

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

House and Senate met in Joint Session to receive a State of the Union Address from the President of the United States.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S39–S75

Measures Introduced: Six bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2438–2443, and S. Res. 344–345. Page S72

Measures Reported:

S. 2021, to prohibit Federal agencies and Federal contractors from requesting that an applicant for employment disclose criminal history record information before the applicant has received a conditional offer, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114–200)

S. 1579, to enhance and integrate Native American tourism, empower Native American communities, increase coordination and collaboration between Federal tourism assets, and expand heritage and cultural tourism opportunities in the United States. (S. Rept. No. 114–201)

S. 1761, to take certain Federal land located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria. (S. Rept. No. 114–202)

S. 1822, to take certain Federal land located in Tuolumne County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 114–203)

H.R. 387, to provide for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of Morongo Band of Mission Indians. (S. Rept. No. 114–204)

H.R. 487, to allow the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease or transfer certain lands. (S. Rept. No. 114–205) Page S72

Measures Passed:

Congratulating the North Dakota State University Football Team: Senate agreed to S. Res. 345, congratulating the North Dakota State University football team for winning the 2015 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Football Championship Subdivision title. Page S75

Measures Considered:

Federal Reserve Transparency Act: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2232, to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States. Pages S52–63

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 53 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. 2), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. Pages S54–55

Subsequently, the motion to proceed was withdrawn. Page S63

American Safe Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 4038, to require that supplemental certifications and background investigations be completed prior to the admission of certain aliens as refugees. Page S63

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Tuesday, January 12, 2016, a vote on cloture will occur at 2:30 p.m., on Wednesday, January 20, 2016, and that if cloture is invoked, then the time be counted as if it had been invoked at 6 p.m., on Tuesday, January 19, 2016. Page S63

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting the report on the State of the Union delivered to a Joint Session of Congress on January

12, 2016; which was ordered to lie on the table. (PM-36) **Pages S64–68**

Wright Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 5 p.m., on Tuesday, January 19, 2016, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of Wilhelmina Marie Wright, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota; that there be 30 minutes of debate on the nomination, and that following the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination, without intervening action or debate; and that no further motions be in order to the nomination. **Page S75**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Donald Karl Schott, of Wisconsin, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

Myra C. Selby, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

Winfield D. Ong, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Indiana. **Page S75**

Messages from the House:

Page S68

Measures Referred:

Page S68

Executive Communications:

Pages S68–71

Petitions and Memorials:

Pages S71–72

Executive Reports of Committees:

Page S72

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S72–73

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S73–74

Amendments Submitted:

Page S74

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S74–75**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—2) **Pages S54–55**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:17 p.m., until 11 a.m. on Friday, January 15, 2016. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S75.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Michael Joseph Missal, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs, who was introduced by Senator Tester, and Carolyn N. Lerner, of Maryland, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel, who was introduced by Senator Cardin, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Robert McKinnon Califf, of South Carolina, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Michael Joseph Missal, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 11 public bills, H.R. 4365–4375, were introduced.

Pages H330–31

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H331–32

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H.R. 3584, to authorize, streamline, and identify efficiencies within the Transportation Security Ad-

ministration, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–396). **Page H330**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative LaMalfa to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H283**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:08 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H292**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Reverend Nathaniel Demosthene,

First Timothy Christian Church, Spring Valley, New York. **Page H292**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, January 13th. **Page H297**

STREAM Act: The House passed H.R. 1644, to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to ensure transparency in the development of environmental regulations, by a recorded vote of 235 ayes to 188 noes, Roll No. 42. **Pages H308–23**

Rejected the Kildee motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 186 ayes to 237 noes, Roll No. 41. **Pages H321–22**

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule. **Page H315**

Agreed to:

Lamborn amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 114–395) that makes a technical fix to a U.S. Code citation and addresses a concern regarding copyrighted scientific products. **Page H316**

Rejected:

Kildee amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 114–395) that sought to prevent the rules in the underlying bill from being delayed if it protects drinking water quality (by a recorded vote of 189 ayes to 223 noes, Roll No. 38); **Pages H316–17, H319–20**

Cartwright amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 114–395) that sought to direct funding from AML certified states for use in revitalizing economically distressed communities which have been adversely affected by discharge from abandoned mine lands (by a recorded vote of 203 ayes to 219 noes, Roll No. 39); and **Pages H317–18, H320**

Sewell (AL) amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 114–395) that sought to address the exemption clause in Sec. 530; lower the threshold of postponing the delay of a rule if there is a threat that a delay would cause or significantly contribute to the development of negative chronic or long-term health conditions (by a recorded vote of 190 ayes to 235 noes, Roll No. 40). **Pages H318–19, H320–21**

H. Res. 583, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1644), the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 22), and the bill (H.R. 3662), was agreed to by a recorded vote of 239 ayes to 183 noes, Roll No. 37, after the previous question was ordered by a yeas-and-nay vote of 233 yeas to 173 nays, Roll No. 36. **Pages H297–H308**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated on Monday, January 11th:

North Korea Sanctions Enforcement Act of 2016: H.R. 757, amended, to improve the enforcement of sanctions against the Government of North Korea, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nay vote of 418 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 43. **Pages H323–24**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:08 p.m. and reconvened at 8:33 p.m. **Page H324**

State of the Union Address: President Barack Obama delivered his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress, pursuant to the provisions of H. Con. Res. 102. He was escorted into the House Chamber by a committee comprised of Representatives McCarthy, Scalise, McMorris Rodgers, Walden, Messer, Jenkins (KS), Foxx, Pelosi, Hoyer, Clyburn, Becerra, Crowley, Israel, and DeLauro, and Senators McConnell, Cornyn, Thune, Barrasso, Blunt, Wicker, Reid, Durbin, Schumer, Murray, Leahy, Tester, Stabenow, and Klobuchar. The President's message was referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 114–84). **Pages H324–29**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H297.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yeas-and-nay votes and six recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H307, H307–08, H319–20, H320, H320–21, H322, H323, and H323–24. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

Committee Meetings

PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF SNAP: ADDRESSING SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Nutrition held a hearing entitled "Past, Present, and Future of SNAP: Addressing Special Populations". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OUTSIDE VIEWS ON THE U.S. STRATEGY FOR IRAQ AND SYRIA AND THE EVOLUTION OF ISLAMIC EXTREMISM

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Outside Views on the U.S. Strategy for Iraq and Syria and the Evolution of Islamic Extremism". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

NATIONAL ACADEMIES STUDY ON PEER REVIEW AND DESIGN COMPETITION IN THE NNSA NATIONAL SECURITY LABORATORIES

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a hearing entitled “National Academies Study on Peer Review and Design Competition in the NNSA National Security Laboratories”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy and Power held a hearing entitled “H.R. _____, the EPS Improvement Act of 2016”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled “A Legislative Hearing on Four Communications Bills”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FACING THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance held a hearing entitled “Opportunities and Challenges Facing the National Flood Insurance Program”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES; HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA: THE 2015 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON CHINA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific held a markup on H. Res. 339, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the 25th anniversary of democracy in Mongolia; H. Res. 343, expressing concern regarding persistent and credible reports of systematic, state-sanctioned organ harvesting from non-consenting prisoners of conscience in the People’s Republic of China, including from large numbers of Falun Gong practitioners and members of other religious and ethnic minority groups; and H. Res. 374, recognizing the 50th anniversary of Singaporean independence and reaffirming Singapore’s close partnership with the United States; and a hearing entitled “Human Rights in China: The 2015 Annual Report of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China”. The following resolutions were forwarded to the full committee, as amended: H. Res. 339, H. Res. 343, and H. Res. 374. Testimony was heard from Representatives Smith of New Jersey and Walz.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 3406, the “Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2015”; H.R. 4240, the “No Fly for Foreign Fighters Act”; and H.R. 1854, the “Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act of 2015”. The following bills were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 3406 and H.R. 4240. H.R. 1854 was ordered reported, without amendment.

EXPLORING ENERGY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FACING PUERTO RICO

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled “Exploring Energy Challenges and Opportunities Facing Puerto Rico”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1671, the “Government Neutrality in Contracting Act”; H.R. 3023, to amend title 5, United States Code, to modify probationary periods with respect to positions within the competitive service and the Senior Executive Service, and for other purposes; H.R. 4358, the “Senior Executive Service Accountability Act”; H.R. 4360, the “Official Personnel File Enhancement Act”; and H.R. 4359, the “Administrative Leave Reform Act”. The following bills were ordered reported, without amendment: H.R. 1671, H.R. 3023, and H.R. 4358. H.R. 4360 was ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 4359 was considered and withdrawn.

WASSENAAR: CYBERSECURITY AND EXPORT CONTROL

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Information Technology; and the Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies of the House Committee on Homeland Security, held a joint hearing entitled “Wassenaar: Cybersecurity and Export Control”. Testimony was heard from Kevin J. Wolf, Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce; Phyllis Schneck, Deputy Under Secretary for Cybersecurity and Communications, National Protection and Programs Directorate, Department of Homeland Security; Vann H. Van Diepen, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Security and Nonproliferation, Department of State; and Ann K. Ganzer, Director of Conventional Arms Threat Reduction, Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, Department of State; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 4084, the “Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act”. H.R. 4084 was ordered reported, as amended.

SBA MANAGEMENT REVIEW: OVERSIGHT OF SBA’S ACCESS TO CAPITAL OFFICES

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “SBA Management Review: Oversight of SBA’s Access to Capital Offices”. Testimony was heard from Ann Marie Mehlum, Associate Administrator of Capital Access, Small Business Administration; and Linda Rusche, Director of Office of Credit Risk Management, Small Business Administration.

OVERSIGHT OF THE OFFICE OF INNOVATION AND INVESTMENT AT THE SBA

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Health and Technology held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Office of Innovation and Investment at the SBA”. Testimony was heard from Mark Walsh, Associate Administrator, Office of Investment and Innovation, Small Business Administration.

1988 TO 2016: VETSNET TO VBMS; BILLIONS SPENT, BACKLOG GRINDS ON

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “1988 to 2016: VETSNET to VBMS; Billions Spent, Backlog Grinds On”. Testimony was heard from Beth McCoy, Deputy Under Secretary for Field Operations, Department of Veterans Affairs; Valerie C. Melvin, Director, Information Technology, Government Accountability Office;

and Brent Arronte, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations, Office of Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2016

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled “Effects of Reduced Infrastructure and Base Operating Support Investments on Air Force Readiness”, 9 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled “Views on Commissary Reform”, 10:30 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled “How to Create a More Robust and Private Flood Insurance Marketplace”, 9:15 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, hearing entitled “The U.S. Response to North Korea’s Nuclear Provocations”, 9 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, hearing entitled “The Original Meaning of the Origination Clause”, 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4341, the “Defending America’s Small Contractors Act of 2016”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE
11 a.m., Friday, January 15

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
9 a.m., Wednesday, January 13

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 3662—Iran Terror Finance Transparency Act (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of S.J. Res. 22—Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the definition of “waters of the United States” under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Bordallo, Madeleine Z., Guam, E35
Capps, Lois, Calif., E36
Carney, John C., Jr., E36
Coffman, Mike, Colo., E36
Cole, Tom, Okla., E33
Graves, Garret, La., E36
Graves, Sam, Mo., E35

Harper, Gregg, Miss., E37
Hunter, Duncan, Calif., E39
Hurd, Will, Tex., E38
Jenkins, Evan H., W.Va., E35
Kuster, Ann M., N.H., E37
Lowey, Nita M., N.Y., E36, E37, E38
MacArthur, Thomas, N.J., E34, E37
Neugebauer, Randy, Tex., E38
O'Rourke, Beto, Tex., E37

Rothfus, Keith J., Pa., E36
Ryan, Tim, Ohio, E34
Tipton, Scott R., Colo., E34
Trott, David A., Mich., E35
Van Hollen, Chris, Md., E33, E33
Visclosky, Peter J., Ind., E34
Webster, Daniel, Fla., E38
Young, David, Iowa, E37, E38



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