

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 2250, Further Continuing Appropriations Act, as amended.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S8563–S8621

Measures Introduced: Seventeen bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2383–2399, S.J. Res. 28, and S. Res. 333. **Page S8602**

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled “Legislative Activities Report of the Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate, One Hundred Thirteenth Congress”. (S. Rept. No. 114–178)

S. Res. 189, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the 25th anniversary of democracy in Mongolia.

S. Res. 320, congratulating the people of Burma on their commitment to peaceful elections, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. Res. 326, celebrating the 135th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Romania, and with an amended preamble. **Page S8602**

Measures Passed:

Further Continuing Appropriations Act: Senate passed H.R. 2250, further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016, after withdrawing the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S8581–88**

McConnell Amendment No. 2922, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2016. **Page S8586**

McConnell Amendment No. 2923, to amend the title. **Page S8586**

Child Nicotine Poisoning Prevention Act: Senate passed S. 142, to require special packaging for liquid nicotine containers, after withdrawing the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S8613–14**

McConnell (for Nelson/Ayotte) Amendment No. 2924, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S8614**

McConnell (for Nelson/Ayotte) Amendment No. 2925, to amend the title. **Page S8614**

Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act: Senate passed S. 993, to increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, veterans treatment services, mental health treatment, and substance abuse systems, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S8614–17**

McConnell (for Franken/Cornyn) Amendment No. 2926, to modify the authorization of appropriations. **Page S8614**

Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments: Senate passed S. 209, to amend the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act of 2005, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S8617**

McConnell (for Barrasso) Amendment No. 2714, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S8617**

Church Plan Clarification Act: Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of S. 2308, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of church pension plans, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S8617–18**

Phyllis E. Galanti Arboretum: Committee on Veterans’ Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2693, to designate the arboretum at the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia, as the “Phyllis E. Galanti Arboretum”, and the bill was then passed. **Page S8618**

Foreclosure Relief and Extension for Servicemembers Act: Senate passed S. 2393, to extend temporarily the extended period of protection for members of uniformed services relating to mortgages, mortgage foreclosure, and eviction. **Pages S8618–19**

Direct Senate Legal Counsel: Senate agreed to S. Res. 333, to direct the Senate Legal Counsel to appear as amicus curiae in the name of the Senate in *Bank Markazi, The Central Bank of Iran v. Deborah D. Peterson, et al.* (S. Ct.). **Page S8619**

NOMINATIONS—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 5 p.m., on Monday, December 14, 2015, Senate begin consideration of the nominations of Alissa M. Starzak, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army, John Conger, of Maryland, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Stephen P. Welby, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, and Franklin R. Parker, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy; that there be 30 minutes for debate on the nomination of Alissa M. Starzak, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army, equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote, without intervening action or debate, on confirmation of the nominations, in order listed; and that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations. **Page S8613**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Richard Capel Howorth, of Mississippi, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2020.

(Prior to this action, Committee on Environment and Public Works was discharged from further consideration.)

Eric Drake Eberhard, of Washington, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation for a term expiring October 6, 2018.

Darryl L. DePriest, of Illinois, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration.

Cherry Ann Murray, of Kansas, to be Director of the Office of Science, Department of Energy.

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119 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

8 Army nominations in the rank of general.

1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Foreign Service, and Navy. **Pages S8619–21**

Messages from the House: **Page S8601**

Measures Referred: **Page S8601**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S8601–02**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S8602**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S8602–04**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S8604–10**

Additional Statements: **Pages S8598–S8601**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S8610–11**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S8611**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:32 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, December 14, 2015. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S8619.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

INCREASING EFFECTIVENESS OF MILITARY OPERATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine increasing effectiveness of military operations, after receiving testimony from General Norton A. Schwartz, USAF (Ret.), former Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Business Executives for National Security, McLean, Virginia; Admiral James G. Stavridis, USN (Ret.), former Commander of European Command and Southern Command, Tufts University Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Medford, Massachusetts; and Christopher J. Lamb, National Defense University Institute for National Strategic Studies.

TERRORISM AND GLOBAL OIL MARKETS OVERSIGHT

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine terrorism and global oil markets, after receiving testimony from Keith Crane, RAND Corporation, Arlington, Virginia; and Peter E. Harrell, Center for a New American Security, Sara Vakhshouri, Atlantic Council, and Jamie Webster, IHS, all of Washington, D.C.

INDEPENDENT SOUTH SUDAN

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine independent South Sudan, focusing on a failure of leadership, after receiving testimony from Donald Booth, Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan, Department of State; Bob Leavitt, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, Agency for International Development; and Princeton N. Lyman, United States Institute of Peace, Adotei Akwei, Amnesty International USA, and John Prendergast, Enough Project, all of Washington, D.C.

GAO AND OIG RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management concluded a hearing to examine the importance of following through on GAO and OIG recommendations, including how implementing recommendations can achieve financial benefits and strengthen government performance, after receiving testimony from Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office; Michael E. Horowitz, Chair, Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and Inspector General, Department of Justice; and Jim H. Crumpacker, Director, Departmental GAO–OIG Liaison Office, Department of Homeland Security.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S.1318, to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for protection of maritime navigation and prevention of nuclear terrorism, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

The nominations of Dana J. Boente, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia for the term of four years, Robert Lloyd Capers, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York for the term of four years, John P. Fishwick, Jr., to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Virginia for the term of four years, and Emily Gray Rice, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire for the term of four years, all of the Department of Justice.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 29 public bills, H.R. 4208–4236; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 561–563 were introduced. **Pages H9269–70**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H9271–72**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2406, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–377, Part 1); and

H. Res. 560, providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 644) to reauthorize trade facilitation and trade enforcement functions and activities, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 2250) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–378). **Page H9269**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Jenkins (WV) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H9209**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:22 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H9212**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:39 p.m. and reconvened at 2:48 p.m. **Page H9217**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Securing Fairness in Regulatory Timing Act of 2015: H.R. 3831, amended, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend the annual comment period for payment rates under Medicare Advantage; **Pages H9217–18**

Surface Transportation Board Reauthorization Act of 2015: S. 808, to establish the Surface Transportation Board as an independent establishment; **Pages H9218–23**

Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015: H.R. 4188, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2016 and 2017; **Pages H9223–42**

Department of Homeland Security CBRNE Defense Act of 2015: H.R. 3875, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish within the Department of Homeland Security a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives Office; **Pages H9242–48**

DHS Science and Technology Reform and Improvement Act of 2015: H.R. 3578, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to strengthen and make improvements to the Directorate of Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 416 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 687; **Pages H9248–55, H9262–63**

State and Local Cyber Protection Act of 2015: H.R. 3869, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require State and local coordination on cybersecurity with the national cybersecurity and communications integration center;

Pages H9255–57

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to assist State and local coordination on cybersecurity with the national cybersecurity and communications integration center, and for other purposes.” **Page H9257**

First Responder Identification of Emergency Needs in Disaster Situations: H.R. 2795, amended, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a study on the circumstances which may impact the effectiveness and availability of first responders before, during, or after a terrorist threat or event, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ ye-a-and-nay vote of 396 yeas to 12 nays, Roll No. 689.

Pages H9257–62, H9264–65

Question of Privilege: Representative Pelosi rose to a question of the privileges of the House and offered a resolution. The Chair ruled that the resolution did not constitute a question of the privileges of the House. Subsequently, Representative Pelosi appealed the ruling of the chair and Representative McCarthy moved to table the appeal. Agreed to the motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the chair by a ye-a-and-nay vote of 242 yeas to 173 nays, Roll No. 688.

Pages H9263–64

Senate Messages: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today and message received from the Senate today appear on pages H9217, H9223.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three ye-a-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H9262–63, H9264, H9264–65. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6 p.m.

Committee Meetings

TERRORISM AND THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on National Security; and Subcommittee on Health Care, Benefits and Administrative Rules, held a joint hearing entitled “Terrorism and the Visa Waiver Program”. Testimony was heard from Kelli Ann Burriesci, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Policy, Department of Homeland Security; and public witnesses.

CONFERENCE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY THE TRADE FACILITATION AND TRADE ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2015; SENATE AMENDMENTS TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on a conference report to accompany H.R. 644, the “Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015”; and Senate amendments to H.R. 2250, the “Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2016” [Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016]. The committee granted, by voice vote, a rule that provides for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 644. The rule provides that the conference report shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. The rule provides that the previous question shall be considered as ordered without intervention of any motion except one hour of debate and one motion to recommit if applicable. The rule dictates that debate on the conference report is divided pursuant to clause 8(d) of rule XXII. Additionally, the rule provides for the consideration of the Senate amendments to H.R. 2250. The rule makes in order a single motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 2250. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the motion and provides that it is not subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule provides that the Senate amendments and the motion shall be considered as read. The rule provides one hour of debate on the motion equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. Testimony was heard from Chairman Brady of Texas, and Representatives Levin and Reichert.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE NATION’S WEATHER SATELLITE PROGRAMS AND POLICIES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Environment; and Subcommittee on Oversight, held a joint hearing entitled “An Overview of the Nation’s Weather Satellite Programs and Policies”. Testimony was heard from Stephen Volz, Assistant Administrator, National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and David Powner, Director, Information Technology Management Issues, Government Accountability Office.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 11, 2015

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to receive a briefing on human rights violations in Russian-occupied Crimea, 2 p.m., B318, Rayburn Building.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3 p.m., Monday, December 14

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Friday, December 11

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 5 p.m.), Senate will begin consideration of the nominations of Alissa M. Starzak, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army, John Conger, of Maryland, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Stephen P. Welby, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, and Franklin R. Parker, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and vote on confirmation of the nominations at approximately 5:30 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Friday: Consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 644—Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of the Senate amendments to H.R. 2250—Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2016 (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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