

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate confirmed the nomination of Kirstjen Nielsen, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7825–S7857

Measures Introduced: Three bills were introduced, as follows: S. 2192–2194. **Page S7848**

Measures Reported:

S. 1223, to repeal the Klamath Tribe Judgment Fund Act, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 115–190)

S. 447, to require reporting on acts of certain foreign countries on Holocaust era assets and related issues, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2193, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve health care for veterans. **Page S7846**

Balash Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of Joseph Balash, of Alaska, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior; that there be one hour of debate on the nomination equally divided in the usual form, and that following the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination, with no intervening action or debate. **Page S7840**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 62 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. EX. 305), Kirstjen Nielsen, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Homeland Security. **Pages S7829–34, S7834–39**

Emily Webster Murphy, of Missouri, to be Administrator of General Services. **Page S7839, S7857**

Glen R. Smith, of Iowa, to be a Member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, Farm Credit Administration, for a term expiring May 21, 2022.

Page S7839, S7857

Messages from the House: **Pages S7844–45**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S7845**

Executive Communications: **Pages S7845–46**

Petitions and Memorials: **Page S7846**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S7846–48**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S7848–49**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Page S7848**

Additional Statements: **Pages S7843–44**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S7849**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S7849**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—305) **Page S7839**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:26 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, December 6, 2017. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S7857.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

OPIOID CRISIS IN AMERICA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies addressing the opioid crisis in America, focusing on prevention, treatment, and recovery, after receiving testimony from former Representative Patrick J. Kennedy, President’s Commission on Combatting Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis; and Elinore McCance-Katz, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Francis S. Collins, Director, National Institutes of Health, and Debra Houry, Director, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,

all of the Department of Health and Human Services.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 2155, to promote economic growth, provide tailored regulatory relief, and enhance consumer protections, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

The nomination of Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Timothy R. Petty, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior, who was introduced by Senator Risch, and Linda Capuano, of Texas, to be Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

ENERGY LEGISLATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy concluded a hearing to examine S. 1336, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize hydroelectric production incentives and hydroelectric efficiency improvement incentives, S. 1455, to amend the United States Energy Storage Competitiveness Act of 2007 to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish new goals for the Department of Energy relating to energy storage and to carry out certain demonstration projects relating to energy storage, S. 1563, to authorize the Office of Fossil Energy to develop advanced separation technologies for the extraction and recovery of rare earth elements and minerals from coal and coal byproducts, S. 1851, to require the Secretary of Energy to establish an energy storage research program, demonstration and deployment program, and technical

assistance and grant program, S. 1876, to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to advance energy storage deployment by reducing the cost of energy storage through research, development, and demonstration, S. 1981, to amend the Natural Gas Act to expedite approval of exports of small volumes of natural gas, and S. 2030, to deem the compliance date for amended energy conservation standards for ceiling light kits to be January 21, 2020, after receiving testimony from Senator Tillis; and Mark Menezes, Under Secretary of Energy.

AUTHORITY OVER INTERNATIONAL ACCORDS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President, Congress, and shared authority over the international accords, after receiving testimony from Curtis A. Bradley, Duke Law School, Durham, North Carolina; and Avril Haines, Columbia University, New York, New York.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Kenneth L. Marcus, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, and Johnny Collett, of Kentucky, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, both of the Department of Education, and Scott A. Mugno, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary, and William Beach, of Kansas, to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics, both of the Department of Labor, after the nominees, who were introduced by Senator Alexander, testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

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: 12 public bills, H.R. 4546–4557 were introduced.

Page H9664

Additional Cosponsors:

Page H9665

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2897, to authorize the Mayor of the District of Columbia and the Director of the National Park Service to enter into cooperative management agreements for the operation, maintenance, and management of units of the National Park System in the

District of Columbia, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–436, Part 2);

H.R. 4477, to enforce current law regarding the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–437);

H.R. 3979, to amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to reauthorize the volunteer services, community partnership, and refuge education programs of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–438);

H.R. 1132, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for a 2-year prohibition on employment in a career civil service position for any former political appointee, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–439); and

H. Res. 645, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 38) to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a means by which nonresidents of a State whose residents may carry concealed firearms may also do so in the State (H. Rept. 115–440).

Pages H9663–64

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Hice (GA) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H9623

Recess: The House recessed at 11:04 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Page H9630

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by a yea-and-nay vote of 224 yeas to 183 nays with one answering "present", Roll No. 657.

Pages H9630, H9641

Change of Conferee: The Chair announced the removal of Representative Walden as a conferee on H.R. 1, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to titles II and V of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018, and appointed Representative Upton to fill the vacancy.

Page H9641

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

Secret Service Recruitment and Retention Act of 2017: H.R. 3731, amended, to provide overtime pay for employees of the United States Secret Service, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 407 yeas to 4 nays, Roll No. 655;

Pages H9633–37, H9639–40

Stopping Abusive Female Exploitation Act: H.R. 3317, amended, to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the penalty for female genital mutilation, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 409 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 656; and

Pages H9637–39, H9640

Taylor Force Act: H.R. 1164, amended, to condition assistance to the West Bank and Gaza on steps

by the Palestinian Authority to end violence and terrorism against Israeli citizens.

Pages H9648–53

Member Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Conyers, wherein he resigned as Representative for the Thirteenth Congressional District of Michigan, effective Tuesday, December 5, 2017.

Page H9648

Whole Number of the House: The Chair announced to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. Conyers, the whole number of the House is 433.

Page H9648

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Enhancing Veteran Care Act: S. 1266, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with nonprofit organizations to investigate medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Pages H9641–43

Condemning ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya and calling for an end to the attacks in and an immediate restoration of humanitarian access to the state of Rakhine in Burma: H. Con. Res. 90, amended, condemning ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya and calling for an end to the attacks in and an immediate restoration of humanitarian access to the state of Rakhine in Burma;

Pages H9643–48

Venezuela Humanitarian Assistance and Defense of Democratic Governance Act of 2017: H.R. 2658, amended, to provide humanitarian assistance for the Venezuelan people, to defend democratic governance and combat widespread public corruption in Venezuela; and

Pages H9653–59

Expressing concern and condemnation over the political, economic, social, and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela: H. Res. 259, amended, expressing concern and condemnation over the political, economic, social, and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela.

Pages H9659–63

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H9639–41. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Committee Meetings

CONCEALED CARRY RECIPROCITY ACT OF 2017

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 38, the "Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017". The Committee granted, by record vote of 8–3, a closed rule for H.R. 38. The rule provides

one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115–45 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Chairman Goodlatte, and Representatives Nadler, Jackson Lee, Schneider, and Titus.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2017

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of R. D. James, of Missouri, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, Department of Defense, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight, to hold hearings to examine challenges facing Superfund and waste cleanup efforts following natural disasters, 2:30 p.m., SD–406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism, to hold hearings to examine beyond ISIS, focusing on countering terrorism, radicalization, and promoting stability in North Africa, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine adapting to defend the Homeland against the evolving international terrorist threat, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: business meeting to consider S. 1870, to amend the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to secure urgent resources vital to Indian victims of crime; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S. 664, to approve the settlement of the water rights claims of the Navajo in Utah, to authorize construction of projects in connection therewith, and S. 1770, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Hualapai Tribe and certain allottees in the State of Arizona, to authorize construction of a water project relating to those water rights claims, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine firearm accessory regulation and enforcing Federal and

state reporting to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), 10 a.m., SH–216.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine America's aging workforce, focusing on opportunities and challenges, 9:30 a.m., SD–562.

House

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, hearing entitled "Workplace Leave Policies: Opportunities and Challenges for Employers and Working Families", 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Full Committee, business meeting on subcommittee membership; and markup on H.R. 453, the "Relief from New Source Performance Standards Act of 2017"; H.R. 350, the "Recognizing the Protection of Motorsports Act of 2017"; H.R. 1119, the "SENSE Act"; H.R. 1733, to direct the Secretary of Energy to review and update a report on the energy and environmental benefits of the re-refining of used lubricating oil; H.R. 1917, the "Blocking Regulatory Interference from Closing Kilns Act of 2017"; H.R. 2872, the "Promoting Hydropower Development at Existing Nonpowered Dams Act"; and H.R. 2880, the "Promoting Closed-Loop Pumped Storage Hydropower Act", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled "Sustainable Housing Finance: Private Sector Perspectives on Housing Finance Reform, Part IV", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled "Advancing Human Rights to Combat Extremism", 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats, hearing entitled "Brexit: A Negotiation Update", 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, hearing entitled "U.S. Policy Towards Tibet: Access, Religious Freedom, and Human Rights", 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans, hearing on H.R. 4465, the "Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Extension Act of 2017", 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 477, the "Small Business Mergers, Acquisitions, Sales, and Brokerage Simplification Act of 2017"; H.R. 3971, the "Community Institution Mortgage Relief Act of 2017"; and H.J. Res. 123, the "Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018", 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Research and Technology, hearing entitled "From Lab to Market: A Review of NSF Innovation Corps", 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Space, hearing entitled "NASA's Next Four Large Telescopes", 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, December 6

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, December 6

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will be in a period of morning business.

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 38—Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017 (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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