HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed S.J. Res. 54, Hostilities in the Republic of Yemen, as amended.

Senate passed S. 3749, Amending the Congressional Accountability Act.

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7531–S7626

Measures Introduced: Eleven bills and nine resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3749–3759, S.J. Res. 69, and S. Res. 724–731.

Measures Reported:

S. 1953, to amend the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 and the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 115–433) Pages S7583–84

Measures Passed:

Amending the Congressional Accountability Act: Senate passed S. 3749, to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to reform the procedures provided under such Act for the initiation, review, and resolution of claims alleging that employing offices of the legislative branch have violated the rights and protections provided to their employees under such Act, including protections against sexual harassment. Pages S7540–48

Hostilities in the Republic of Yemen: By 56 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. 266), Senate passed S.J. Res. 54, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress, after taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Adopted:

By 58 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. 263), Young Amendment No. 4080, to clarify that this resolution prohibits United States Armed Forces from refueling non-United States aircraft conducting missions as part of the ongoing civil war in Yemen. Pages S7534–65

Rejected:

Cotton Amendment No. 4097, to clarify that the requirement to remove United States Armed Forces does not apply to the provision of materials and advice intended to reduce civilian casualties or further enable adherence to the Law of Armed Conflict. Pages S7534–64

Cornyn Amendment No. 4090, to require a report assessing risks posed by ceasing support operations with respect to the conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis in Yemen. Pages S7534–65

Cornyn Amendment No. 4095, to require a report assessing the increased risk of terrorist attacks in the United States if the Government of Saudi Arabia were to cease Yemen-related intelligence sharing with the United States. Pages S7534–65

Supporting a Diplomatic Solution in Yemen and Condemning the Murder of Jamal Khashoggi:

By a unanimous vote of 99 yeas (Vote No. 264), Corker (for Cornyn) Modified Amendment No. 4096, to provide that nothing in the joint resolution shall be construed to influence or disrupt any military operations and cooperation with Israel. Pages S7534–65

Cotton Amendment No. 4098, to clarify that the requirement to remove United States Armed Forces does not apply to forces engaged in operations to support efforts to disrupt Houthi attacks against locations outside of Yemen, such as ballistic missile attacks, unmanned aerial vehicle attacks, maritime attacks against United States or international vessels, or terrorist attacks against civilian targets. Pages S7534–64

By 45 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 265), Cotton Amendment No. 4098, to clarify that the requirement to remove United States Armed Forces does not apply to forces engaged in operations to support efforts to disrupt Houthi attacks against locations outside of Yemen, such as ballistic missile attacks, unmanned aerial vehicle attacks, maritime attacks against United States or international vessels, or terrorist attacks against civilian targets. Pages S7534–64

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Supporting a Diplomatic Solution in Yemen and Condemning the Murder of Jamal Khashoggi:

Senate passed S.J. Res. 69, supporting a Diplomatic Solution in Yemen and Condemning the Murder of Jamal Khashoggi. Pages S7565–66
Stigler Act Amendments: Senate passed H.R. 2606, to amend the Act of August 4, 1947 (commonly known as the Stigler Act), with respect to restrictions applicable to Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Lankford/Inhofe Amendment No. 4110, to clarify certain provisions.  
Page S7576

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Restoration Act: Senate passed S. 2599, to provide for the transfer of certain Federal land in the State of Minnesota for the benefit of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, after agreeing to the committee amendments.

Pages S7576–77

Gila River Indian Community Federal Rights-of-Way, Easements and Boundary Clarification Act: Senate passed H.R. 4032, to confirm undocumented Federal rights-of-way or easements on the Gila River Indian Reservation, clarify the northern boundary of the Gila River Indian Community’s Reservation, to take certain land located in Maricopa County and Pinal County, Arizona, into trust for the benefit of the Gila River Indian Community.  
Page S7578

Indian Child Welfare Act 40th Anniversary: Committee on Indian Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 707, commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, and the resolution was then agreed to.  
Page S7578

Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act: Senate passed S. 2827, to amend the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act, after withdrawing the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

McConnell (for Barrasso) Amendment No. 4112, in the nature of substitute.  
Page S7621

Measuring the Economic Impact of Broadband Act: Senate passed S. 645, to require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct an assessment and analysis of the effects of broadband deployment and adoption on the economy of the United States, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.  
Pages S7621–22

Correcting Miscalculations in Veterans’ Pensions Act: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4431, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for interest payments by agencies in the case of administrative error in processing certain annuity deposits for prior military service or certain volunteer service, and the bill was then passed.  
Page S7622

Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6160, to amend title 5, United States Code, to clarify the sources of the authority to issue regulations regarding certifications and other criteria applicable to legislative branch employees under Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act, and the bill was then passed.  
Pages S7622

Preventing Maternal Deaths Act: Senate passed H.R. 1318, to support States in their work to save and sustain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and in the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers.  
Page S7622

CURD Act: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. 2322, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to define the term natural cheese, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

McConnell (for Johnson/Wyden) Amendment No. 4113, in the nature of substitute.  
Page S7622

National Law Enforcement Museum Commemorative Coin Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 2863, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the opening of the National Law Enforcement Museum in the District of Columbia, and the bill was then passed.  
Page S7623

AMBER Alert Nationwide Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. 3461, to amend the PROTECT Act to expand the national AMBER Alert system to territories of the United States, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

McConnell (for Schatz) Amendment No. 4111, to strike the funding provision.  
Pages S7624–25

Honoring the Life and Legacy of Rebecca Teresa Weichhand: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 717, honoring the life and legacy of Rebecca Teresa Weichhand, and the resolution was then agreed to.  
Page S7625

Human Rights Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 731, designating December 10, 2018, as “Human Rights Day” and recognizing the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.  
Page S7625
National Quantum Initiative Act: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6227, to provide for a coordinated Federal program to accelerate quantum research and development for the economic and national security of the United States, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: Page S7625

McConnell (for Thune/Nelson) Amendment No. 4114, in the nature of a substitute. Page S7625

House Messages:

Save Our Seas Act—Agreement: Senate began consideration of the amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 756, to reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris, taking action on the following motions and amendments proposed thereto:

Pending:

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill, with McConnell (for Grassley) Amendment No. 4108, to provide for programs to help reduce the risk that prisoners will recidivate upon release from prison. Pages S7566–78

Division I of McConnell (for Kennedy/Cotton) Amendment No. 4109 (to Amendment No. 4108), to require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to notify each victim of the offense for which the prisoner is imprisoned the date on which the prisoner will be released. Pages S7566–78

Division II of McConnell (for Kennedy/Cotton) Amendment No. 4109 (to Amendment No. 4108), to require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to notify each victim of the offense for which the prisoner is imprisoned the date on which the prisoner will be released. Pages S7566–78

Division III of McConnell (for Kennedy/Cotton) Amendment No. 4109 (to Amendment No. 4108), to require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to notify each victim of the offense for which the prisoner is imprisoned the date on which the prisoner will be released. Pages S7566–78

A motion was entered to close further debate on McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill, with McConnell (for Grassley) Amendment No. 4108 (listed above), and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, December 13, 2018, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, December 17, 2018.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, December 17, 2018, Senate resume consideration of the House Message to accompany the bill, and that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, the filing deadline for the first-degree amendments to the House Message to accompany the bill be at 3:15 p.m.; and that the motion to invoke cloture on McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill, with McConnell (for Grassley) Amendment No. 4108, ripen at 5:30 p.m.

Pages S7625–26

Appointments:

Cyberspace Solarium Commission: The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, in consultation with the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, pursuant to Public Law 115–232, appointed the following individual to serve as a member of the Cyberspace Solarium Commission: Suzanne Spaulding of Virginia. Page S7626

Syria Study Group: The Chair, pursuant to Public Law 115–254, on behalf of the Democratic Leader of the Senate, appointed the following individual as a member of the Syria Study Group: Dana L. Stoul, of Maryland. Page S7626

Retiring Members Tributes—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that there be printed as a Senate document a compilation of materials from the Congressional Record in tribute to retiring Members of the 115th Congress, and that Members have until Friday, December 21, 2018, to submit such tributes. Pages S7625–26

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Johnathan Bragg, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Railroad Retirement Board for a term expiring August 28, 2019.

Johnathan Bragg, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Railroad Retirement Board for a term expiring August 28, 2024.

Thomas Jayne, of Missouri, to be a Member of the Railroad Retirement Board for a term expiring August 28, 2023.

Pages S7626

Messages from the House:

Pages S7582

Measures Referred:

Pages S7582

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

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Enrolled Bills Presented:

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Executive Communications:

Pages S7583

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Executive Reports of Committees:

Pages S7584–86

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S7586–88

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S7588–97

Additional Statements:

Pages S7581–82
Amendments Submitted: Pages S7600–20
Authorities for Committees to Meet: Pages S7600–20
Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—266) Pages S7563–65
Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:59 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, December 17, 2018. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S7626.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING
Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported 38 nominations in the Air Force, Army and Marine Corps.

BUSINESS MEETING
Committee on Finance: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Courtney Dunbar Jones, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action
Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 26 public bills, H.R. 7290–7315, and 2 resolutions, H.J. Res. 145 and H. Res. 1179, were introduced.

Additional Cosponsors: Page H10211

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

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

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Tuesday, December 11th.

Calling on the Government of Burma to release Burmese journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo sentenced to seven years imprisonment after investigating attacks against civilians by Burma’s military and security forces, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 394 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 435.

Amend the title so as to read: “Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that atrocities committed against the Rohingya by the Burmese military and security forces since August 2017 constitute crimes against humanity and genocide and calling on the Government of Burma to release Burmese journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo sentenced to seven years imprisonment after investigating attacks against civilians by the Burmese military and security forces, and for other purposes.”.


Amending the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to reform the procedures provided under such Act for the initiation, review, and
resolution of claims alleging that employing offices of the legislative branch have violated the rights and protections provided to their employees under such Act, including protections against sexual harassment: The House agreed to take from the Speaker’s table and pass S. 3749, to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to reform the procedures provided under such Act for the initiation, review, and resolution of claims alleging that employing offices of the legislative branch have violated the rights and protections provided to their employees under such Act, including protections against sexual harassment.

EXPLORING ALTERNATIVES TO FETAL TISSUE RESEARCH

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Healthcare, Benefits and Administrative Rules; and Subcommittee on Government Operations held a joint hearing entitled “Exploring Alternatives to Fetal Tissue Research”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS: A CASE STUDY ON THE CLINTON FOUNDATION

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing entitled “Oversight of Nonprofit Organizations: A Case Study on the Clinton Foundation”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BUSINESS MEETING

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a business meeting to honor the Memory of Damon P. Nelson; and to consider unclassified and classified Committee Activity reports. The Committee honored the memory of Damon P. Nelson. An unclassified report on the Roles and Missions of the Defense Intelligence Agency; a classified report entitled “First Classified Report”; and a classified report entitled “Second Classified Report” were adopted. This hearing was closed.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2018

(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 best practices for keeping families safely together, 10:30 a.m., SD–G11.
Congressional Record

Next Meeting of the Senate
3 p.m., Monday, December 17

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the House Message to accompany S. 756, Save Our Seas Act (legislative vehicle for criminal justice reform), and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill, with McConnell (for Grassley) Amendment No. 4108, at 5:30 p.m. The filing deadline for first-degree amendments to the House Message to accompany the bill is at 3:15 p.m.

Next Meeting of the House of Representatives
11:30 a.m., Monday, December 17

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 11:30 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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