

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7247–S7287

Measures Introduced: Eleven bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4972–4982, S. Res. 796–797, and S. Con. Res. 51. **Pages S7280–81**

Measures Reported:

S. 3152, to require the Federal Communications Commission to incorporate data on maternal health outcomes into its broadband health maps, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–304)

S. 4393, to improve the provision of health care and other benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans who were exposed to toxic substances, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 4511, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to education, burial benefits, and other matters, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Page S7280

Measures Passed:

Honoring the Life and Achievements of Former United States Senator Paul Spyros Sarbanes: Senate agreed to S. Res. 797, honoring the life and achievements of former United States Senator Paul Spyros Sarbanes and expressing condolences to the family of Paul Spyros Sarbanes on his passing.

Page S7271

Enrollment Correction: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 51, correcting the enrollment of S. 1869.

Page S7285

Motor Carrier Safety Grant Relief Act: Senate passed S. 3729, to provide relief for the recipients of financial assistance awards from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

Page S7285

Telework for U.S. Innovation Act: Senate passed S. 4138, to amend title 5, United States Code, to make permanent the authority of the United States Patent and Trademark Office to conduct a telework travel expenses program.

Pages S7285–86

State Veterans Homes Domiciliary Care Flexibility Act: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 4460, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to waive certain eligibility requirements for a veteran to receive per diem payments for domiciliary care at a State home, and the bill was then passed.

Page S7286

Safeguarding Therapeutics Act: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5663, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to give authority to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, to destroy counterfeit devices, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Page S7286

Portman (for Alexander) Amendment No. 2694, in the nature of a substitute.

Page S7286

PARENTS Act: Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of S. 3325, to amend part D of title IV of the Social Security Act to allow States to use incentive payments available under the child support enforcement program to improve parent-child relationships, increase child support collections, and improve outcomes for children by supporting parenting time agreements for non-custodial parents in uncontested agreements, and the bill was then passed.

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House Messages:

Secure Federal LEASEs Act: Senate concurred in the amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 1869, to require the disclosure of ownership of high-security space leased to accommodate a Federal agency.

Page S7285

Foreign Military Sales Joint Resolutions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that following the disposition of the nomination of Sean J. Cooksey, of Missouri, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission, on Wednesday, December 9, 2020, Senate resume legislative session, and it be in order for Senator Menendez, or his designee, to make motions to discharge S.J. Res. 77, providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the United

Arab Emirates of certain defense articles and services, and S.J. Res. 78, providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the United Arab Emirates of certain defense articles and services; and if either motion is made, there be up to four hours of debate concurrently on the motions, equally divided between the proponents and the opponents of the joint resolutions, with Senator Menendez controlling 15 minutes of the proponents time immediately prior to the first vote; and upon the use or yielding back of that time, Senate vote on the motions to discharge the joint resolutions, in the order listed.

Page S7287

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 116th Congress, and that Members have until Friday, December 18, 2020, to submit such tributes.

Page S7287

Dickerson, Broussard, and Cooksey Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the cloture motions with respect to the nominations of Allen Dickerson, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission, Shana M. Broussard, of Louisiana, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission, and Sean J. Cooksey, of Missouri, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission, be withdrawn; and that at 11 a.m., on Wednesday, December 9, 2020, Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations, in the order which cloture was filed.

Page S7287

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Allen Dickerson at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, December 9, 2020.

Page S7287

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 49 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 256), Stephen Sidney Schwartz, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Pages S7265, S7287

By 49 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 257), Nathan A. Simington, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2019.

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

By 49 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 255), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Pages S7249–57, S7287

Nomination Received: Senate received the following nomination:

Irving Bailey, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the United States International Development Finance Corporation for a term of three years.

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Messages from the House:

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Measures Referred:

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Enrolled Bills Presented:

Pages S7278–79

Executive Communications:

Pages S7279–80

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S7281–82

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S7282–84

Additional Statements:

Page S7277

Amendments Submitted:

Page S7284

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Pages S7284–85

Privileges of the Floor:

Page S7285

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—257)

Pages S7257, S7265

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Paul Spyros Sarbanes, former Senator for the State of Maryland, pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 797, at 7:46 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, December 9, 2020. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7287.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

COAST GUARD CAPABILITIES IN THE ARCTIC

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Security concluded a hearing to examine United States Coast Guard capabilities for safeguarding national interests and promoting economic security in the Arctic, after receiving testimony from Admiral Charles W. Ray, Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security; Jennifer Francis, Woodwell Climate Research Center, Falmouth, Massachusetts; Major General Randy A. Kee, USAF (Ret.), University of Alaska Arctic Domain Awareness Center, Eagle River; and Stephanie Madsen, At-Sea Processors Association, Juneau, Alaska.

EARLY OUTPATIENT TREATMENT FOR COVID-19

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine early outpatient treatment as an essential part of a

COVID-19 solution, after receiving testimony from Jane M. Orient, Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, Tucson, Arizona; Pierre Kory, St. Luke's Aurora Medical Center, Madison, Wisconsin, on behalf of the Front-Line COVID-19 Critical Care Alliance; Jean-Jacques Rajter, Pulmonary and Sleep

Consultants of Florida, Fort Lauderdale; Ramin Oskoui, Sibley Memorial Hospital, Washington, D.C.; Jay Bhattacharya, Stanford University, Stanford, California; and Armand Balboni, Appili Therapeutics Inc., Waterford, Virginia.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 13 public bills, H.R. 8893–8905; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 1251–1252, were introduced. **Pages H7045–46**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H7046–47**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2477, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a system to notify individuals approaching Medicare eligibility, to simplify and modernize the eligibility enrollment process, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–621, Part 1);

H.R. 3361, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize hydroelectric production incentives and hydroelectric efficiency improvement incentives, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–622);

H.R. 1426, to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to address insufficient compensation of employees and other personnel of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–623);

H. Res. 549, reaffirming the commitment to media diversity and pledging to work with media entities and diverse stakeholders to develop common ground solutions to eliminate barriers to media diversity (H. Rept. 116–624);

H.R. 5541, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to reauthorize programs to assist consenting Indian Tribes in meeting energy education, planning, and management needs, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–625, Part 1);

H.R. 5758, to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to make technical corrections to the energy conservation standard for ceiling fans, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–626);

H.R. 307, to provide for partnerships among State and local governments, regional entities, and the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance the visitor experience at nationally significant battlefields of the American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–627);

H.R. 877, to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to modernize the funding of wildlife conservation, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–628);

H.R. 2956, to provide for the establishment of the Western Riverside County Wildlife Refuge, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–629);

H.R. 3651, to facilitate the use of certain land in Nebraska for public outdoor recreational opportunities, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–630);

H.R. 7119, to convey land in Anchorage, Alaska, to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–631, Part 1);

H.R. 5929, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require reporting of certain expenditures for political activities, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–632);

H.R. 1731, amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to promote transparency in the oversight of cybersecurity risks at publicly traded companies, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–633)

H.R. 5930, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require issuers to disclose information about human capital management in annual reports, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–634); and

H.R. 4328, to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to protect certain consumers affected by a shutdown, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–635). **Page H7045**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Correa to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H6907**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:13 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H6916**

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021: The House agreed to the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 6395) to authorize

appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, by a yea-and-nay vote of 335 yeas to 78 nays with one answering “present”, Roll No. 238. **Pages H6919–35, H7021**

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

Making technical corrections to the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018: S. 1811, amended, to make technical corrections to the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018;

Pages H6935–84, H7021–22

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes.”; **Page H6984**

Route 66 Centennial Commission Act: S. 1014, to establish the Route 66 Centennial Commission;

Pages H6984–87

Designating the United States courthouse located at 351 South West Temple in Salt Lake City, Utah, as the “Orrin G. Hatch United States Courthouse”: S. 4902, to designate the United States courthouse located at 351 South West Temple in Salt Lake City, Utah, as the “Orrin G. Hatch United States Courthouse”;

Pages H6987–88

ALS Disability Insurance Access Act: S. 578, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; **Pages H6988–91**

Amending title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for transparency of Medicare secondary payer reporting information: H.R. 1375, amended, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for transparency of Medicare secondary payer reporting information; **Pages H6991–93**

Amending title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a system to notify individuals approaching Medicare eligibility, to simplify and modernize the eligibility enrollment process: H.R. 2477, amended, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a system to notify individuals approaching Medicare eligibility, to simplify and modernize the eligibility enrollment process;

Pages H6993–H7000

Authorizing implementation grants to community-based nonprofits to operate one-stop reentry centers: H.R. 8161, amended, to authorize implementation grants to community-based nonprofits to operate one-stop reentry centers; **Pages H7004–07**

Criminal Antitrust Anti-Retaliation Act: S. 2258, to provide anti-retaliation protections for anti-trust whistleblowers; **Pages H7007–09**

Imposing requirements on the payment of compensation to professional persons employed in voluntary cases commenced under title III of the Puerto Rico Oversight Management and Economic Stability Act (commonly known as “PROMESA”): H.R. 683, amended, to impose requirements on the payment of compensation to professional persons employed in voluntary cases commenced under title III of the Puerto Rico Oversight Management and Economic Stability Act (commonly known as “PROMESA”); **Pages H7009–11**

Combat Online Predators Act: S. 134, to amend title 18, United States Code, with regard to stalking;

Pages H7011–14

Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative Act of 2020: H.R. 8354, amended, to establish the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 400 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 239; and

Pages H7014–15

Providing for the modernization of electronic case management systems: H.R. 8235, amended, to provide for the modernization of electronic case management systems. **Pages H7015–21**

Promoting Alzheimer's Awareness to Prevent Elder Abuse Act: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass S. 3703, to amend the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act to improve the prevention of elder abuse and exploitation of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. **Pages H7000–01**

For the relief of Arpita Kurdekar, Girish Kurdekar, and Vandana Kurdekar: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass H.R. 631, for the relief of Arpita Kurdekar, Girish Kurdekar, and Vandana Kurdekar, as amended by Representative Bass. **Page H7001**

For the relief of Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso, and Ana Lucia Bueso Barrera: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass H.R. 4225, for the relief of Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso, and Ana Lucia Bueso Barrera, as amended by Representative Bass. **Pages H7001–02**

For the relief of Victoria Galindo Lopez: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass H.R. 7146, for the relief of Victoria Galindo Lopez, as amended by Representative Bass. **Pages H7002–03**

For the relief of Median El-Moustrah: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass H.R. 7572, for the relief of Median El-Moustrah, as amended by Representative Bass.

Pages H7003–04

Identifying Outputs of Generative Adversarial Networks Act: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass S. 2904, to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on the outputs that may be generated by generative adversarial networks, otherwise known as deepfakes, and other comparable techniques that may be developed in the future.

Pages H7022–23

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the principles that should guide the national artificial intelligence strategy of the United States: The House agreed to discharge from committee and agree to H. Res. 1250, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the principles that should guide the national artificial intelligence strategy of the United States.

Pages H7023–25

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H6935.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H7021 and H7022.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Committee Meetings

THE IMPACT ON WOMEN SEEKING AN ABORTION BUT ARE DENIED BECAUSE OF AN INABILITY TO PAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled "The Impact on Women Seeking an Abortion but are Denied Because of an Inability to Pay". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE BALKANS: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "The Balkans: Policy Recommendations for the Next Administration". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

IDENTIFYING CONGRESSIONAL AND ADMINISTRATION PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT CONGRESS: HOW WE CAN SUPPORT OUR VETERANS THROUGH AND AFTER COVID–19

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing entitled "Identifying Congressional and Administration Priorities for the Next Congress: How we can support our Veterans through and after COVID–19". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1051)

H.R. 835, to impose criminal sanctions on certain persons involved in international doping fraud conspiracies, to provide restitution for victims of such conspiracies, and to require sharing of information with the United States Anti-Doping Agency to assist its fight against doping. Signed on December 4, 2020. (Public Law 116–206)

H.R. 1668, to establish minimum security standards for Internet of Things devices owned or controlled by the Federal Government. Signed on December 4, 2020. (Public Law 116–207)

H.R. 3589, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Greg LeMond, in recognition of his service to the Nation as an athlete, activist, role model, and community leader. Signed on December 4, 2020. (Public Law 116–208)

H.R. 4104, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Negro Leagues baseball. Signed on December 4, 2020. (Public Law 116–209)

H.R. 8276, to authorize the President to posthumously award the Medal of Honor to Alwyn C. Cashe for acts of valor during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Signed on December 4, 2020. (Public Law 116–210)

H.R. 8472, to provide that, due to the disruptions caused by COVID–19, applications for impact aid funding for fiscal year 2022 may use certain data submitted in the fiscal year 2021 application. Signed on December 4, 2020. (Public Law 116–211)

S. 3147, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress reports on patient safety and quality of care at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Signed on December 4, 2020. (Public Law 116–212)

S. 3587, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the accessibility of websites of the Department of Veterans Affairs to individuals with disabilities. Signed on December 4, 2020. (Public Law 116–213)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine the invalidation of the European Union–United States Privacy Shield and the future of transatlantic data flows, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Charles W. Cook, Jr., of Mississippi, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, 9:45 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Finance: Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy, to hold hearings to examine investigating challenges to American retirement security, 10 a.m., WEBEX.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold hearings to examine advancing tribal self-governance and cultural sovereignty for future generations, focusing on languages to homelands, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs response to COVID–19 across the VA enterprise, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

House

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research, hearing entitled “1890 Land Grant Institutions—130 Years of Building Equity in Agriculture”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled “Fort Hood 2020: The Findings and Recommendations of the Fort Hood Independent Review Committee”, 1 p.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee, hearing entitled “Diplomacy or Dead End: An Evaluation of Syria Policy”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn and Webex.

Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations: hearing entitled “International Human Rights and the Closing Civic Space”, 2 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, hearing entitled “Pipelines Over People: How FERC Tramples Landowner Rights in Natural Gas Projects”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing entitled “The Toxic World of Presumptive Service Connection Determinations: Why Should Our Veterans Wait?”, 9 a.m., HVC–210 and Webex.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, December 9

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Allen Dickerson, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission, with a vote on confirmation thereon at 11 a.m. Following which, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations of Shana M. Broussard, of Louisiana, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission, and Sean J. Cooksey, of Missouri, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission.

Following disposition of the nomination of Sean J. Cooksey, Senator Menendez, or his designee, will be recognized to make motions to discharge S.J. Res. 77 and S.J. Res. 78, joint resolutions providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the United Arab Emirates of certain defense articles and services, with up to four hours of debate equally divided. Upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate will vote on the motions to discharge the joint resolutions, in the order listed.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, December 9

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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