

Votes

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and other energy infrastructure projects, repeal the ban on exports of crude oil, and require the Energy Department to study potential changes to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve program.

Upton said improving the permitting process would make it easier to expand the nation's energy infrastructure to adapt to changing supply and consumption, without sacrificing environmental and safety concerns.

A bill opponent, Rep. Frank Pallone Jr., D-New Jersey, said it "favors an energy policy that is dominated by fossil fuels and unnecessary energy use, "failing to recognize the danger of climate change and promote the growth of renewable energy."

The vote was 249 yeas to 174 nays. Pingree gave a nay vote, and Poliquin gave a yea vote.

House vote 9

FINALIZING HIGHWAY BILL: The House has agreed to the conference report for the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, sponsored by Rep. Rodney Davis, R-Illinois. The bill would authorize the federal highway program through fiscal 2021, with an increase in funding for bridge repairs, and authorize a grant program for funding major new transportation projects.

Davis called the bill a bipartisan agreement to work on rebuilding the country's crumbling infrastructure by repairing and upgrading roads and bridges.

The vote was 359 yeas to 65 nays. Both Pingree and Poliquin were among the yeas.

Senate votes

Senate vote 1

TAX ON EMPLOYER HEALTH CARE PLANS: The Senate has passed an amendment sponsored by Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nevada, to the Restoring Americans' Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act. The amendment would block the reinstatement of a tax on Cadillac employer health insurance plans that provide generous coverage and benefits to employees.

Heller said the measure had broad support as a way to cut health care costs for employees with high medical expenses.

The vote was 90 yeas to 10 nays. Both Collins and King were among the yeas.

Senate vote 2

SUSPECTED TERRORISTS AND GUNS: The Senate has rejected a motion to waive a budgetary point of order against an amendment sponsored by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-California, to the Restoring Americans' Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act. The amendment would have authorized the U.S. attorney general to bar individuals who are known or suspected terrorists from obtaining guns or explosives.

Feinstein said ensuring that people on the country's terrorist watch lists cannot obtain weapons would help secure public safety.

An amendment opponent, Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said it would authorize the government to deny Americans the right to bear arms without any judicial process.

The vote was 45 yeas to 54

nays. Collins gave a nay vote, and King gave a yea vote.

Senate vote 3

CLOSING GUN SHOW LOOPHOLE: The Senate has rejected a motion to waive a budgetary point of order against an amendment sponsored by Sen. Joe Manchin, D-West Virginia, to the Restoring Americans' Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act. The amendment would have expanded mandatory background checks for gun sales to private party sales at gun shows and other venues.

Manchin said closing the gun show loophole would remove the danger of criminals and mentally ill individuals buying guns without a background check.

The vote was 48 yeas to 50 nays. Both Collins and King were among the yeas.

Senate vote 4

SENIORS AND HEALTH CARE TAXES: The Senate has passed an amendment sponsored by Sen. Daniel Coats, R-Indiana, to the Restoring Americans' Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act. The amendment would extend for seven years a provision allowing taxpayers at least 65 years of age to deduct medical care expenses amounting to at least 7.5 percent of their gross income from their income taxes.

Coats said the 7.5 percent deduction would help low-income and middle-income seniors who face growing medical expenses.

The vote was 60 yeas to 39 nays. Both Collins and King were among the yeas.

Senate vote 5

REPEALING OBAMACARE PROVISIONS: The Senate has passed the Restoring Americans' Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act, sponsored by Rep. Tom Price, R-Georgia. The bill would repeal the health care reform law's medical device excise tax, repeal the employer health insurance mandate, repeal the individual health insurance mandate and block funding for Planned Parenthood.

A supporter, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, said the health care reform law has pushed up health insurance and care costs without improving coverage.

An opponent, Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nevada, said the law has succeeded in cutting costs and expanding coverage, leading states around the country to use it to increase Medicare access for their citizens.

The vote was 52 yeas to 47 nays. Both Collins and King were among the nays.

Senate vote 6

APPROVING HIGHWAY BILL: The Senate has agreed to the conference report for the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, sponsored by Rep. Rodney Davis, R-Illinois. The bill would authorize the federal highway program through fiscal 2021, with an increase in funding for bridge repairs, and authorize a grant program for funding major new transportation projects.

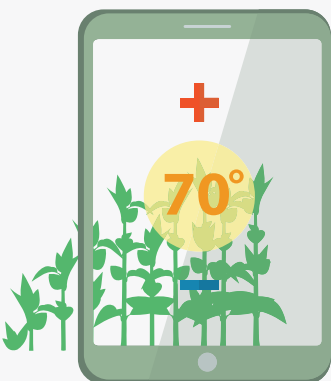
A supporter, Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, D-Maryland, said its provision of long-term funding would help public officials "plan transportation infrastructure projects in a thoughtful and responsible way," including spending on public transit and other transportation alternatives.

The vote was 83 yeas to 16 nays. Both Collins and King were among the yeas.

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