

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate confirmed the nomination of Ryan Zinke, of Montana, to be Secretary of the Interior.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1509–S1544

Measures Introduced: Eleven bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 478–488, and S. Res. 74–77.

Page S1540

Measures Passed:

Nebraska 150th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 74, congratulating the State of Nebraska on the 150th anniversary of the admission of that State into the United States.

Pages S1521–23

Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 77, supporting the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week.

Page S1543

Appointments:

Senate Delegation to the British-American Interparliamentary Group Conference: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and upon the recommendation of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, appointed the following Senator as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the British-American Interparliamentary Group Conference during the 115th Congress: Senator Leahy.

Page S1543

Carson Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Benjamin S. Carson, Sr., of Florida, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Page S1513

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

By 62 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. 76), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Page S1513

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, March 2, 2017; that following leader remarks, there be 20

minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to the vote on confirmation of the nomination, followed by up to 10 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of James Richard Perry, of Texas, to be Secretary of Energy, and if cloture is invoked on the nomination of James Richard Perry, time be counted as if invoked at 7 a.m., on Thursday, March 2, 2017.

Pages S1543–44

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 68 yeas to 31 nays (Vote No. EX. 75), Ryan Zinke, of Montana, to be Secretary of the Interior.

Pages S1511–13, S1544

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Danny C. Reeves, of Kentucky, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission for a term expiring October 31, 2019.

Charles R. Breyer, of California, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission for a term expiring October 31, 2021.

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Messages from the House:

Page S1539

Executive Communications:

Pages S1539–40

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S1540–41

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S1541–43

Additional Statements:

Pages S1538–39

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Page S1543

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—76)

Page S1513

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 4:34 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 2, 2017. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1544.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

GLOBAL COUNTERTERRORISM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities received a closed briefing on global counterterrorism from Christopher P. Maier, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Operations and Combating Terrorism, and Major General Albert M. Elton II, USAF, Deputy Director for Special Operations and Counterterrorism, J-37, Joint Staff, both of the Department of Defense.

INFRASTRUCTURE ACCESS FOR COMMUNITIES

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine improving access to infrastructure for communities across the country, after receiving testimony from South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard, Pierre; Carlos M. Braceras, Utah Department of Transportation, Salt Lake City, on behalf of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials; Mayor Philip Levine, Miami Beach, Florida; and Shirley Bloomfield, NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association, Arlington, Virginia.

FLOOD CONTROL INFRASTRUCTURE

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine flood control infrastructure, focusing on safety questions raised by current events, after receiving testimony from Lieu-

tenant General Todd T. Semonite, Commanding General and Chief of Engineers, Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense; Terrence D. Wolf, Washakie County Board of County Commissioners, Worland, Wyoming; Mayor Ron Corbett, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; John Laird, California Natural Resources Agency Secretary, Sacramento; and Larry A. Larson, Association of State Floodplain Managers, Madison, Wisconsin.

NOMINATION

Committee on Finance: Committee began consideration of the nomination of Seema Verma, of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, but did not complete action thereon, and recessed subject to the call of the chair.

BORDER INSECURITY AND IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the effects of border insecurity and immigration enforcement on American communities, after receiving testimony from Eric J. Severson, Waukesha County Sheriff, Waukesha, Wisconsin; Ryan Rectenwald, Grant County Sheriff's Office, Ephrata, Washington; and Julie Nordman, Wentzville, Missouri.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee adopted its rules of procedure for the 115th Congress.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 34 public bills, H.R. 1265–1298; and 7 resolutions, H.J. Res. 84–85; H. Con. Res. 32; and H. Res. 160–163 were introduced.

Pages H1461–65

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H1465**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Rothfus to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H1395

Recess: The House recessed at 10:48 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Page H1400

Member Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Zinke, wherein he resigned as the Representative from Montana, effective immediately.

Page H1400

Whole Number of the House: The Chair announced to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Montana, Mr. Zinke, the whole number of the House is 430.

Pages H1400–01

Searching for and Cutting Regulations that are Unnecessarily Burdensome Act: The House passed H.R. 998, to provide for the establishment of a process for the review of rules and sets of rules, by a recorded vote of 240 ayes to 185 noes, Roll No. 114. Consideration began yesterday, February 28th.

Pages H1408, H1419

Rejected the Raskin motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 190 ayes to 235 noes, Roll No. 113.

Pages H1418–19

Rejected:

Bonamici amendment (No. 9 printed in H. Rept. 115–20) that sought to exempt any rule or set of rules relating to Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 from the provisions of this Act;

Pages H1410–11

Bonamici amendment (No. 8 printed in H. Rept. 115–20) that sought to exempt any rule or set of rules prescribed by the Secretary of Education and relating to consumer protections for student loan borrowers from the provisions of this Act (by a recorded vote of 191 ayes to 235 noes, Roll No. 109);

Pages H1408–10, H1414–15

Raskin amendment (No. 10 printed in H. Rept. 115–20) that sought to exempt rules relating to the enforcement of the Clean Air Act from the provisions of H.R. 998 (by a recorded vote of 189 ayes to 231 noes, Roll No. 110);

Pages H1411–12, H1415

Moore amendment (No. 11 printed in H. Rept. 115–20) that sought to exempt rules affecting or impacting the special government to government relationship between the federal government and tribal communities or affecting tribal sovereignty or self-determination (by a recorded vote of 197 ayes to 229 noes, Roll No. 111); and

Pages H1412–13, H1415–16

Cummings amendment (No. 12 printed in H. Rept. 115–20) that sought to exempt any rule relating to protections for whistleblowers or penalties for retaliation against whistleblowers (by a recorded vote of 194 ayes to 231 noes, Roll No. 112).

Pages H1413–14, H1416–17

H. Res. 150, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 998) and the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 83) was agreed to yesterday, February 28th.

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Insight, Reform, and Accountability Act: The House passed H.R. 1009, to amend title 44, United States Code, to require the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs to review regulations, by a yea-and-nay vote of 241 yeas to 184 nays, Roll No. 120.

Pages H1430–47

Rejected Cartwright the motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 193 ayes to 234 noes, Roll No. 119.

Page H1446

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115–4 shall be considered as an

original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule.

Page H1435

Agreed to:

Mitchell amendment (No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–21) that makes technical changes to H.R. 1009 to ensure consistency in dates and terms, require OIRA to review significant guidance, and prohibit the authorization of additional funds;

Pages H1438–39

Buck amendment (No. 2 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–21) that ensures that federal agencies engage their partners in state, local, and tribal government throughout the regulatory process;

Pages H1439–40

Meadows amendment (No. 4 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–21) that requires OIRA to keep a log of the “consultation”—which is any communication that occurs about a specific regulation before the regulation is submitted for review—for each regulation and to publish a list of all the consultations when the regulation is published in the Federal Register;

Pages H1441–42

Chaffetz amendment (No. 5 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–21) that requires OIRA to maintain records on each significant regulatory action reviewed such that it is easily accessible to provide to Congress upon request; and

Page H1442

Young (IA) amendment (No. 3 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–21) that requires each agency to describe steps taken to determine a new rule or regulation is not duplicative or conflicting with any existing or planned regulatory action and to require agencies to maintain a list of active regulatory actions on website (by a recorded vote of 265 ayes to 158 noes, Roll No. 117).

Pages H1440–41, H1443–44

Rejected:

Connolly amendment (No. 6 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–21) that sought to exempt independent agencies from the legislation (by a recorded vote of 188 ayes to 234 noes, Roll No. 118).

Pages H1442–43, H1444–45

H. Res. 156, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1004) and (H.R. 1009) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 234 ayes to 180 noes, Roll No. 116, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 233 yeas to 189 nays, Roll No. 115.

Pages H1403–04, H1419–21

Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to “Clarification of Employer’s Continuing Obligation to Make and Maintain an Accurate Record of Each Recordable Injury and Illness”: The House passed H.J. Res. 83, disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to “Clarification of Employer’s Continuing Obligation to Make and Maintain an Accurate Record of Each Recordable Injury

and Illness", by a recorded vote of 231 ayes to 191 noes, Roll No. 121. **Pages H1421–30**

H. Res. 150, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 998) and the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 83) was agreed to yesterday, February 28th.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, March 2. **Page H1447**

Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: Representatives Walz and Kaptur. **Page H1448**

Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: Representatives Higgins, Slaughter, Meeks, Larsen (WA), and DeFazio. **Page H1448**

Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress—Appointment: Read a letter from Representative Pelosi, Minority Leader, in which she appointed the following individual on the part of the House to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Mr. John A. Lawrence of Washington, DC. **Page H1448**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes and eleven recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1414–15, H1415, H1415–16, H1416–17, H1418–19, H1419, H1419–20, H1420–21, H1443–44, H1444–45, H1446, H1446–47, H1447. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a markup on the budget views and estimates letter of the Committee on Agriculture for the agencies and programs under the jurisdiction of the Committee for fiscal year 2018. The committee adopted its views and estimates letter for the agencies and programs under the jurisdiction of the committee for fiscal year 2018.

MEMBERS' DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing entitled "Members'

Day". Testimony was heard from Representatives Barr, Dunn, Gosar, Jackson Lee, Polis, and Schneider.

MEMBERS' DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education held a hearing entitled "Members' Day". Testimony was heard from Representatives Delaney, Faso, Fitzpatrick, Hanabusa, Jackson Lee, Jenkins of Kansas, Kelly of Illinois, Kuster of New Hampshire, Langevin, Long, MacArthur, Murphy of Pennsylvania, Panetta, Polis, Price of North Carolina, and Thompson of Pennsylvania.

CYBER WARFARE IN THE 21ST CENTURY: THREATS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Cyber Warfare in the 21st Century: Threats, Challenges and Opportunities". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

U.S. GROUND FORCE CAPABILITY AND MODERNIZATION CHALLENGES IN EASTERN EUROPE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces held a hearing entitled "U.S. Ground Force Capability and Modernization Challenges in Eastern Europe". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE AND PROVIDE LOWER COSTS FOR FAMILIES

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Legislative Proposals to Improve Health Care Coverage and Provide Lower Costs for Families". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a hearing on Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. Testimony was heard from Brad Brooker, Acting General Counsel, Office of the Director of National Intelligence; Paul Morris, Deputy General Counsel for Operations, National Security Agency; Stephen Vanech, Deputy Chief, Office of Counterterrorism, National Security Agency; Stuart Evans, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, Department of Justice; and Grant Mendenhall, Acting Assistant Director, Counterterrorism Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation; and public witnesses. A portion of this hearing was closed.

MODERNIZING WESTERN WATER AND POWER INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans held a hearing entitled “Modernizing Western Water and Power Infrastructure in the 21st Century”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING ENVIRONMENTAL BARRIERS TO INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on the Interior, Energy and Environment; and Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Affairs, held a joint hearing entitled “Examining Environmental Barriers to Infrastructure Development”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

VA: PATH TO REFORM

Committee on Oversight And Government Reform: Subcommittee on National Security held a hearing entitled “VA: Path to Reform”. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Veterans Affairs officials: Pamela Mitchell, Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Human Resources and Administration; Nick Dahl, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations, Office of Inspector General; and Irene Barnett, Director of the Bedford Office for Audits and Evaluations, Office of Inspector General.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1224, the “NIST Cybersecurity Framework, Assessment, and Auditing Act of 2017”. H.R. 1224 was ordered reported, as amended.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a markup on the committee’s budget views and estimates for Fiscal Year 2018. The committee adopted its budget views and estimates for Fiscal Year 2018.

BUILDING A 21ST CENTURY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR AMERICA: STATE OF AMERICAN AIRPORTS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing entitled “Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: State of American Airports”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

THE AMERICAN LEGION LEGISLATIVE PRESENTATION

Joint Hearing: Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs concluded a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion, after receiving testimony from Charles E. Schmidt, The American Legion, Hines, Oregon.

VFW LEGISLATIVE PRESENTATION

Joint Hearing: Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs concluded a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, after receiving testimony from Brian Duffy, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Louisville, Kentucky.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D181)

H.R. 255, to authorize the National Science Foundation to support entrepreneurial programs for women. Signed on February 28, 2017. (Public Law 115–6)

H.R. 321, to inspire women to enter the aerospace field, including science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, through mentorship and outreach. Signed on February 28, 2017. (Public Law 115–7)

H.J. Res. 40, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Social Security Administration relating to Implementation of the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007. Signed on February 28, 2017. (Public Law 115–8)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine cyber strategy and policy, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet, to hold hearings to examine the value of spectrum to the U.S. economy, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Finance: business meeting to consider the nomination of Seema Verma, of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine Venezuela, focusing on options for U.S. policy, 10:30 a.m., SD-419.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled “Overview of Military Review Board Agencies”, 10:30 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Members’ Day”, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Examining FDA’s Generic

Drug and Biosimilar User Fee Programs”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Judgment Fund”, 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Transparency at TSA”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce, hearing entitled “Learning from History: Ideas to Strengthen and Modernize the HUBZone Program”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Full Committee, business meeting on the committee’s views and estimates, HVC-304. This meeting will be closed.

Résumé of Congressional Activity

FIRST SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House. The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 3 through February 28, 2017

	Senate	House	Total
Days in session	33	31	..
Time in session	252 hrs., 58'	151 hrs., 48'	..
Congressional Record:			
Pages of proceedings	1,507	1,394	..
Extensions of Remarks .....	..	251	..
Public bills enacted into law	1	7	8
Private bills enacted into law .....	..	..	..
Bills in conference .....	..	..	..
Measures passed, total	43	145	188
Senate bills	3	1	..
House bills	5	84	..
Senate joint resolutions .....	..	..	..
House joint resolutions	3	14	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	3	3	..
House concurrent resolutions	2	3	..
Simple resolutions	27	40	..
Measures reported, total	*24	21	45
Senate bills	3	..	..
House bills	2	7	..
Senate joint resolutions .....	..	..	..
House joint resolutions .....	..	..	..
Senate concurrent resolutions .....	..	..	..
House concurrent resolutions .....	..	..	..
Simple resolutions	19	14	..
Special reports	1	1	..
Conference reports .....	..	..	..
Measures pending on calendar	4	7	..
Measures introduced, total	571	1,537	2,108
Bills	467	1,264	..
Joint resolutions	25	83	..
Concurrent resolutions	6	31	..
Simple resolutions	73	159	..
Quorum calls	3	1	..
Yea-and-nay votes	74	51	..
Recorded votes .....	..	56	..
Bills vetoed .....	..	..	..
Vetoes overridden .....	..	..	..

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 3 through February 28, 2017

Civilian nominations, totaling 59, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	16
Unconfirmed	20
Withdrawn	23
Army nominations, totaling 2, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	2
Navy nominations, totaling 1, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	1
<i>Summary</i>	
Total nominations carried over from the First Session	0
Total nominations received this Session	62
Total confirmed	19
Total unconfirmed	20
Total withdrawn	23
Total returned to the White House	0

*These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 3 written reports have been filed in the Senate, 22 reports have been filed in the House.

Next Meeting of the SENATE
9:30 a.m., Thursday, March 2

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
9 a.m., Thursday, March 2

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Benjamin S. Carson, Sr., of Florida, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at approximately 10 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Benjamin S. Carson, Sr., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of James Richard Perry, of Texas, to be Secretary of Energy.

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 1004—Regulatory Integrity Act of 2017.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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