

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 133, Consolidated Appropriations Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7887–S7949

Measures Introduced: Seven bills were introduced, as follows: S. 5078–5084. **Page S7939**

Measures Passed:

Buying American: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 625, affirming the benefits of “Buying American”, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto: **Page S7899**

Scott (FL) Amendment No. 2726, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7899**

Scott (FL) Amendment No. 2727, to amend the preamble. **Page S7899**

Scott (FL) Amendment No. 2728, to amend the title. **Page S7899**

BUILD Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 371, to provide regulatory relief to charitable organizations that provide housing assistance, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S7901–02**

Cornyn (for Fischer) Amendment No. 2729, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S7901–02**

Restoring Resilient Reefs Act: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. 2429, to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and to establish the United States Coral Reef Task Force, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S7902**

Cornyn (for Rubio/Schatz) Amendment No. 2730, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7902**

Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools Act: Senate passed H.R. 3250, to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the sites associated with the life and legacy of the noted American philanthropist and business executive Julius Rosenwald, with a special focus on the Rosenwald Schools. **Page S7902**

Jimmy Carter National Historical Park Redesignation Act: Senate passed H.R. 5472, to redesignate the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site as the “Jimmy Carter National Historical Park”. **Page S7902**

DESCEND Act: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5126, to require individuals fishing for Gulf reef fish to use certain descending devices, and the bill was then passed. **Page S7902**

Enrollment Correction: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 128, directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 1520. **Pages S7924–28**

United Nations World Food Programme: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 774, honoring the United Nations World Food Programme on the occasion of being awarded the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto: **Page S7928**

Boozman Amendment No. 2733, to amend the resolving clause. **Page S7928**

Boozman Amendment No. 2734, to amend the preamble. **Page S7928**

Port of Beirut: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 682, recognizing the devastating explosion that rocked the Port of Beirut on August 4, 2020, and expressing solidarity with the Lebanese people, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S7928**

EFFORT Act: Senate passed H.R. 3153, to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on opioid addiction, after withdrawing the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S7929**

Boozman (for Wicker) Amendment No. 2732, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7929**

Transparency in Federal Buildings Projects Act: Committee on Environment and Public Works was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2502, to amend title 40, United States Code, to require certain prospectuses for public buildings to be made publicly available, and the bill was then passed. **Page S7929**

Competitive Health Insurance Reform Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1418, to restore the application of the Federal antitrust laws to the business of health insurance to protect competition and consumers, and the bill was then passed. **Page S7929**

Yucca House National Monument Expansion Act: Senate passed H.R. 1492, to update the map of, and modify the maximum acreage available for inclusion in, the Yucca House National Monument. **Page S7929**

Enrollment Correction: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 127, directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 133. **Pages S7922–30**

House Messages:

Further Extension of Continuing Appropriations Act: Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 1520, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the publication of a list of licensed biological products. **Page S7923**

Consolidated Appropriations Act: By 92 yeas to 6 nays (Vote No. 289), Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 133, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, by the order of the Senate of Monday, December 21, 2020, 60 Senators having voted in the affirmative. **Pages S7922–28**

Appointments:

Independent Mexico Labor Expert Board: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 116–113, and in consultation with the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, appointed the following individuals to the Independent Mexico Labor Expert Board: Kyle

Fortson of the District of Columbia, and Charlotte Ponticelli of Maryland. **Page S7949**

Signing Authority—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senators Thune, Roberts, and Blunt be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions from Monday, December 21, 2020 through Sunday, January 3, 2021. **Page S7928**

Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Thursday, December 24, 2020, at 10 a.m.; and Monday, December 28, 2020, at 10 a.m.; and that when the Senate adjourns on Monday, December 28, 2020, it next convene at 12 noon, on Tuesday, December 29, 2020. **Page S7949**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 48 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 288), Eric J. Soskin, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Transportation. **Pages S7910, S7921–22**

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

By 48 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. 285), Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on Friday, December 19, 2020. **Page S7910**

By 48 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 286), Senate agreed to the motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on Friday, December 19, 2020. **Page S7910**

By 48 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 287), Senate upon reconsideration agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S7910–11**

C. Kevin Blackstone, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

Cynthia Kierscht, of Minnesota, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

Brian D. McFeeters, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Malaysia.

David Reimer, of Ohio, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Sierra Leone.

Geeta Pasi, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. **Page S7930**

Messages from the House:

Pages S7938–39

Enrolled Bills Presented:

Page S7939

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S7939–40

Additional Statements: Page S7938
Amendments Submitted: Pages S7940–49
Record Votes: Five record votes were taken today. (Total—289) Pages S7910–11, S7921–22, S7927–28
Adjournment: Senate convened at 12 noon on Monday, December 21, 2020 and adjourned at 1:47 a.m. on Tuesday, December 22, 2020, until 12 noon on

Thursday, December 24, 2020. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7949.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 7 public bills, H.R. 9039–9045; and 2 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 127–128, were introduced Page H7322

Additional Cosponsors: Page H7322

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 1271, providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 133) to promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico; providing for disposition of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1520) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the publication of a list of licensed biological products, and for other purposes; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–679);

H.R. 2245, to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to prohibit import and export of any species listed or proposed to be listed under such Act as a threatened species or endangered species, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 116–680, Part 1);

H.R. 1108, to provide for funding from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund for all Federal Aviation Administration activities in the event of a Government shutdown, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–681, Part 1);

H.R. 4545, to provide for the discharge of a private education loan in the case of death or total and permanent disability of a student obligor, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–682, Part 1);

H.R. 4782, to establish a national commission on online platforms and homeland security, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–683, Part 1); and

H.R. 865, to provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 116–684, Part 1). Pages H7321–22

Recess: The House recessed at 9:35 a.m. and reconvened at 4:04 p.m. Page H7290

Directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 133: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 127, directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 133. Page H7300

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “Making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, providing coronavirus emergency response and relief, and for other purposes.”. Page H7300

Directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 1520: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 128, directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 1520. Pages H7300–01

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “Making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.”. Page H7301

United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act: The House concurred in the Senate amendment to H.R. 133, to promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico, with an amendment consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–68, with the first portion of the question comprising Divisions B, C, E, and F, by a yea-and-nay vote of 327 yeas to 85 nays, Roll No. 250. Pages H7301–14

H. Res. 1271, the rule providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 133) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 227 yeas to 180 nays, Roll No. 249, after the previous question was ordered without objection. Pursuant to section 2 of H. Res. 1271, the House shall be considered to have taken from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1520) with the Senate amendment thereto, and to have

concurred in the Senate amendment with an amendment consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–69.

Pages H7290–H7300

United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act:

The House concurred in the Senate amendment to H.R. 133, to promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico, with an amendment consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–68, with the second portion of the question except Divisions B, C, E, and F, by a yea-and-nay vote of 359 yeas to 53 nays, Roll No. 251.

Pages H7314–15

H. Res. 1271, the rule providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 133) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 227 yeas to 180 nays, Roll No. 249, after the previous question was ordered without objection. Pursuant to section 2 of H. Res. 1271, the House shall be considered to have taken from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1520) with the Senate amendment thereto, and to have concurred in the Senate amendment with an amendment consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–69.

Pages H7290–H7300

Bankruptcy Administration Improvement Act of 2020: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass S. 4996, to ensure funding of the United States trustees, and extend temporary bankruptcy judgeships.

Pages H7315–17

Senate Referrals: S. 371 was held at the desk. S. 2204 was held at the desk. S. 2346 was held at the desk. S. 2353 was held at the desk. S. 2716 was held at the desk. S. 2800 was held at the desk. S. 2827 was held at the desk. S. 3099 was held at the desk. S. 3100 was held at the desk. S. 3948 was held at the desk. S. 3952 was held at the desk. S. 4079 was held at the desk. S. 4222 was held at the desk. S. 4556 was held at the desk. S. 5076 was held at the desk.

Senate Messages: Message received from the Senate today and messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on pages H7290 and H7300.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H7299, H7313, and H7314.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Committee Meetings

SENATE AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES-MEXICO ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on the Senate Amendment to H.R. 133, the “United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act” [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021]. The Committee granted, by record vote of 8–4, a rule providing for the consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 133, the “Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021”. The rule makes in order a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment with an amendment consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–68. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the motion. The rule provides that the Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The rule provides one hour of debate on the motion equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule provides that the question of adoption of the motion shall be divided for a separate vote on the matter proposed to be inserted as divisions B, C, E, and F, and the Chair shall first put the question on such portion of the divided question. The rule provides that if either portion of the divided question fails of adoption, then the motion shall immediately be considered to have failed of adoption. Section two of the rule provides that upon adoption of the rule, the House shall be considered to have concurred in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1520 with an amendment consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–69. The rule provides that the Clerk shall be authorized to make necessary technical and conforming changes in the engrossment of the House amendments specified in the first two sections of the resolution. The rule provides that if a veto message is laid before the House on H.R. 6395, then after the message is read, further consideration of the veto message and the bill shall be postponed until the legislative day of Monday, December 28, 2020; and on that legislative day, the House shall proceed to reconsideration and dispose of such question without intervening motion. The rule provides that the chair of the Committee on Appropriations and the chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence may insert in the Congressional Record not later than December 28, 2020, such material as they may deem explanatory of the Senate amendment and the motion specified in the first section of the rule. Testimony was heard from Chairman Lowey and Representative Granger.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1110)

S. 910, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act. Signed on December 18, 2020. (Public Law 116–221)

S. 945, to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to require certain issuers to disclose to the Securities and Exchange Commission information regarding foreign jurisdictions that prevent the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board from performing inspections under that Act. Signed on December 18, 2020. (Public Law 116–222)

S. 1069, to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and to support collection

of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region. Signed on December 18, 2020. (Public Law 116–223)

S. 1982, to improve efforts to combat marine debris. Signed on December 18, 2020. (Public Law 116–224)

H.J. Res. 107, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021. Signed on December 18, 2020. (Public Law 116–225)

H.J. Res. 110, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021. Signed on December 20, 2020. (Public Law 116–226)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, December 24

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Thursday, December 24

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 9 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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