



Senate Update

Last Week in the Senate

The Senate resumed consideration of the Stop Excessive Energy Speculation Act (S. 3268). On July 22, 2008, the Senate agreed on a motion to proceed to the consideration of S. 3268 by a vote of 94 to 0. ([Record Vote 183](#)) Senate Republicans wanted the opportunity to offer amendments to the bill or to have their own bill, the Gas Price Reduction Act (S. 3202), considered by the Senate. Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) tried to limit the number of amendments that would be considered on the floor. After no amendment deal could be reached, the motion to invoke cloture on S. 3268 was rejected by a vote of 50 to 43 on July 25, 2008. ([Record Vote 184](#))

**Note: S. 3202, the Senate Republican alternative, would increase oil production by opening the Outer Continental Shelf to oil exploration, lifting the ban on Western oil shale development, and encouraging energy efficient vehicles.*

On July 23, 2008, Senator Reid filed cloture on the House passed Housing Bill (H.R. 3221) and filled the amendment tree thereby giving him the ability to control amendments that will be considered on the floor. Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC) wanted to offer an amendment that would have prohibited Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac lobbying and political activity. However, because Senator Reid would not allow him to offer it, Senator DeMint required the full legislative clock on the cloture motion to run out.

On July 25, 2008, the Senate voted to invoke cloture on H.R. 3221 by a vote of 80 to 13. ([Record Vote 185](#)) The Senate then came into a rare Saturday session to pass H.R. 3221 by a vote of 72 to 13. ([Record Vote 186](#))

Also on Saturday, the Senate rejected the cloture motion on the Warm in Winter and Cool in Summer Act (S. 3186). S. 3186 would have provided \$2.53 billion in emergency spending for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The cloture motion was rejected by a vote of 50 to 35. ([Record Vote 187](#))

This Week in the Senate

The Senate considered the Advancing America's Priorities Act (S. 3297), which was also referred to as the "Tomnibus" or the "Coburnibus" because all of the bills included in the omnibus package were being held by Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK). On July 28, 2008, the Senate rejected the cloture motion to proceed to S. 3297 by a vote of 52 to 40. ([Record Vote 189](#))

For the balance of the week, the Senate is expected to consider the Free Flow of Information Act, also referred to as the Media Shield Bill, (S. 2035) and a new Tax Extenders package being offered by Senator Max Baucus (D-MT). ([Copy of Text of Baucus Package](#))