



## Senate Update

### Last 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 approximately 40 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](#))

On July 29, 2008, the Senate again brought up the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act (H.R. 6049) for consideration. The bill has twice failed to attain the 60-votes required for cloture when previously brought to the Senate floor. The Senate version of H.R. 6049 includes many of the House-passed provisions as well as an extension of the solar-energy tax credits, as well as revenue raising tax increases as offsets. On July 29, 2008, the Senate again failed to attain cloture on the bill by a vote of 53 to 43. ([Record Vote 190](#))

*\*Note: The House passed H.R. 6049 by a vote of 263 to 160 ([Roll no. 344](#)) on May 21, 2008. Click [here](#) for the Legislative Digest for H.R. 6049.*

On July 30, 2008, the Senate considered the Free Flow of Information Act (S. 2035), also referred to as the Media Shield bill, which would provide protections for confidential sources used by journalists. The motion to invoke cloture failed by a vote of 51 to 43 ([Record Vote 191](#)), and the bill is not expected to be considered again by the Senate for the rest of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The Senate then began consideration of the Jobs, Energy, Families, and Disaster Relief Act (S. 3335). S. 3335 is the new tax extenders package offered by Senator Max Baucus (D-MT). The cloture motion was rejected by the Senate by a vote of 51 to 43 ([Record Vote 192](#)) with the majority of Senate Republicans objecting to the use of revenue raising provisions to offset the extension of existing tax breaks.

On July 31, 2008, the Senate took up the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2009 (S. 3001). Again, the Senate rejected a cloture motion to limit debate on the bill by a vote of 51 to 39. ([Record Vote 195](#)) Senate Republicans objected to the motion in an attempt to have Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) bring up Republican energy legislation.

On that same day, the Senate passed the conference report for the Consumer Product Safety Commission Reform Act (H.R. 4040) by a vote of 89 to 3 ([Record Vote 193](#)) and the conference report for the College Opportunity and Affordability Act (S. 3001) by a vote of 83 to 8. ([Record Vote 194](#))

The Senate agreed to the concurrent resolution that provides for the adjournment of the House and establishes pro forma sessions by the Senate by a vote of 48 to 40. ([Record Vote 196](#)) All of the no votes were cast by Republican Senators.

### This Week in the Senate

The Senate is in a pro forma session until September 8, 2008.