

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1713–S1746

Measures Introduced: Fifty bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3451–3500, and S. Res. 542–543.

Pages S1740–41

Measures Reported:

H.R. 1833, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 35 Tulip Avenue in Floral Park, New York, as the “Lieutenant Michael R. Davidson Post Office Building”.

H.R. 3207, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 114 Mill Street in Hookstown, Pennsylvania, as the “Staff Sergeant Dylan Elchin Post Office Building”.

H.R. 3317, to permit the Scipio A. Jones Post Office in Little Rock, Arkansas, to accept and display a portrait of Scipio A. Jones.

H.R. 3329, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5186 Benito Street in Montclair, California, as the “Paul Eaton Post Office Building”.

H.R. 4794, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8320 13th Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, as the “Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini Post Office Building”.

H.R. 4981, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2505 Derita Avenue in Charlotte, North Carolina, as the “Julius L. Chambers Civil Rights Memorial Post Office”.

H.R. 5037, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3703 North Main Street in Farmville, North Carolina, as the “Walter B. Jones, Jr. Post Office”.

S. 2847, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 42 Main Street in Slatersville, Rhode Island, as the “Specialist Matthew R. Turcotte Post Office”.

S. 2945, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 171 South Maple Street in Dana, Indiana, as the Ernest “Ernie” T. Pyle Post Office.

S. 3257, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 311 West Wisconsin

Avenue in Tomahawk, Wisconsin, as the “Einar ‘Sarge’ H. Ingman, Jr. Post Office Building”.

S. 3365, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Crosby Street in Mansfield, Louisiana, as the “Dr. C.O. Simpkins, Sr., Post Office”.

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Measures Passed:

Authorizing the Use of Emancipation Hall: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 87, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

Pages S1745–46

Department of Veterans Affairs Contracting Preference Consistency Act: Committee on Veterans’ Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4920, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an exception to certain small business contracting requirements applicable to the Department of Veterans Affairs procurement of certain goods and services covered under the Ability One program, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Page S1746

Murkowski (for Tester) Amendment No. 1555, in the nature of a substitute.

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Measures Considered:

USA FREEDOM Reauthorization Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 6172, to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to prohibit the production of certain business records.

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A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, 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 12, 2020, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, March 16, 2020.

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A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, March 16, 2020, Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill; and that notwithstanding Rule XXII, the cloture motion filed during the Thursday, March 12, 2020, session

of the Senate ripen at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, March 16, 2020.

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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 12957 of March 15, 1995, with respect to Iran; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM-52)

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Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 52 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. EX. 72), James P. Danly, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2023.

Pages S1714–22, S1746

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

By 54 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. EX. 71), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

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Nomination Received: Senate received the following nomination:

Mark Wesley Menezes, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

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Messages from the House:

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Measures Placed on the Calendar:

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Enrolled Bills Presented:

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Executive Reports of Committees:

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Additional Cosponsors:

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Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S1742–45

Additional Statements:

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Amendments Submitted:

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Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Page S1745

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today.

(Total—72)

Pages S1717, S1722

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 5:53 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 2020. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1746.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

AGRICULTURE INNOVATION

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine agriculture innovation and the Federal biotechnology regulatory framework, after receiving testimony from Patrick Johnson, National Cotton Council Environmental Task Force, Tunica, Mississippi; Wayne Parrott, University of Georgia, Athens; Michael Paustian, Iowa Pork Producers Association, Walcott, on behalf of the National Pork Producers Council; and Gregory A. Jaffe, Center for Science in the Public Interest, Washington, D.C.

APPROPRIATIONS: USDA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of Agriculture, after receiving testimony from Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded open and closed hearings to examine United States Central Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2021 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from General Kenneth F. McKenzie, Jr., USMC, Commander, United States Central Command, Department of Defense.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported 1,775 nominations in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps.

GAO ANNUAL REPORT ON FISCAL HEALTH

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Government Accountability Office's annual report on the nation's fiscal health, including action needed to address the Federal government's fiscal future, after receiving testimony from Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of John Leonard Badalamenti, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, John F. Heil III, to be United States District Judge for the Northern,

Eastern and Western Districts of Oklahoma, Anna M. Manasco, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, and Edward Hulvey Meyers, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

CORONAVIRUS AND AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESS SUPPLY CHAIN

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the coronavirus and America's small business supply chain, after receiving testimony from Rosemary Gibson, The Hastings Center, Arlington, Virginia; Gerard Anderson, Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Hospital Finance and Management, Baltimore, Maryland; Tim Morri-

son, Hudson Institute, Washington, D.C.; and Wynne S. Briscoe, Maryland Small Business Development Center—Southern Region, La Plata.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Scott J. Laurer, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

BUSINESS MEETING

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to consider pending intelligence matters.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 56 public bills, H.R. 6214–6270; and 5 resolutions, H. Res. 897–901, were introduced.

Pages H1668–70

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H1671–72

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H.R. 5332, to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to ensure that consumer reporting agencies are providing fair and accurate information reporting in consumer reports, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–416).

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

Page H1665

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by voice vote.

Pages H1665, H1667

Recess: The House recessed at 9:13 a.m. and reconvened at 9:13 p.m.

Page H1667

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared on March 15, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2020—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 116–107).

Page H1667

Senate Referrals: S. 227 was held at the desk. S. 982 was held at the desk.

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H1667.

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no yea-and-nay votes, and there were no recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Committee Meetings

PUBLIC WITNESS DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs held a hearing entitled “Public Witness Day”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MEMBER DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing entitled “Member Day”. Testimony was heard from Chairman McGovern, and Representatives Williams, Hudson, Fitzpatrick, Suozzi, Thompson of Pennsylvania, Arrington, Jackson Lee, González Colón of Puerto Rico, Wenstrup, and Heck.

FY21 NAVY AND MARINE CORPS READINESS POSTURE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness held a hearing entitled “FY21 Navy and Marine Corps Readiness Posture”. Testimony was heard from James F. Geurts, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Research, Development and Acquisition, Department of the Navy; Admiral Robert P. Burke, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Department of the Navy; and General Gary Thomas, Assistant Commandant, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.

FY21 PRIORITIES FOR MISSILE DEFENSE AND MISSILE DEFEAT PROGRAMS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a hearing entitled “FY21 Priorities for Missile Defense and Missile Defeat Programs”. Testimony was heard from General Terrence O’Shaughnessy, Commander, U.S. Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command; Vice Admiral Jon Hill, Director, Missile Defense Agency; Lieutenant Gen Daniel Karbler, Commanding General, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command; Rob Soofer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Missile Defense Policy, Department of Defense; and Cristina Chaplain, Director, Contracting and National Security Acquisitions Team, Government Accountability Office.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change held a markup on H.R. 6160, to extend the chemical facility anti-terrorism standards program of the Department of Homeland Security; and H.R. 5544, the “American Innovation and Manufacturing Leadership Act of 2020”. H.R. 5544 was forwarded to the full Committee, as amended. H.R. 6160 was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

THE IRREPARABLE ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION COPPER MINING OPERATION

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States held a hearing entitled, “The Irreparable Environmental and Cultural Impacts of the Proposed Resolution Copper Mining Operation”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CORONAVIRUS PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Full Committee concluded a hearing entitled “Coronavirus Preparedness and Response”. Testimony was heard from Anthony Fauci, Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health; Robert Redfield, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services; Robert Kadlec, Assistant Secretary, Preparedness and Response, Department of Health and Human Services; Terry M. Rauch, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Readiness Policy and Oversight, Department of Defense; and Chris Currie, Director, Emergency Management and National Preparedness, Government Accountability Office.

FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee continued a hearing on H.R. 6201, the “Families First Coronavirus Response Act”.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Energy held a markup on H.R. 6084, the “Water Power Research and Development Act”; H.R. 6097, the “Nuclear Energy Research and Development Act”; H.R. 4481, the “Securing Energy Critical Elements and American Jobs Act of 2019”; and H.R. 4733, the “Low-Dose Radiation Research Act of 2019”. H.R. 4481, H.R. 6097, and H.R. 6084 were forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment. H.R. 4733 was forwarded to the full Committee, as amended.

BUSINESS MEETING; MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Full Committee held a business meeting to reauthorize the Women Veterans Task Force; and a markup on H.R. 712, the “VA Medical Cannabis Research Act”; H.R. 2224, the “Homeless Veterans with Children Reintegration Act”; H.R. 3798, the “Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act”; H.R. 5781, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make an individual who is eligible for educational assistance under chapter 33 of such title, transfers such educational assistance to a dependent, and fails to complete a service agreement, solely liable for any overpayment of such educational assistance; H.R. 6036, the “VA Family Leave Act of 2020”; H.R. 5766, the “VET TEC Expansion Act”; H.R. 1647, the “Veterans Equal Access Act”; H.R. 6140, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program; H.R. 6018, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to collect overpayments of specially adapted housing assistance; H.R. 6157, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to collect and include certain student outcome information in the GI Bill comparison tool of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; H.R. 6168, to increase, effective as of December 1, 2020, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes; H.R. 5284, the “Vet OUTREACH Act”; H.R. 2816, the “Vietnam Era Veterans Hepatitis-C Testing Enhancement Act”; H.R. 2628, the “VET CARE Act”; H.R. 1527, the “Long Term Care Veterans Choice Act”; H.R. 1527, the “Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act”; H.R. 5750, the “Streamlining GI Bill Processing Act of 2020”; and S. 3084, a bill to amend

title 38, United States Code, to modify the limitation on pay for certain high-level employees and officers of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Reauthorization of the Women Veterans Task Force was agreed to. H.R. 712, H.R. 2224, H.R. 3798, H.R. 5781, H.R. 6036, and H.R. 5766 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 1647, H.R. 6140, H.R. 6018, H.R. 6157, H.R. 6168, H.R. 5284, H.R. 2816, H.R. 2628, H.R. 1527, H.R. 5750, and S. 3084 were ordered reported, without amendment.

FBI BUDGET HEARING

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Counterintelligence, and Counterproliferation held a hearing entitled “FBI Budget Hearing”. This hearing was closed.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 16, 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 16

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
9 a.m., Friday, March 13

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 6172, USA FREEDOM Reauthorization Act, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 5:30 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Friday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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