

# Daily Digest

## HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed S. 1813, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century, as amended.

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S1639–S1683*

**Measures Introduced:** One bill and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2191, and S. Res. 396. **Pages S1679–80**

#### Measures Passed:

***Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century:*** By 74 yeas to 22 nays (Vote No. 48), Senate passed S. 1813, to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, after taking action on the following amendments proposed there-to: **Pages S1645–60**

#### Adopted:

Coats (for Alexander) Amendment No. 1779, to make technical corrections to certain provisions relating to overflights of National Parks. **Pages S1645, S1649**

By 76 yeas to 20 nays (Vote No. 46), Boxer Amendment No. 1816, to express the sense of the Senate that Federal agencies should ensure that all applicable environmental reviews, approvals, licensing, and permit requirements under Federal law are completed on an expeditious basis after a disaster or emergency. **Pages S1647, S1649–50**

#### Rejected:

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 S1645, S1649**

#### Withdrawn:

McCain Modified Amendment No. 1669, to enhance the natural quiet and safety of airspace of the Grand Canyon National Park. **Pages S1645, S1648–49**

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

By 42 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 47), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having

voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to waive pursuant to section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and section 4(g)(3) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, and all applicable sections of those acts and applicable budget resolutions with respect to Paul Amendment No. 1556, to permit emergency exemptions from compliance with certain laws for highway construction projects. Subsequently, the Chair sustained a point of order against Paul Amendment No. 1556, as being in violation of section 311(a)(2)(A) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and the amendment thus fell. **Pages S1647, S1650**

***Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week:*** Senate agreed to S. Res. 396, supporting the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week. **Pages S1682–83**

***Reopening American Capital Markets to Emerging Growth Companies Act—Agreement:*** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 11 a.m., on Thursday, March 15, 2012, Senate begin consideration of H.R. 3606, to increase American job creation and economic growth by improving access to the public capital markets for emerging growth companies. **Pages S1674–75**

***Cloture Motions Withdrawn—Agreement:*** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the cloture motions relative to the nominations of Gina Marie Groh, of West Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia, David Nuffer, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, Michael Walter Fitzgerald, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Ronnie Abrams, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Rudolph Contreras, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Miranda Du, of Nevada, to be United States

District Judge for the District of Nevada, Susie Morgan, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, Gregg Jeffrey Costa, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, David Campos Guaderrama, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas, Brian C. Wimes, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri, Kristine Gerhard Baker, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas, John Z. Lee, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, George Levi Russell III, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, John J. Tharp, Jr., of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Jeffrey J. Helmick, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, Mary Geiger Lewis, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, and Timothy S. Hillman, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, be withdrawn. **Page S1658**

**Groh and Fitzgerald Nominations—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 1:45 p.m., on Thursday, March 15, 2012, Senate resume consideration of the nominations of Gina Marie Groh, of West Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia, and Michael Walter Fitzgerald, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California; that there be 15 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote without intervening action or debate on confirmation of the nominations of Gina Marie Groh, of West Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia, and Michael Walter Fitzgerald, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, in that order; and that no further motions be in order. **Page S1682**

**Measures Read the First Time:** **Page S1679**

**Executive Communications:** **Page S1679**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Page S1680**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**  
**Page S1680**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S1678–79**

**Amendments Submitted:** **Pages S1681–82**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S1682**

**Privileges of the Floor:** **Page S1682**

**Record Votes:** Three record votes were taken today. (Total—48) **Pages S1650, S1659**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:45 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 15, 2012. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1683.)

## Committee Meetings

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

### FEDERAL ONSHORE AND OFFSHORE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OVERSIGHT

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies concluded an oversight hearing to examine Federal onshore and offshore energy development programs in the Department of the Interior, after receiving testimony from Robert V. Abbey, Director, Bureau of Land Management, Tommy P. Beaudreau, Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and James Watson, Director, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, all of the Department of the Interior.

### APPROPRIATIONS: U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the United States Agency for International Development, after receiving testimony from Rajiv Shah, Administrator, United States Agency for International Development.

### APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Department of Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of the Air Force, after receiving testimony from Michael B. Donley, Secretary of the Air Force, and General Norton A. Schwartz, Chief of Staff, United States Air Force, both of the Department of Defense.

### APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of Labor, after receiving testimony from Hilda L. Solis, Secretary of Labor.

**APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of Energy, after receiving testimony from Steven Chu, Secretary of Energy.

**STRATEGIC FORCES PROGRAMS**

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Strategic Forces concluded a hearing to examine strategic forces programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management in review of the Department of Energy budget request for fiscal year 2013, after receiving testimony from Thomas P. D'Agostino, Undersecretary for Nuclear Security, and Administrator, Donald L. Cook, Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, and Admiral Kirkland Donald, Director, Naval Reactors, all of the National Nuclear Security Administration, and David Huizenga, Senior Advisor for Environmental Management, all of the Department of Energy.

**PREPAID CARD MARKET**

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection concluded a hearing to examine issues in the prepaid card market, after receiving testimony from Lauren K. Saunders, National Consumer Law Center, Jennifer Tescher, Center for Financial Services Innovation, and L. Richard Fischer, Morrison and Foerster LLP, all of Washington, D.C.; Daniel R. Henry, NetSpend Holdings, Inc., Austin, Texas; and David Rothstein, Policy Matters Ohio, Cleveland.

**SUDAN AND SOUTH SUDAN**

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine Sudan and South Sudan, focusing on independence and insecurity, including H.R. 4169, to require the development of a comprehensive strategy to end serious human rights violations in Sudan, to create incentives for governments and persons to end support of and assistance to the Government of Sudan, to reinvigorate genuinely comprehensive peace efforts in Sudan, after receiving testimony from Princeton Lyman, Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan, Department of State; Nancy Lindborg, Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development; and George Clooney, and John Prendergast, both of the Satellite Sentinel Project, and Jon Temin, United States Institute of Peace, all of Washington, D.C.

**NOMINATIONS**

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Pamela A. White, of Maine, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Haiti, who was introduced by Senator Nelson (FL), Linda Thomas-Greenfield, of Louisiana, to be Director General of the Foreign Service, and Gina K. Abercrombie-Winstanley, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Malta, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

**CONGRESSIONAL REFORM PROPOSALS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY**

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine Congress, focusing on reform proposals for the 21st century, including S. 1981, to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills, after receiving testimony from Senators Isakson and Heller; Representative Cooper; former Representative Tom Davis, McLean, Virginia, and William A. Galston, both of No Labels, and Donald R. Wolfensberger, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, both of Washington, D.C.

**INTERAGENCY NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION EFFORTS**

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia concluded a hearing to examine managing interagency nuclear nonproliferation efforts, focusing on if nuclear materials around the world are effectively secured, after receiving testimony from Thomas M. Countryman, Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Nonproliferation; Anne Harrington, Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy; Kenneth Handelman, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Global Strategic Affairs; Gene Aloise, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, Government Accountability Office; Kenneth N. Luongo, Partnership for Global Security, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Page O. Stoutland, Nuclear Threat Initiative, Washington, D.C.

**NOMINATIONS**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of William J. Kayatta, Jr., of Maine, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, who was introduced by

Senators Snowe and Collins, John Thomas Fowlkes, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, who was introduced by Senators Alexander and Corker, Kevin McNulty, and Michael A. Shipp, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, who were both introduced by Senator Menendez, and Stephanie Marie Rose, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Iowa, who was introduced by Senators Grassley and Harkin, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

#### ENDING HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine ending homelessness among veterans, focusing on Veterans' Affairs progress on its five year plan, after receiving testimony from Pete Dougherty, Acting Executive Director, Homeless Veterans Initiative Office, Department of Veterans Affairs; Marsha Four, Vietnam Veterans of America National Women Veterans Committee, Silver Spring, Maryland; Scott Rogers, Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry, Asheville, North Carolina; Sandra Strickland, Fairfax, Virginia; and Chanel Curry, Cleveland, Ohio.

# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 16, 2012 in pro forma session.

## Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

## Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

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### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2012

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

#### Senate

*Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:* To hold hearings to examine risk management and commodities in the 2012 farm bill, 9 a.m., SH-216.

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of Transportation, 9 a.m., SD-138.

Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, 10 a.m., SD-124.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session, 10 a.m., SD-192.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Government Accountability Office, Government

Printing Office, and the Congressional Budget Office, 2:30 p.m., SD-138.

*Committee on Armed Services:* To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation and Community Development, to hold hearings to examine strengthening the housing market and minimizing losses to taxpayers, 2:30 p.m., SD-538.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* With the Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety, to hold joint hearings to examine lessons from Fukushima one year later, focusing on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) implementation of recommendations for enhancing nuclear reactor safety in the 21st century, 10 a.m., SD-406.

*Committee on Finance:* To hold hearings to examine Russia's World Trade Organization (WTO) accession-implications for the United States, 10 a.m., SD-215.

*Committee on Indian Affairs:* To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian water rights, focusing on promoting the negotiation and implementation of water settlements in Indian country, 2:15 p.m., SD-628.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Business meeting to consider the nominations of Richard Gary Taranto, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit, Robin S. Rosenbaum, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, and Gregory K. Davis, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi, Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD-226.

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

#### House

No hearings are scheduled.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

9:30 a.m., Thursday, March 15

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

10 a.m., Friday, March 16

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 11 a.m.), Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 3606, Reopening American Capital Markets to Emerging Growth Companies Act. At 1:45 p.m., Senate will resume consideration of the nominations of Gina Marie Groh, of West Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia, and Michael Walter Fitzgerald, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, and vote on confirmation of the nominations at approximately 2 p.m.

## House Chamber

**Program for Friday:** To be announced.



# Congressional Record

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