

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6863–S6896

Measures Introduced: Fifteen bills were introduced, as follows: S. 2982–2996. **Page S6888**

Measures Reported:

S. 153, to promote veteran involvement in STEM education, computer science, and scientific research, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–164)

S. 529, to establish a national program to identify and reduce losses from landslide hazards, to establish a national 3D Elevation Program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–165)

S. 906, to improve the management of driftnet fishing, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 116–166)

S. 908, to provide for an equitable management of summer flounder based on geographic, scientific, and economic data and for other purposes. (S. Rept. No. 116–167)

S. 914, to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009, to clarify the authority of the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with respect to post-storm assessments, and to require the establishment of a National Water Center. (S. Rept. No. 116–168)

S. 1148, to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to give preferential consideration to individuals who have successfully completed air traffic controller training and veterans when hiring air traffic control specialists, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 116–169) **Pages S6887–88**

Measures Passed:

FUTURE Act: Senate passed H.R. 2486, to reauthorize mandatory funding programs for historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S6865**

Scott (SC) (for Alexander) Amendment No. 1255, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6865**

Merrill's Marauders Congressional Gold Medal Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 743, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the soldiers of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), commonly known as "Merrill's Marauders", in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service in the jungles of Burma during World War II, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S6895–96**

Bumatay Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Patrick J. Bumatay, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. **Page S6877**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, 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 5, 2019, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, December 9, 2019. **Page S6877**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6877**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6877**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, December 9, 2019, Senate resume consideration of the nomination; and that the motions to invoke cloture filed during the session of Thursday, December 5, 2019, ripen at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, December 9, 2019. **Page S6896**

VanDyke Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Lawrence VanDyke, of Nevada, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. **Page S6877**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Patrick J. Bumatay, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. **Page S6877**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6877**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6877**

Sullivan Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of John Joseph Sullivan, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Russian Federation, Department of State. **Page S6877**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Lawrence VanDyke, of Nevada, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. **Page S6877**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6877**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6877**

Hahn Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Stephen Hahn, of Texas, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services. **Pages S6877–78**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of John Joseph Sullivan, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Russian Federation, Department of State. **Page S6878**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6877**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6877**

Skipwith Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Aurelia Skipwith, of Indiana, to be Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior. **Pages S6878–83**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Stephen Hahn, of Texas, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services. **Page S6878**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6878**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6878**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 68 yeas to 21 nays (Vote No. EX. 383), Richard Ernest Myers II, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina. **Pages S6865–73**

By 76 yeas to 13 nays (Vote No. EX. 384), Sherri A. Lydon, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina. **Page S6873**

By a unanimous vote of 89 yeas (Vote No. EX. 385), Robert M. Duncan, of Kentucky, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2025. **Pages S6873–77**

Messages from the House: **Page S6887**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S6888–90**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S6890–94**

Additional Statements: **Pages S6886–87**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S6894–95**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S6895**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S6895**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—385) **Pages S6873, S6877**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:57 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, December 9, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6896.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine strategic threats, ongoing challenges, and National Defense Strategy implementation, after receiving testimony from John C. Rood, Under Secretary for Policy, and Lieutenant General David W. Allvin, USAF, Director for Strategy, Plans and Policy, Joint Staff, both of the Department of Defense.

FINANCIAL REGULATORS OVERSIGHT

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine financial regulators, including S. 2563, to improve laws relating to money laundering, and S. 2839, to amend the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 to regulate industrial bank holding companies, after receiving testimony from Randal K. Quarles, Vice Chair for Supervision, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Jelena McWilliams, Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; and Rodney E. Hood, Chairman, National Credit Union Association.

IMPLEMENTING MOBILE NOW

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet concluded a hearing to examine the evolution of next-generation technologies, focusing on implementing MOBILE NOW, after receiving testimony from Mayor Paul TenHaken, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Jonathan Adelstein, Wireless Infrastructure Association, Arlington, Virginia; and Scott Bergmann, CTIA, Mary Brown, Cisco Systems, Inc., and Sarah Morris, New America's Open Technology Institute, all of Washington, D.C.

ILLICIT MINING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues concluded a hearing to examine illicit mining, focusing on threats to United States national security and international human rights, after receiving testimony from Patrick J. Lechleitner, Assistant Director, International Operations, Homeland Security Investigations, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security; Jeffrey Haeni, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau of Economic Growth, Education and the Environment, United States Agency for International Development; Carrie Filipetti, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs, and Richard H. Glenn, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, both of the Department of State; and Regina E. Thompson, Deputy Assistant Director, Criminal Investigative Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

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: 26 public bills, H.R. 5305–5330; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 742–744 were introduced. **Pages H9293–94**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H9295–96**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows: H.R. 2405, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–323). **Page H9293**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Cuellar to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H9259**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:34 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H9263**

Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019 and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding United States efforts to resolve

the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a negotiated two-state solution—Rule for Consideration: The House agreed to H. Res. 741, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4) to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 326) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding United States efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a negotiated two-state solution, by a yeand-nay vote of 226 yeas to 196 nays, Roll No. 651, after the previous question was ordered by a yeand-nay vote of 228 yeas to 196 nays, Roll No. 650.

Pages H9265–71, H9279–80

Insider Trading Prohibition Act: The House passed H.R. 2534, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit certain securities trading and related communications by those who possess

material, nonpublic information, by a yea-and-nay vote of 410 yeas to 13 nays, Roll No. 649.

Pages H9271–79

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–39 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill. **Page H9275**

Agreed to:

McHenry amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 116–320) that clarifies “relating to the market,” adds an explicit personal benefit test, and strikes the Rule of Construction. **Pages H9275–76**

Rejected:

Huizenga amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 116–320) that sought to strike the term “aware of” included in the bill and replace the term “using” (by a recorded vote of 196 yeas to 231 nays, Roll No. 648). **Pages H9276–77**

H. Res. 739, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2534) and relating to consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 77) was agreed to yesterday, December 4th.

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H9265.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H9277–78, H9278–79, H9279–80, and H9280. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Committee Meetings

PRIVATIZED HOUSING: ARE CONDITIONS IMPROVING FOR OUR MILITARY FAMILIES?

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness held a hearing entitled “Privatized Housing: Are Conditions Improving for Our Military Families?”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM REFORM: A CURE FOR EFFICIENCY AND READINESS?

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing entitled “Military Health System Reform: A Cure for Efficiency and Readiness?”. Testimony was heard from Thomas McCaffery, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Department of Defense; Lieutenant General Ronald Place, U.S. Army, Director, Defense Health

Agency; Lieutenant General Scott Dingle, U.S. Army, Surgeon General of the Army; Lieutenant General Dorothy Hogg, U.S. Air Force, Surgeon General of the Air Force; Rear Admiral Bruce Gillingham, U.S. Navy, Surgeon General of the Navy; and Brigadier General Paul Friedrichs, U.S. Air Force, Joint Staff Surgeon, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled “Accountability and Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission”. Testimony was heard from the following Federal Communications Commission officials: Ajit Pai, Chairman; Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner; Brendan Carr, Commissioner; Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner; and Geoffrey Starks, Commissioner.

BUILDING A 100 PERCENT CLEAN ECONOMY: SOLUTIONS FOR ECONOMY-WIDE DEEP DECARBONIZATION

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change held a hearing entitled “Building a 100 Percent Clean Economy: Solutions for Economy-Wide Deep Decarbonization”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PROMOTING FINANCIAL STABILITY? REVIEWING THE ADMINISTRATION’S DEREGULATORY APPROACH TO FINANCIAL STABILITY

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Promoting Financial Stability? Reviewing the Administration’s Deregulatory Approach to Financial Stability”. Testimony was heard from Steven Mnuchin, Secretary, Department of the Treasury, and Chairperson, Financial Stability Oversight Council.

AN EXAMINATION OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION AND ITS IMPACT ON HOMEOWNERSHIP IN AMERICA

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Housing, Community Development, and Insurance held a hearing entitled “An Examination of the Federal Housing Administration and Its Impact on Homeownership in America”. Testimony was heard from Brian D. Montgomery, Commissioner, Federal Housing Administration.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 537, the “Bureau of Reclamation

Pumped Storage Hydropower Development Act”; H.R. 722, the “Miracle Mountain Designation Act”; H.R. 877, the “Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow’s Needs Act”; H.R. 2642, the “Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act”; H.R. 3742, the “Recovering America’s Wildlife Act of 2019”; H.R. 3977, the “Justice for Native Survivors of Sexual Violence Act”; H.R. 4479, the “Disaster Recovery Workforce Act”; H.R. 4957, the “Native American Child Protection Act”; and S. 209, the “PROGRESS for Indian Tribes Act”. S. 209, H.R. 3977, H.R. 877, and H.R. 722 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 4957, H.R. 4479, H.R. 3742, H.R. 2642, and H.R. 537 were ordered reported, as amended.

EXPERTS NEEDED: OPTIONS FOR IMPROVED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ADVICE FOR CONGRESS

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Experts Needed: Options for Improved Science and Technology Advice for Congress”. Testimony was heard from Tim Persons, Chief Scientist and Managing Director, Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

WHERE’S MY STUFF? EXAMINING THE ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SOCIETAL IMPACTS OF FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Highways and Transit; and Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials held a joint hearing entitled “Where’s My Stuff? Examining the Economic, Environmental, and Societal Impacts of Freight Transportation”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE STATUS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS’ FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations; and Subcommittee on Technology Modernization held a joint hearing entitled “The Status of the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Financial Management Business Transformation”. Testimony was heard from Jon J. Rychalski, Assistant Secretary for Management and

Chief Financial Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 4920, the “Department of Veterans Affairs Contracting Preference Consistency Act”; and H.R. 3495, the “Improve Well-Being for Veterans Act”. H.R. 3495 was ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 4920 was ordered reported, without amendment.

RULES AND PROCEDURES IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: A LOOK AT REFORM EFFORTS AND STATE BEST PRACTICES

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Rules and Procedures in the U.S. House of Representatives: A Look at Reform Efforts and State Best Practices”. Testimony was heard from Christopher M. Davis, Analyst on Congress and the Legislative Process, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY, DEMOCRACY, AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine public diplomacy, democracy, and global leadership, after receiving testimony from Lora Berg, German Marshall Fund of the United States, Cordell Carter, II, Aspen Institute, and Stacie Walters Fujii, American Council of Young Political Leaders, all of Washington, D.C.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Financial Services, Task Force on Artificial Intelligence, hearing entitled “Robots on Wall Street: The Impact of AI on Capital Markets and Jobs in the Financial Services Industry”, 9:30 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3 p.m., Monday, December 9

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Friday, December 6

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Patrick J. Bumatay, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 5:30 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Friday: Consideration of H.R. 4—Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019. Consideration of H. Res. 326—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding United States efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a negotiated two-state solution.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Beatty, Joyce, Ohio, E1546
 Bishop, Sanford D., Jr., Ga., E1541
 Brooks, Susan W., Ind., E1543
 Correa, J. Luis, Calif., E1543, E1545
 Costa, Jim, Calif., E1547
 Cunningham, Joe, S.C., E1542
 DeGette, Diana, Colo., E1547

DeLauro, Rosa L., Conn., E1546
 DeSaulnier, Mark, Calif., E1542, E1544, E1546
 Dingell, Debbie, Mich., E1544
 Garcia, Jesús G. "Chuy", Ill., E1545
 Gooden, Lance, Tex., E1542
 Jackson Lee, Sheila, Tex., E1542
 Johnson, Eddie Bernice, Tex., E1547
 Lewis, John, Ga., E1541
 Lieu, Ted, Calif., E1547

McGovern, James P., Mass., E1545
 Rose, Max, N.Y., E1541
 Ruppertsberger, C.A. Dutch, Md., E1544
 Sherrill, Mikie, N.J., E1544
 Shimkus, John, Ill., E1542
 Swalwell, Eric, Calif., E1545
 Tlaib, Rashida, Mich., E1541, E1543, E1546



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