major Research Equipment and Facilities Management: Ensuring Fiscal Responsibility Accountability”. Testimony was heard from Cora Marrett, Deputy Director, National Science

Foundation; Jose-Marie Griffiths, Chairman, Subcommittee on Facilities, National Science Board; Vice President of Academic Affairs, Bryant University; and public witnesses.

ARE GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS IMPEDING SMALL ENERGY PRODUCERS AND HARMING ENERGY SECURITY?

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight and Regulations held a hearing entitled “Powering Down: Are Government Regulations Impeding Small Energy Producers and Harming Energy Security?”. Testimony was heard from Marie Johns, Deputy Administrator, Small Business Administration; and David Powner, Director, Information Technology Management Issues, Government Accountability Office.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a markup on the following: H.R. 2903, the “FEMA Reauthorization Act of 2011”; H.R. 4097, the “John F. Kennedy Center Reauthorization Act of 2012”; and H.R. 3556, to designate the new United States courthouse in Buffalo, New York, as the “Robert H. Jackson United States Courthouse”. The following were ordered reported without amendment: H.R. 4097; H.R. 2903; H.R. 3556; Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Views and Estimates of the Committee; and GSA Resolutions.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on the following: H.R. 3329, to amend title 38 United States Code to extend the eligibility period for veterans to enroll in certain vocational rehabilitation programs; H.R. 3483, the “Veterans Education Equity Act of 2011”; H.R. 3610, “Streamlining Workforce Development Programs Act of 2011”; H.R. 3670, to require the Transportation Security Administration to comply with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act; H.R. 3524, the “Disabled Veterans Employment Protection Act”; H.R. 4048, the “Improving Contracting Opportunities for Veteran-Owned Small Businesses Act of 2012”; H.R. 4051, the “TAP Modernization Act of 2012”; H.R. 4052, the “Recognizing Excellence in Veterans Education Act of 2012”; H.R. 4057, the “Improving Transparency of Education Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2012”; and H.R. 4072, the “Consolidating Veteran Employment Services for Improved Performance Act of 2012”. Testimony was heard from Curtis L. Coy, Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

AN UPDATE ON OUR NATIONAL CEMETERIES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing entitled "Honoring America's Fallen Heroes: An Update on our National Cemeteries". Testimony was heard from Steven Muro, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Kathryn Condon, Executive Director of Army National Cemeteries Program, Department of Defense; Raymond Wollman, Deputy Secretary, American Battle Monuments Commission Courthouse; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a markup of H.R. 452, the "Medicare Decisions Accountability Act of 2011". The bill was ordered reported, as amended.

COMMITTEE VIEWS AND ESTIMATES ON THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET FOR FY 2013

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a markup of Committee Views and

Estimates on the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2013. The letter was approved.

ONGOING INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a hearing on ongoing intelligence activities.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2012

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

2 p.m., Monday, March 12

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

11 a.m., Friday, March 9

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 4 p.m.), Senate will resume consideration of S. 1813, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century.

House Chamber

Program for Friday: The House will meet in pro forma session at 11 a.m.

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