

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7511–S7562

Measures Introduced: Sixteen bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 5024–5039, and S. Res. 803. Page S7542

Measures Reported:

S. 4077, to amend the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 to provide for regulatory impact analyses for certain rules, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 116–333)

Report to accompany S. 4054, to reauthorize the United States Grain Standards Act. (S. Rept. No. 116–334) Page S7542

Measures Passed:

National Landslide Preparedness Act: Senate passed H.R. 8810, to establish a national program to identify and reduce losses from landslide hazards, to establish a national 3D Elevation Program. Page S7556

Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 221, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: Page S7556

Moran (for Rubio) Amendment No. 2709, in the nature of a substitute. Page S7556

Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act: Senate passed S. 5036, to amend the Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2016 to extend the Secret Service overtime pay exception through 2023. Pages S7556–57

Senator Margaret Chase Smith Room and Senator Barbara A. Mikulski Room: Senate agreed to S. Res. 803, designating room S–124 of the United States Capitol as the “U.S. Senator Margaret Chase Smith Room” and designating room S–115 of the United States Capitol as the “U.S. Senator Barbara

A. Mikulski Room”, in recognition of their service to the Senate and the people of the United States.

Page S7557

Consider Teachers Act: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. 1387, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve the service obligation verification process for TEACH Grant recipients, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: Pages S7557–58

Moran (for Braun) Amendment No. 2710, in the nature of a substitute. Page S7557

CFO Vision Act: Senate passed S. 3287, to modify the governmentwide financial management plan, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the following amendment proposed thereto: Pages S7558–61

Moran (for Enzi) Amendment No. 2711, of a perfecting nature. Page S7560

Reporting Efficiently to Proper Officials in Response to Terrorism Act: Senate passed S. 2513, to provide for joint reports by relevant Federal agencies to Congress regarding incidents of terrorism, after agreeing to the committee amendment. Pages S7561–62

House Messages:

Scarlett’s Sunshine on Sudden Unexpected Death Act: Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 1130, to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life. Pages S7555–56

Coordinated Ocean Observations and Research Act: Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to 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. Page S7556

Appointments:

United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106–398, as amended by Public Law 108–7, and in consultation with the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the re-appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: Robin Cleveland, of Virginia, for a term expiring December 31, 2022. **Page S7555**

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

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency with respect to serious human rights abuse and corruption that was originally declared in Executive Order 13818 of December 20, 2017; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–62) **Pages S7540–41**

Atchley Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Charles Edward Atchley, Jr., of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee. **Pages S7524–33**

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

By 54 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 271), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S7524**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, the post-cloture time on the nomination expire at 11:30 a.m., on Thursday, December 17, 2020. **Page S7529**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, December 17, 2020. **Page S7562**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 48 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 268), Katherine A. Crytzer, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee. **Pages S7513–18**

By 56 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. EX. 270), Joseph Dawson III, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina. **Pages S7518–24**

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

By 56 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. EX. 269), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S7518**

Anna Maria Ruzinski, of Wisconsin, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Wisconsin for the term of four years.

Gregory Scott Tabor, of Arkansas, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Arkansas for the term of four years. **Page S7533**

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.

Deven J. Parekh, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the United States International Development Finance Corporation for a term of three years. **Pages S7533–34**

Executive Communications: **Pages S7541–42**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S7543–44**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S7544–54**

Additional Statements: **Pages S7537–40**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S7554–55**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S7555**

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—271) **Pages S7517–18, S7525**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at 6:27 p.m., until 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 17, 2020. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7562.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

UNITED STATES AND CHINA

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Policy concluded a hearing to examine the United States and China, focusing on winning the economic competition, after receiving testimony from Representative Will Hurd; and Derek Scissors, American Enterprise Institute, Melanie Hart, Center for American Progress, and Roy Houseman, United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union, all of Washington, D.C.

THE ALZHEIMER'S CRISIS

Committee on Finance: Subcommittee on Health Care concluded a hearing to examine the Alzheimer's crisis, focusing on testing and treatment pipelines and fiscal implications, after receiving testimony from Nikolay Dokholyan, Pennsylvania State College of Medicine, Hershey; Randall J. Bateman, Washington University School of Medicine Dominantly Inherited

Alzheimer's Network Trials Unit, St. Louis, Missouri; and Richard C. Mohs, Global Alzheimer's Platform Foundation, and Maria Carrillo, Alzheimer's Association, both of Chicago, Illinois.

2020 ELECTION IRREGULARITIES

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine irregularities in the 2020 election, after receiving testimony from Donald Palmer, Commissioner, Election Assistance Commission; Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Representative Frank Ryan, Lebanon; James R. Troupis, Troupis Law Firm, Cross Plains, Wisconsin; Jesse Binnall, Harvey and Binnall, PLLC, Alexandria, Virginia; Chris Krebs, former Director of the Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Washington, D.C.; and Ken Starr, Waco, Texas.

NOMINATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Raul M.

Arias-Marxuach, of Puerto Rico, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

HONG KONG'S PRO-DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration concluded a hearing to examine supporting Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement through United States refugee policy, after receiving testimony from Senators Rubio and Menendez; Julian Ku, Hofstra University School of Law, Hempstead, New York; Joey Siu, Hong Kong Watch; Samuel M. Chu, Hong Kong Democracy Council, Washington, D.C.; Nathan Law, former Member of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong, London, United Kingdom; and Jenny Yang, World Relief, Baltimore, Maryland, on behalf of Refugee Council USA.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 22 public bills, H.R. 8974–8995; and 2 resolutions, H.J. Res. 106; and H. Res. 1266 were introduced.

Pages H7227–28

Additional Cosponsors:

Page H7229

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 5047, to require the Administrator of General Services to conduct an annual audit of properties leased to private parties, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–655);

H.R. 5013, to apply the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to small businesses to the same extent as such Act applies to consumers, to require the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to define “small business” for purposes of such Act, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 116–656);

Hijacking our Heroes: Exploiting Veterans Through Disinformation on Social Media (H. Rept. 116–657);

H.R. 3948, to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to extend the provisions of that Act to cover a debt collector who is collecting debt owed to a State or local government, to index award amounts under such Act for inflation, to provide for

civil injunctive relief for violations of such Act, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–658); and

H.R. 3068. A bill to establish an offshore wind career training grant program, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–659, Part 1).

Page H7227

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

Page H7161

Recess: The House recessed at 12:40 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.

Page H7167

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in remembrance of the over 300,000 Americans who have passed away a result of the COVID–19 virus.

Page H7167

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

Homeless Veterans Coronavirus Response Act of 2020: Concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 7105, to provide flexibility for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in caring for homeless veterans during a covered public health emergency; **Pages H7169–H7211**

Transparency and Effective Accountability Measures for Veteran Caregivers Act: S. 2216, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to formally

recognize caregivers of veterans, notify veterans and caregivers of clinical determinations relating to eligibility for caregiver programs, and temporarily extend benefits for veterans who are determined ineligible for the family caregiver program, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 380 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 244;

Pages H7211–13, H7224–25

Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Act of 2020: S. 3312, to establish a crisis stabilization and community reentry grant program;

Pages H7213–16

Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act: S. 2174, amended, to expand the grants authorized under Jennifer’s Law and Kristen’s Act to include processing of unidentified remains, resolving missing persons cases;

Pages H7217–19

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To the extent provided in advance in appropriations Act, the Attorney General is authorized to use funds appropriated for the operationalization, maintenance, and expansion of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) for the purpose of carrying out this Act”;

Page H7219

One Small Step to Protect Human Heritage in Space Act: S. 1694, amended, to require any Federal agency that issues licenses to conduct activities in outer space to include in the requirements for such licenses an agreement relating to the preservation and protection of the Apollo 11 landing site;

Pages H7219–22

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To require the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to add recommendations and inform other relevant agencies of information relating to the principle of due regard and the limitation of harmful interference with Apollo landing site artifacts, and for other purposes.”; and

Page H7222

Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility Act: S. 2472, to redesignate the NASA John H. Glenn Research Center at Plum Brook Station, Ohio, as the NASA John H. Glenn Research Center at the Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility.

Pages H7222–24

Correcting the enrollment of S. 3312: The House agreed to take from the Speaker’s table and agree to

S. Con. Res. 52, to correct the enrollment of S. 3312, as amended by Representative Bass.

Pages H7216–17

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified the Congress that the national emergency with respect to the prevalence and severity of human rights abuse and corruption that was declared in Executive Order 13818 of December 20, 2017 is to continue in effect beyond December 20, 2020. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 116–173).

Page H7226

Senate Referrals: S. 2032 was held at the desk. S. 2054 was held at the desk. S. 3152 was held at the desk.

Page H7169

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H7169.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on page H7224–25.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Role of Purdue Pharma and the Sackler Family in the Opioid Epidemic”, 9 a.m., Webex.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, December 17

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Charles Edward Atchley, Jr., of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee, post-closure, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11:30 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Charles Edward Atchley, Jr., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Zachary N. Somers, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 noon, Thursday, December 17

House Chamber

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

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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