



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 162

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2016

No. 174

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, help us today to become people whose lives will be productive for Your glory. Forgive us when we come short of Your will for us and for our Nation.

Lord, show our lawmakers how to do things Your way, embracing Your precepts and walking in Your path. Remind them that the narrow and difficult road often leads to life and abundant joy. As You teach them to live abundantly, replace their anxiety with calm, their confusion with clarity, and their doubts with faith. May Your heavenly peace, which transcends human understanding, guard their hearts and minds today and always.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). The majority leader is recognized.

WORK BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, last week the House overwhelmingly passed the bipartisan 21st Century Cures Act, the medical innovation bill. Now it is the Senate's turn to move this bill forward and send it to the President's desk for signature.

This legislation has earned wide support from both sides of the aisle, and it is one of the most important bills that will pass this year. It is not hard to see why. It will encourage investment in biomedical research to help deliver treatment and cures to patients. It will cut through redtape and burdensome regulations while also protecting safety, and it will build upon progress to support regenerative medicine and other innovative therapies.

Cures also includes provisions to strengthen mental health programs and to provide much needed resources to help combat the opioid epidemic. It is legislation that could have an impact on each of our States and on each of our constituents.

Later today, Senators will take the next step in advancing 21st Century Cures. With continued cooperation, we can pass this bipartisan bill very soon.

The Cures legislation is just one key area where the Senate has been working to complete its work before the holidays. Negotiations are ongoing on a continuing resolution, which we will consider this week.

This week we will also pass the Defense authorization conference report, and work continues to finalize other outstanding conference reports, including the Water Resources Development Act—the so-called WRDA bill—and the energy policy modernization bill.

As these efforts continue, I thank all of those who have been working around the clock to reach a conclusion on these important issues. We will have a busy week ahead. Let's keep working together to get it done.

COMMENDING THE SENATOR FROM TENNESSEE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I see the Senator from Tennessee on the floor. I particularly commend him for his outstanding work on the Cures bill. The Senator has had two major accomplishments this Congress—the rewrite

of No Child Left Behind last year and now this medical innovation bill. I may have more to say about that later, but I commend the Senator from Tennessee for his outstanding work on this important bill.

AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY TO INCLUDE ALL FUNDS WHEN ISSUING CERTAIN GEOGRAPHIC TARGETING ORDERS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5602 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5602) to amend title 31, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to include all funds when issuing certain geographic targeting orders, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Shelby-Brown substitute amendment be agreed to and the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5127) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 5602), as amended, was passed.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar Nos. 675 through 683.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bills be read a third time and passed and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER (SEAL) LOUIS "LOU" J. LANGLAIS POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 3218) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1221 State Street, Suite 12, Santa Barbara, California, as the "Special Warfare Operator Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Louis 'Lou' J. Langlais Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RICHARD ALLEN CABLE POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 4887) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23323 Shelby Road in Shelby, Indiana, as the "Richard Allen Cable Post Office," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

LEONARD MONTALTO POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 5150) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3031 Veterans Road West in Staten Island, New York, as the "Leonard Montalto Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ARMY FIRST LIEUTENANT DONALD C. CARWILE POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 5309) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 401 McElroy Drive in Oxford, Mississippi, as the "Army First Lieutenant Donald C. Carwile Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

E. MARIE YOUNGBLOOD POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 5356) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14231 TX-150 in Coldspring, Texas, as the "E. Marie Youngblood Post Office," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ZAPATA VETERANS POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 5591) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 810 N US Highway 83 in Zapata, Texas, as the "Zapata Veterans Post Office," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

OFFICER JOSEPH P. CALI POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 5676) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6300 N. Northwest Highway in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Officer Joseph P. Cali Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ABNER J. MIKVA POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 5798) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Davis Street in Evanston, Illinois, as the "Abner J. Mikva Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SEGUNDO T. SABLAN AND CNMI FALLEN MILITARY HEROES POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 5889) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Chalan Kanoa VLG in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as the "Segundo T. Sablan and CNMI Fallen Military Heroes Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PROVIDING ARSENAL INSTALLATION REUTILIZATION AUTHORITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration of S. 3336 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title. The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3336) to provide arsenal installation reutilization authority.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Ernst amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; that the title amendment be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5128) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

On page 1, strike lines 3 and 4 and insert the following:

SECTION 1. INSTALLATION REUTILIZATION AUTHORITY FOR ARSENALS, DEPOTS, AND PLANTS.

On page 1, line 6, strike "arsenal, the Secretary concerned" and insert "arsenal, depot, or plant, the Secretary of the Army".

On page 2, line 4, insert ", depot, or plant" after "arsenal".

On page 2, line 8, insert ", depot, or plant" after "arsenal".

On page 2, line 12, insert ", depot, or plant" after "arsenal".

On page 2, line 17, strike "Secretary concerned" and insert "Secretary of the Army".

On page 2, line 21, insert ", depot, or plant" after "arsenal".

On page 4, line 3, insert ", DEPOT, OR PLANT" after "ARSENAL".

On page 4, line 5, insert ", depot, or plant" after "arsenal".

On page 4, line 6, strike "Department of the Defense" and insert "Army".

The bill (S. 3336), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The amendment (No. 5129) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill to provide installation reutilization authority for arsenals, depots, and plants."

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the conference report accompanying S. 2943.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate the conference report to accompany S. 2943, which will be stated by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 2943), to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, having met, have agreed that the Senate recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the House and agree to the same with an amendment and the House agree to the same. Signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.