

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7473–S7509

Measures Introduced: Nine bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 5015–5023, and S. Res. 801–802.

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Measures Reported:

S. 2716, to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 116–324)

Report to accompany S. 2765, to improve Federal fiscal controls and the congressional budget process. (S. Rept. No. 116–325)

S. 2757, to waive the imposition of a civil fine for certain first-time paperwork violations by small business concerns, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–326)

S. 1730, to direct the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to make grants to State and local governments and nongovernmental organizations for purposes of carrying out climate-resilient living shoreline projects that protect coastal communities by supporting ecosystem functions and habitats with the use of natural materials and systems, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–327)

S. 2979, to improve drug testing for transportation-related activities, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–328)

S. 3303, to amend title 49, United States Code, to promote transportation career opportunities and improve diversity in the workforce, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–329)

S. 3734, to provide for a coordinated Federal research initiative to ensure continued United States leadership in engineering biology, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–330)

S. 3958, to amend title 49, United States Code, to permit the use of incentive payments to expedite certain federally financed airport development projects, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 116–331)

S. 4286, to authorize appropriations for offsetting the costs related to reductions in research produc-

tivity resulting from the coronavirus pandemic, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–332)

S. 1166, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to make grants for the establishment or expansion of internet exchange facilities, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1341, to adopt a certain California flammability standard as a Federal flammability standard to protect against the risk of upholstered furniture flammability, with amendments.

S. 1858, to ensure the Chief Information Office of the Consumer Product Safety Commission has a significant role in decisions related to information technology, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2535, to require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct an assessment and analysis relating to the decline in the business formation rate in the United States, with an amendment.

S. 4159, to amend the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act to accommodate emerging technologies, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 4472, to amend the Secure and Trusted Communications Network Reimbursement Program to include eligible telecommunications carriers and providers of educational broadband service, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 4719, to provide, temporarily, authority for the Secretary of Commerce to waive cost sharing requirements for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 4884, to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to study the effect of the COVID–19 pandemic on injuries and deaths associated with consumer products, with amendments.

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Measures Passed:

Patents for Humanity Program Improvement Act: Senate passed H.R. 7259, to allow acceleration certificates awarded under the Patents for Humanity Program to be transferable.

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Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative Act: Senate passed H.R. 8354, to establish the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice.

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Senator Alexander Piano Performance: Senate agreed to S. Res. 801, authorizing the use of the atrium in the Philip A. Hart Senate Office Building for a piano performance by Senator Lamar Alexander.

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Data Mapping to Save Moms' Lives Act: Senate passed S. 3152, to require the Federal Communications Commission to incorporate data on maternal health outcomes into its broadband health maps, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

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Protecting Families of Fallen Servicemembers Act: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4356, to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to allow certain individuals to terminate contracts for telephone, multichannel video programming, or internet access service, and the bill was then passed.

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Cannabidiol and Marihuana Research Expansion Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. 2032, to expand research on the cannabidiol and marihuana, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

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Sasse (for Feinstein/Grassley) Amendment No. 2708, in the nature of a substitute.

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Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith Congressional Gold Medal: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 2054, to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

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Sasse (for Markey) Amendment No. 2692, in the nature of a substitute.

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STOP FGM Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6100, to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the criminalization of female genital mutilation, and the bill was then passed.

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Crytzer Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Katherine A. Crytzer, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

Pages S7492–93, S7493–94

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

By 48 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 267), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

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A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, December 16, 2020; and that notwithstanding Rule XXII, all post-cloture time on the nomination expire at 11:30 a.m., on Wednesday, December 16, 2020.

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Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 51 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 266), Thomas L. Kirsch II, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

Pages S7474–92

Julie D. Fisher, of Tennessee, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Belarus.

Jonathan Pratt, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Djibouti.

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Executive Communications:

Pages S7500–01

Executive Reports of Committees:

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Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S7502–03

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

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Additional Statements:

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Amendments Submitted:

Pages S7504–07

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

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Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—267)

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Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:57 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, December 16, 2020. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7509.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

DOD CYBER OPERATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity received a closed briefing on Department of Defense cyber operations from Thomas C. Wingfield, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Cyber Policy, Office of the Under Secretary for Policy, Jeffrey R. Jones, Vice Director, Command, Control, Communications and Computers/Cyber, Joint Staff, J-6, Katherine E. Arrington, Chief Information Security Officer for the Assistant Secretary for Acquisition, Office of the Under Secretary for Acquisition and Sustainment, and Rear Admiral Jeffrey Czerewko, USN, Deputy

Director, Global Operations, J39, J3, Joint Staff, all of the Department of Defense.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported 999 nominations in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Space Force.

COVID-19 AND LIVE EVENT ENTERTAINMENT

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Manufacturing, Trade, and Consumer Protection concluded a hearing to examine the impact of COVID-19 on the live event entertainment industry, after receiving testimony from David Fay, The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, Rocky Hill, Connecticut; Adam Hartke, Wave and The Cottillion, Wichita, Kansas; Ron Laffitte, Patriot Management, Beverly Hills, California; Peter J. Pantuso, American Bus Association, Washington, D.C.; and Michael T. Strickland, Bandit Lites, Knoxville, Tennessee.

EXPANDING AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet concluded a hearing to examine expanding American entrepreneurship outside traditional hubs, after receiving testimony from Jan Garfinkle, Arboretum Ventures, Ann Arbor, Michigan; David Hall, Revolution's Rise of the Rest Seed Fund, Washington, D.C.; Raymond Hespen, Property Meld, Rapid City, South Dakota; and Dawn Lippert, Elemental Excelerator, Honolulu, Hawaii.

CURBING ONLINE PIRACY

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Intellectual Property concluded a hearing to examine the role of private agreements and existing technology in curbing online piracy, after receiving testimony from Probir Mehta, Facebook, Mitch Glazier, Recording Industry Association of America, Joshua S. Lamel, Re:Create, Katherine Oyama, YouTube, and Keith Kupferschmid, Copyright Alliance, all of Washington, D.C.; and Ruth Vitale, CreativeFuture, Noah S. Becker, Adrev, and Dean S. Marks, Coalition for Online Accountability, all of Los Angeles, California.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 7 public bills, H.R. 8976–8973; and 4 resolutions, H.J. Res. 105; H. Res. 1263–1265, were introduced.

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Additional Cosponsors:

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Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3436, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove cost-sharing responsibilities for chronic care management services under the Medicare program, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–646, Part 1);

H.R. 278, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain facilities, easements, and rights-of-way to the Kennewick Irrigation District, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–647);

H.R. 3977, to amend the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968 to extend the jurisdiction of tribal courts to cover crimes involving sexual violence, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–648);

H.R. 4444, to require the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration to establish a

pilot project to provide increased transparency for customers, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–649);

H.R. 7099, to provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of Coconino National Forest land in the State of Arizona, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–650);

H.R. 6535, to deem an urban Indian organization and employees thereof to be a part of the Public Health Service for the purposes of certain claims for personal injury, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–651, Part 1);

H.R. 4840, to modify the boundary of the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–652);

H.R. 5330, to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to provide a timetable for verification of medical debt and to increase the efficiency of credit markets with more perfect information, to prohibit consumer reporting agencies from issuing consumer reports containing information about debts related to medically necessary procedure, about and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 116–653); and

H.R. 4403, to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to restrict the debt collection practices of certain debt collectors, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–654). **Page H7158**

Resignation from the House Republican Conference: Read a letter from Representative Cheney wherein she announced that Representative Mitchell resigned from the House Republican Conference.

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Committee Election Vacated: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she announced that Representative Mitchell's election to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has been vacated effective today, December 15, 2020. **Page H7157**

Committee Election Vacated: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she announced that Representative Mitchell's election to the Committee on Armed Services has been vacated effective today, December 15, 2020. **Pages H7157–58**

Decorum Statement: The Chair took this occasion to update her announcements of July 29 and November 18 concerning the wearing of masks in the Hall of the House during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Chair wished to again emphasize the importance of safe practices during House proceedings. Accordingly, masks will now be required at all times in the Hall of the House without exception, including while Members are under recognition. The Chair would reiterate that this is a matter of order and decorum in the Chamber under clause 2 of rule 1. To be clear, Members will not be recognized unless they are wearing a mask, and recognition will be withdrawn if they remove their mask while speaking. The Chair appreciates the continued attention of all Members and staff to these principles. **Page H7158**

Senate Referrals: S. Con. Res. 52 was held at the desk. S. 1636 was held at the desk. S. 2597 was held at the desk. **Page H7157**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on pages H7157.

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 3 p.m. and adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1084)

S. 4054, to reauthorize the United States Grain Standards Act. Signed on December 11, 2020. (Public Law 116–216)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Policy, to hold hearings to examine the United States and China, focusing on winning the economic competition, 9:30 a.m., WEBEX.

Committee on Finance: Subcommittee on Health Care, to hold hearings to examine the Alzheimer's crisis, focusing on testing and treatment pipelines and fiscal implications, 2:30 p.m., WEBEX.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine irregularities in the 2020 election, 10 a.m., SD-342/WEBEX.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Raul M. Arias-Marxuach, of Puerto Rico, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, 10 a.m., SH-216.

Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration: to hold hearings to examine Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement through United States refugee policy, 2 p.m., SD-G50.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, December 16

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Katherine A. Crytzer, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 11:30 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Katherine A. Crytzer, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Joseph Dawson III, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 noon, Wednesday, December 16

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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