

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 6074, Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1509–S1614

Measures Introduced: Twenty-three bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3394–3416, and S. Res. 531–535. **Pages S1597–98**

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled “Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2020”. (S. Rept. No. 116–223) **Page S1597**

Measures Passed:

Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act: By yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. 66), Senate passed H.R. 6074, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, by the order of the Senate of Wednesday, March 4, 2020, 60 Senators having voted in the affirmative, and after taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S1514–22

Rejected:

Paul Amendment No. 1506, to rescind unobligated balances for certain international programs to offset the amounts appropriated in this bill to respond to the coronavirus outbreak. (By 81 yeas to 15 nays (Vote No. 65), Senate tabled the amendment.)

Page S1518

United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 1757, to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II in recognition of their extraordinary service during World War II, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Page S1611

McConnell (for Ernst) Amendment No. 1524, in the nature of a substitute.

Page S1611

Child Care Protection Improvement Act: Senate passed S. 2683, to establish a task force to assist States in implementing hiring requirements for child care staff members to improve child safety, after withdrawing the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S1611–12

McConnell (for Alexander) Amendment No. 1522, in the nature of a substitute.

Page S1612

Citizenship for Children of Military Members and Civil Servants Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4803, to facilitate the automatic acquisition of citizenship for lawful permanent resident children of military and Federal Government personnel residing abroad, and the bill was then passed.

Page S1612

Negro Leagues Baseball Centennial Commemorative Coin Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 2321, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Negro Leagues baseball, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S1612–13

McConnell (for Blunt) Amendment No. 1523, in the nature of a substitute.

Page S1613

Major Medical Facility Authorization Act: Senate passed S. 3414, to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2020.

Pages S1613–14

National ‘Slam the Scam’ Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 535, designating March 5, 2020, as “National ‘Slam the Scam’ Day” to raise awareness about the increasing number of government imposter scams, to encourage the implementation of policies

to prevent government imposter scams, and to encourage the improvement of protections from government imposter scams for the people of the United States.

Page S1614

Measures Considered:

Advanced Geothermal Innovation Leadership Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S1511–14, S1522–91

Pending:

Murkowski Modified Amendment No. 1407, in the nature of a substitute.

Pages S1522–82

Portman/Shahen Amendment No. 1514 (to Amendment No. 1407), to establish greater energy efficiency and cost-effectiveness in building codes.

Page S1582

A motion was entered to close further debate on Murkowski Modified Amendment No. 1407 (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, March 5, 2020, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2020.

Page S1582

A motion was entered to close further debate on the bill, 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 Murkowski Amendment No. 1407 (listed above).

Page S1582

Withdrawn:

McConnell (for Ernst) Amendment No. 1419 (to Amendment No. 1407), to establish a grant program for training wind technicians.

Page S1522

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the bill at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, March 9, 2020; that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, the motions to invoke cloture filed on Thursday, March 5, 2020 ripen at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, March 9, 2020; and that the first-degree filing deadline with respect to the motions to invoke cloture filed on Thursday, March 5, 2020 be at 3:30 p.m., on Monday, March 9, 2020.

Page S1614

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

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, with respect to the situation in Venezuela; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–50)

Page S1595

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Katherine Camille Henderson, of Tennessee, for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as Chief of Protocol.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

5 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Page S1614

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Katherine Camille Henderson, of Tennessee, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service, which was sent to the Senate on February 27, 2020.

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Messages from the House:

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Measures Referred:

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Executive Communications:

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Executive Reports of Committees:

Page S1597

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S1598–99

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Page S1599

Additional Statements:

Pages S1594–95

Amendments Submitted:

Pages S1603–10

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Pages S1610–11

Privileges of the Floor:

Page S1611

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—66)

Pages S1518, S1522

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 4:58 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2020. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1614.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of Commerce, after receiving testimony from Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and

Education, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of Education, after receiving testimony from Betsy DeVos, Secretary of Education.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the posture of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2021 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Thomas B. Modly, Acting Secretary of the Navy, Admiral Michael M. Gilday, USN, Chief of Naval Operations, and General David H. Berger, USMC, Commandant of the Marine Corps, all of the Department of Defense.

THREATS TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine threats posed by state-owned and state-supported enterprises to public transportation, after receiving testimony from Senators Cornyn and Baldwin; E. Michael O'Malley, Railway Supply Institute, Scott N. Paul, Alliance for American Manufacturing, and Emily de La Bruyere, Horizon Advisory, all of Washington, D.C.; and Frank J. Cilluffo, Auburn University McCrary Institute for Cyber and Critical Infrastructure Security, Auburn, Alabama.

GLOBAL ENERGY MARKETS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the latest developments and longer-term prospects for global energy markets, with a special focus on the United States, from the perspective of the International Energy Agency, after receiving testimony from Fatih Birol, International Energy Agency, Paris, France.

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT CENTER

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development concluded a hearing to examine the Global Engagement Center, focusing on leading the United States Government's fight against global disinformation threat, after receiving testimony from Lea Gabrielle,

Special Envoy and Coordinator for the Global Engagement Center, Department of State; and Dan Blumenthal, American Enterprise Institute, and Alina Polyakova, Center for European Policy Analysis, both of Washington, D.C.

CORONAVIRUS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Federal interagency response to the Coronavirus and preparing for future global pandemics, after receiving testimony from Ken Cuccinelli II, Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security; and Robert Kadlec, Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Preparedness and Response.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments:

Subcommittee on Children and Families: Senators Paul (Chair), Murkowski, Burr, Cassidy, Scott (SC), Romney, Loeffler, Casey, Sanders, Murphy, Kaine, Hassan, and Smith.

Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety: Senators Collins (Chair), Scott (SC), Paul, Romney, Braun, Cassidy, Loeffler, Baldwin, Casey, Warren, Smith, Jones, and Rosen.

Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security: Senators Enzi (Chair), Burr, Cassidy, Roberts, Romney, Braun, Murkowski, Scott (SC), Loeffler, Sanders, Baldwin, Murphy, Warren, Kaine, Hassan, Jones, and Rosen.

Senators Alexander and Murray are ex officio members of each subcommittee.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Fernando L. Aenlle-Rocha, Stanley Blumenfeld, and Mark C. Scarsi, each to be a United States District Judge for the Central District of California, John Charles Hinderaker, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, and Grace Karaffa Obermann, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 36 public bills, H.R. 6092–6127; and 3 resolutions, H.J. Res. 86; and H. Res. 886–887, were introduced.

Pages H1534–36

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H1537–38

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 5581, to clarify the rights of all persons who are held or detained at a port of entry or at any detention facility overseen by U.S. Customs and Border Protection or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–412, Part 1); and

H.R. 2214, to transfer and limit Executive Branch authority to suspend or restrict the entry of a class of aliens, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–413, Part 1).

Page H1534

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

Page H1507

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rev. Kevin F. O'Brien, S.J., Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, California.

Page H1507

Recess: The House recessed at 9:57 a.m. and reconvened at 10:15 a.m.

Pages H1514–15

Rights for Transportation Security Officers Act of 2020: The House passed H.R. 1140, to enhance the security operations of the Transportation Security Administration and stability of the transportation security workforce by applying the personnel system under title 5, United States Code, to employees of the Transportation Security Administration who provide screening of all passengers and property, by a yea-and-nay vote of 230 yeas to 171 nays, Roll No. 90. Consideration began yesterday, March 4th.

Pages H1508–14, H1515–19

Agreed to the Lesko motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Homeland Security with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 227 yeas to 175 nays, Roll No. 89. Subsequently, Representative Thompson (MS) reported the bill back to the House with the amendment and the amendment was agreed to.

Pages H1517–18

Agreed to:

Rogers (AL) amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 116–411) that requires GAO to study rates of pay for Transportation Security Administration employees with duty stations in the territories, Alaska,

and Hawaii with those in the contiguous 48 states based on pay systems;

Pages H1509–10

Rose (NY) amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 116–411) that states that nothing in this Act shall be construed as to contradict existing law regarding terrorism transcending national boundaries, harboring or concealing terrorists, or providing material support to terrorists;

Page H1510

Peters amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 116–411) that requires a GAO report to Congress within one year of enactment, studying TSA's recruitment efforts in general, and specifically efforts to recruit veterans and military families; the report will include recommendations to improve such recruitment efforts;

Pages H1510–11

Brown (MD) amendment (No. 5 printed in H. Rept. 116–411) that reaffirms that the Transportation Security Administration's workforce should be provided protections and benefits under Title 5 because of the critical role they play in securing the nation's transportation systems;

Pages H1511–12

Kim amendment (No. 6 printed in H. Rept. 116–411) that directs the TSA Administrator to engage and consult with entities associated with the Federal Air Marshal Service to address concerns related to (but not limited to) mental health, suicide, morale, and recruitment;

Pages H1512–13

Spanberger amendment (No. 8 printed in H. Rept. 116–411) that codifies the Administration's ban on TSA employees using or installing the Chinese-owned video app TikTok (or any successor application) on U.S. Government-issued mobile devices;

Pages H1513–14

Cisneros amendment (No. 7 printed in H. Rept. 116–411) that requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to prioritize the hiring of veterans and related preference eligible individuals, including disabled veterans and widows or widowers of veterans, for positions within the Transportation Security Administration (by a recorded vote of 399 yeas to 1 no, Roll No. 87); and

Pages H1513, H1515–16

Mucarsel-Powell amendment (No. 9 printed in H. Rept. 116–411) that would ensure the Administrator of TSA in coordination with the Director of CDC and NIAID shall ensure that TSA employees are provided the proper guidance regarding prevention and protections against coronavirus, including guidance and resources (by a recorded vote of 403 yeas with none voting "no", Roll No. 88).

Pages H1514, H1516–17

H. Res. 877, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1140) was agreed to yesterday, March 4th.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12 noon on Monday, March 9th for Morning Hour debate. **Page H1519**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency with respect to Venezuela that was declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015 is to continue in effect beyond March 8, 2020—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 116–105). **Page H1530**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1515–16, H1516–17, H1518, and H1518–19. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Committee Meetings

DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM (DHP)

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing entitled “Defense Health Program (DHP)”. Testimony was heard from Lieutenant General R. Scott Dingle, Surgeon General of the U.S. Army; Rear Admiral Bruce L. Gillingham, Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy; Lieutenant General Dorothy A. Hogg, Surgeon General of the U.S. Air Force; Thomas McCaffery, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs; Lieutenant General Ronald J. Place, Director, Defense Health Agency; and Bill Tinston, Program Executive Officer, Defense Healthcare Management Systems.

THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 ARMY AND MARINE CORPS GROUND MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces held a hearing entitled “The Fiscal Year 2021 Army and Marine Corps Ground Modernization Programs”. Testimony was heard from Bruce Jette, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASA(ALT)), Department of the Army; General John M. Murray, U.S. Army, Commanding General, Army Futures Command; Lieutenant General James F. Pasquarette, Deputy Chief of Staff, G–8, Department of the Army; Lieutenant General Eric M. Smith, Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command and Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration, U.S. Ma-

rine Corps; and James F. Geurts, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition, Department of the Navy.

PRESIDENTIAL CLEMENCY AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR REFORM

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties held a hearing entitled “Presidential Clemency and Opportunities for Reform”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BEYOND CORONAVIRUSES: UNDERSTANDING THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND MOBILIZING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Beyond Coronaviruses: Understanding the Spread of Infectious Diseases and Mobilizing Innovative Solutions”. Testimony was heard from Suzan Murray, Program Director, Smithsonian Global Health Program, Smithsonian’s National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute; and public witnesses.

GETTING IT RIGHT: CHALLENGES WITH THE GO-LIVE OF ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD MODERNIZATION

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Technology Modernization held a hearing entitled “Getting It Right: Challenges with the Go-live of Electronic Health Record Modernization”. Testimony was heard from Melissa Glynn, Assistant Secretary for Enterprise Integration, Office of Enterprise Integration, Department of Veterans Affairs; David Case, Deputy Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs; and a public witness.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3 p.m., Monday, March 9

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 noon, Monday, March 9

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Murkowski Modified Amendment No. 1407, in the nature of a substitute, at 5:30 p.m. The first-degree filing deadline with respect to the motions to invoke cloture filed on Thursday, March 5, 2020 is at 3:30 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Monday: To be announced.

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