

The yeas and nays.

Here’s how Maine’s congressional delegation voted this week

TARGETED NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Here’s a look at how area members of Congress voted over the previous week.

Along with roll call votes, the Senate also passed the TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act, to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to federal rules regarding criminal investigator positions; and passed the Equity in Government Compensation Act, to suspend the current compensation packages for the chief executive officers of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

House votes

House vote 1
APPROVING IRAN NUCLEAR PACT: The House has rejected a bill, sponsored by House Majority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, that would have approved the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action reached by the U.S. and other countries regarding Iran’s nuclear weapons program.

A supporter, Rep. David E. Price, D-North Carolina, called the pact an unprecedented move to degrade the program by cutting Iran’s uranium stockpiles by nearly 98 percent, permanently blocking Iran’s ability to develop plutonium to fuel a nuclear weapon at its Arak facility, and taking offline two-thirds of Iran’s centrifuges for enriching uranium.

An opponent, Rep. Edward R. Royce, R-California, said the pact lacked adequate terms for inspecting Iran’s nuclear sites, would leave Iran with ample uranium enrichment capacity, and give it the possibility of developing nuclear weapons within a few years.

The vote was 162 yeas to 269 nays. Rep. Chellie Pingree, D-1st District, gave a yea vote, and Rep. Bruce Poliquin, R-2nd District, gave a nay vote.

House vote 2
SANCTIONS RELIEF FOR IRAN: The House has passed a bill, sponsored by Rep. Peter J. Roskam, R-Illinois, that would suspend until Jan. 21, 2017, the president’s authority to reduce sanctions against Iran related to its nuclear weapons program.

Roskam said leaving the question of whether to reduce sanctions to the next president would mean abandoning \$150 billion of pro-

posed sanctions relief for Iran, funds which Iran would use to threaten Israel and the U.S., and destabilize the Middle East.

A bill opponent, Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-Texas, called it “a last-ditch effort to undermine a diplomatic victory” that promised to contain Iran and its nuclear program.

The vote was 247 yeas to 186 nays. Pingree gave a nay vote, and Poliquin gave a yea vote.

House vote 3
BLACK SOLDIERS IN REVOLUTIONARY WAR: The House has passed the National Liberty Memorial Clarification Act, sponsored by Rep. G.K. Butterfield, D-North Carolina. The bill would change the terms of a review of proposals for building the National Liberty Memorial in Washington, D.C., to honor black slaves and freemen who fought on the side of the colonies in the American Revolution.

Butterfield said the bill, by advancing efforts to build the memorial, would help honor “the brave Revolutionary War soldiers who sacrificed so much on behalf of American independence.”

The vote was unanimous with 402 yeas. Pingree did not vote, and Poliquin gave a yea vote.

House vote 4
PUNISHING FRIVOLOUS LAWSUITS: The House has passed the Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act, sponsored by Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas. The bill would require federal courts to impose sanctions against lawyers who have violated court rules intended to prevent the filing of frivolous lawsuits.

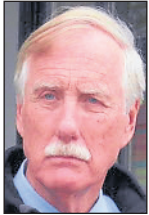
Smith said requiring sanctions to punish frivolous lawsuits would reform a situation in which “lawyers who bring these cases have everything to gain and nothing to lose under current rules,” encouraging them to waste court resources by bringing unreasonable claims against companies and other defendants.

A bill opponent, Rep. Matt Cartwright, D-Pennsylvania, said judges already had the authority to punish lawyers for filing frivolous lawsuits by forcing them to pay the costs of defendants.

The vote was 241 yeas to 185 nays. Pingree gave a nay vote, and Poliquin gave a yea vote.



Collins
Senate votes



King



Pingree



Poliquin

Senate vote 1
IRAN NUCLEAR PACT: The Senate has rejected a cloture motion to end debate on an amendment sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, to the Hire More Heroes Act. The amendment would state the Senate’s disapproval of the Iran nuclear development pact reached by President Barack Obama’s administration and five other nations, and the sanctions relief the pact

would provide for Iran.

A supporter of the amendment, Sen. John Hoeven, R-North Dakota, said the Iran pact would leave Iran’s nuclear weapons program intact and, by giving Iran access to more than \$100 billion in currently frozen bank accounts, increase its ability to fund terrorist groups in the Middle East and elsewhere.

An opponent of the amendment, Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Illinois, called the Iran pact the successful re-

sult of a remarkable coalition of the U.S., China, Russia and other nations working to pressure Iran to abandon its pursuit of nuclear weapons.

The vote was 56 yeas to 42 nays, with a three-fifths majority required to end debate. Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, gave a yea vote, and Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, gave a nay vote.

Senate vote 2
SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN: The Senate has rejected a cloture motion to end debate on an amendment sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, to the Hire More Heroes Act. The amendment would suspend the president’s authority to reduce sanctions against Iran related to its nuclear weapons program until Iran

recognizes Israel and frees American citizens it is holding captive.

McConnell said relaxing the sanctions would allow Iran to strengthen Hezbollah, Hamas and other terrorist groups that oppose U.S. goals in the Middle East, and give Iran billions of dollars to increase its arsenal of conventional weapons.

An amendment opponent, Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nevada, called it a cynical waste of time debating an issue that has already been decided.

The vote was 53 yeas to 45 nays, with a three-fifths majority required to end debate. Collins gave a yea vote, and King gave a nay vote.

For a longer discussion of this week’s votes, go to bangordailynews.com.

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Neuman

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go and to listen for clues that would bring us out of the woods and onto the beach.

Whether human or canine, we all have strengths in certain areas. Think about your team and the people you surround yourself with. Identify everyone’s strengths and make the best use of them to get you to where you want to go and to achieve your goals.

Unexpected detours can be a good thing

During our walk my dog would become distracted by a certain smell that peaked his interest. We would end up lingering in one area a little longer than I would have lingered had I been walking alone.

This happens in business and in life, too. We make a plan to get somewhere and the unexpected happens. Things take longer than planned or problems crop up that we didn’t see coming. It can be discouraging and frus-

trating to experience delays and setbacks.

But as I stood there growing a bit impatient as my dog had to sniff around a tree for what seemed like forever, I discovered a beautiful spot of ripe wild blueberries that I picked and enjoyed. I would have missed them had it not been for my dog forcing a timeout.

Delays and setbacks can lead to new discoveries. Embrace them as opportunities.

Enjoy the journey

Every time I take my dog for a walk, whether it’s just the two of us along the coast or he is on a leash walking through our neighborhood, he acts like it’s the first time he has been there.

Each time it’s new and exciting. He seems to approach it with an “I wonder what I will discover today” attitude.

Remember this as you go about your life and workday. Although you may be walking the same path every day, each day is a new day full of possibilities and new discoveries to be made.

Read Deb Neuman’s Back to Business blog at backtobusiness.bangordailynews.com.

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