



## Senate Update

### Last Week in the Senate

On September 8, 2008, The Senate began consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2009 (S. 3001) by passing the cloture motion to proceed to the bill by a vote of 83 to 0 ([Roll Call 197](#)). The following day the White House issued a veto threat for S. 3001 and highlighted several provisions that they have concerns with including, provisions related to private security contractors in combat zones, the prohibition on detainee interrogation by contractor personnel, and competitive sourcing. ([SAP for S. 3001](#))

On September 10, 2008, the Senate agreed to begin debate on some of the amendments to the bill and held votes on the following amendments:

- An amendment offered by Senator David Vitter (R-LA) that would authorize, with an offset, an additional \$100,000,000 for Procurement, Defense-wide, and an additional \$171,000,000 for Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation, Defense-wide, for near-term missile defense programs and activities. The amendment failed by a vote of 39 to 57 ([Record Vote 198](#)).
- The next amendment was offered by Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) and would repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation. The amendment passed by a vote of 94 to 2 ([Record Vote 199](#)).

The Senate had hoped to finish consideration of the bill by the end of the week, but Senate leaders have not been able to agree on the amendments that will be considered. More than 200 amendments have been submitted for S. 3001 and no agreement has yet been reached on how to proceed. Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) filed cloture on the bill on September 12, 2008, which would require debate to conclude on the bill and a vote on passage on September 16, 2008.

On September 12, 2008, the Senate held an energy summit. Twenty Senators came to the summit to question two panels of energy experts about ways to achieve a more secure, reliable, sustainable, and affordable future energy supply for the United States. ([Senate Energy Summit](#))

### This Week in the Senate

The Senate will resume consideration of the Defense Authorization bill (S. 3001) on September 15, 2008. As mentioned above, the cloture motion filed by Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) ripens on September 16, 2008, and a vote on final passage will be held then.

Following the vote on S. 3001, the Senate may begin consideration of an Energy bill, which may include the "Gang of Ten" proposal, or a tax extender package. However, no specific agenda has been set for the week.