

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate confirmed the nomination of Marcia Louise Fudge, of Ohio, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Senate confirmed the nomination of Merrick Brian Garland, of Maryland, to be Attorney General.

Senate confirmed the nomination of Michael Stanley Regan, of North Carolina, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1433–S1475

Measures Introduced: Forty-four bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 653–696, and S. Res. 102–104. **Pages S1458–60**

Measures Passed:

John Lewis NIMHD Research Endowment Revitalization Act: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. 320, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide that the authority of the Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities to make certain research endowments applies with respect to both current and former centers of excellence, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S1434–35**

New Chemical Exclusivity: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. 415, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the scope of new chemical exclusivity, and the bill was then passed. **Page S1435**

The Hoosier Gym Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 102, recognizing the 100th anniversary of The Hoosier Gym and the 35th anniversary of the release of the film “Hoosiers”. **Pages S1435–36**

Motion to Discharge Becerra Nomination: Pursuant to S. Res. 27, Committee on Finance being tied on the question of reporting, the Majority Leader made the motion to discharge the Committee on Finance from further consideration of the nomination of Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services; under the provisions of

S. Res. 27, there will be up to 4 hours of debate on the motion, equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees; with no motions, points of order, or amendments in order. **Page S1456**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to discharge the nomination at approximately 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, March 11, 2021, with the time expiring at 12 noon. **Page S1473**

Haaland Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that following the vote on the motion to discharge the Committee on Finance from further consideration of the nomination of Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Debra Anne Haaland, of New Mexico, to be Secretary of the Interior; and that the cloture motion on the nomination ripen at 1:30 p.m., on Thursday, March 11, 2021. **Page S1473**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 66 yeas to 34 nays (Vote No. EX. 113), Marcia Louise Fudge, of Ohio, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. **Pages S1437–44**

By 70 yeas to 30 nays (Vote No. EX. 114), Merrick Brian Garland, of Maryland, to be Attorney General. **Page S1446**

By 66 yeas to 34 nays (Vote No. EX. 116), Michael Stanley Regan, of North Carolina, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. **Pages S1446–56**

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

By 65 yeas to 35 nays (Vote No. EX. 115), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1446**

Messages from the House: **Page S1457**

Executive Communications: **Pages S1457–58**

Petitions and Memorials: **Page S1458**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S1458**

Notice of a Tie Vote Under S. Res. 27: **Page S1457**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1460–61**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S1461–72

Additional Statements:

Authorities for Committees to Meet:
Pages S1472–73

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—116) **Pages S1444, S1446, S1456**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:03 p.m., until 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 11, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1473.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

CHALLENGES FACING THE FBI

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies concluded a closed hearing to examine domestic and foreign threats and other challenges facing the Federal Bureau of Investigation, after receiving testimony from Christopher A. Wray, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Also, Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments for the 117th Congress:

Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment: Senators Menendez (Chair), Reed, Warner, Warren, Cortez Masto, Smith, Sinema, Warnock, Scott (SC), Shelby, Crapo, Rounds, Tillis, Kennedy, Lummis, and Moran.

Subcommittee on National Security and International Trade and Finance: Senators Warner (Chair), Tester, Sinema, Ossoff, Hagerty, Crapo, Kennedy, and Daines.

Subcommittee on Economic Policy: Senators Warren (Chair), Reed, Van Hollen, Smith, Ossoff, Kennedy, Scott (SC), Tillis, Cramer, and Daines.

Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development: Senators Smith (Chair), Reed, Menendez, Tester, Cortez Masto, Van Hollen, Ossoff, Warnock, Rounds, Shelby, Crapo, Hagerty, Lummis, Moran, Cramer, and Daines.

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection: Senators Warnock (Chair), Menendez, Tester, Warner, Warren, Cortez Masto, Van Hollen, Sinema, Tillis, Shelby, Scott (SC), Rounds, Hagerty, Lummis, Moran, and Cramer.

Senators Brown and Toomey are ex officio members of each subcommittee.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Budget: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

NOMINATION

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Donet Dominic Graves, Jr., of Ohio, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine climate change in the electricity sector and fostering economic growth, including electricity grid resilience and actions that should be undertaken by the Department of Energy and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, after receiving testimony from Frank Rusco, Director of Natural Resources and Environment, Government Accountability Office; Mayor Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles, California; Ben Fowke, Xcel Energy, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Sandra Snyder, Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, Washington, D.C.; and Jim Wood, West Virginia University Energy Institute, Morgantown.

DEMOCRACY AROUND THE WORLD

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the state of democracy around the world, after receiving testimony from Madeleine K. Albright, former Secretary of State, Paula J. Dobriansky, former Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs, and Peter Biar Ajak, National Endowment for Democracy, all of Washington, D.C.; Wai Hnin Pwint Thon, Burma Campaign UK, Geneva, Switzerland; and Nathan Law, former Hong

Kong Legislative Council Member, London, United Kingdom.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S.325, to amend the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act to extend the deadline for a report by the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children;

S.314, to repeal the Klamath Tribe Judgment Fund Act;

S.144, to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Indian Health Service, to acquire private land to facilitate access to the Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center in Hemet, California;

S.371, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take certain land located in Pinal County, Arizona, into trust for the benefit of the Gila River Indian Community;

S.108, to authorize the Seminole Tribe of Florida to lease or transfer certain land;

S.548, to convey land in Anchorage, Alaska, to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium;

S.549, to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Tanana Tribal Council located in Tanana, Alaska;

S.550, to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium located in Sitka, Alaska; and

S.559, to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act.

NATIVE COMMUNITIES AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a roundtable discussion to examine Native commu-

nities and the climate crisis from Charlene Nelson, Shoalwater Bay Tribe, Tokeland, Washington; Timothy Davis, Blackfeet Nation, Browning, Montana; Amber Torres, Walker River Paiute Tribe, Schurz, Nevada; Shelley Buck, Prairie Island Indian Community, St. Paul, Minnesota; Craig Quanchello, Picuris Pueblo, Penasco, New Mexico; Livingston Wong, Kamehameha Schools, Honolulu, Hawaii; and Nikoosh Carlo, CNC North Consulting, Seattle, Washington.

SUPREME COURT AND THE JUDICIARY

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and Federal Rights concluded a hearing to examine the Supreme Court and the Judiciary, after receiving testimony from Michael Klarman, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Lisa Graves, Center for Media and Democracy, Madison, Wisconsin; Benjamin Todd Jealous, People for the American Way, and Scott Walter, Capital Research Center, both of Washington, D.C.; and Jonathan H. Adler, Case Western Reserve University School of Law Coleman P. Burke Center for Environmental Law, Cleveland, Ohio.

MILITARY TOXIC EXPOSURES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine military toxic exposures, focusing on the human consequences of war, after receiving testimony from Anthony Szema, Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell, South Setauket, New York; Karl Kelsey, Brown University School of Public Health, Providence, Rhode Island; Shane Liermann, Disabled American Veterans, and Aleks Morosky, Wounded Warrior Project, both of Washington, D.C.; William Thompson, Princeton, West Virginia; and Jeffrey O'Malley, Houston, Texas.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 56 public bills, H.R. 1727–1782; and 5 resolutions, H. Res. 213–217 were introduced. **Pages H1323–25**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1327–28**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Cuellar to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1193**

Motion to Adjourn: Rejected the Greene (GA) motion to adjourn by a yea-and-nay vote of 149 yeas to 235 nays, Roll No. 71. **Pages H1195–96**

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: The House concurred in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1319, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of S. Con. Res. 5, by a yea-and-nay vote of 220 yeas to 211 nays, Roll No. 72. **Pages H1196–H1286**

H. Res. 198, the rule providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1319) was agreed to yesterday, March 9th.

Member Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Fudge, wherein she resigned as Representative for the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio, effective today, March 10, 2021. **Page H1286**

Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021: The House considered H.R. 8, to require a background check for every firearm sale. Consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, March 11th. **Pages H1286–H1303**

Agreed to:

Nadler en bloc amendment No. 1 consisting of the following amendments printed in part C of H. Rept. 117–10: Crow (No. 3) that expands the background check exemption for hunting and fishing to also include pest remediation associated with ranching and farming; Garcia (TX) (No. 4) that requires the Attorney General to make available to any person licensed under this chapter both Spanish and English versions of the form required for the conduct of a background check; Jackson Lee (No. 5) that makes clear that a gun owner who realizes that he or she is at risk of suicide may transfer the gun to someone else, if the risk is imminent, without a background check to prevent self-harm; Lamb (No. 6) that clarifies that no background check is required for exchanges of firearms between family members and rather should be viewed, between family members, as two simultaneous gifts; and Torres (NY) (No. 8) that revises the purpose of the Act to explic-

itly prohibit gun purchases for certain individuals who do not pass background checks. **Pages H1300–02**

H. Res. 188, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 842), (H.R. 8), and (H.R. 1446) was agreed to Monday, March 8th.

Whole Number of the House: The Chair announced to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentlewoman from Ohio, Ms. Fudge, the whole number of the House is 431. **Page H1303**

Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2021: The House considered H.R. 1446, to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to strengthen the background check procedures to be followed before a Federal firearms licensee may transfer a firearm to a person who is not such a licensee. Consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, March 11th. **Pages H1303–14**

Agreed to:

Nadler en bloc amendment No. 1 consisting of the following amendments printed in part D of H. Rept. 117–10: Burgess (No. 1) that requires the Department of Justice Inspector General to submit a report to Congress on the number of NICS denials referred for investigation after a firearm was sold to a person who was later found to be ineligible; Levin (CA) (No. 2) that adds to the GAO reports in the bill, which are to be completed one year, three years, and five years after enactment, data disaggregated by state and the basis for denial in state law; McBath (No. 3) that amends the domestic violence reporting provision to require that the effects of the Act on domestic violence, domestic abuse, dating partner violence, sexual assault, and stalking will be disaggregated by state; and Neguse (No. 4) that strikes section 4 and replaces it to require the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to make an annual report, which shall be available to the public, that provides disaggregated information on background check denials not made within the 10-day period (by a yea-and-nay vote of 225 yeas to 202 nays, Roll No. 73). **Pages H1310–14**

H. Res. 188, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 842), (H.R. 8), and (H.R. 1446) was agreed to Monday, March 8th.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1195–96, H1285–86, and H1313–14.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Committee Meetings

APPROPRIATIONS—GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE; HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OFFICERS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a budget hearing on the Government Accountability Office and House of Representatives Officers. Testimony was heard from Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office; and the following U.S. House of Representatives officers: E. Wade Ballou, Legislative Counsel; Tim Blodgett, Acting Sergeant at Arms; Kemba Hendrix, Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion; Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk; Douglas N. Letter, General Counsel; Michael T. Ptasienski, Inspector General; Ralph V. Seep, Law Revision Counsel; and Catherine Szpindor, Chief Administrative Officer.

MODERNIZING THE FEDERAL CIVILIAN APPROACH TO CYBERSECURITY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing entitled “Modernizing the Federal Civilian Approach to Cybersecurity”. Testimony was heard from Eric Goldstein, Executive Assistant Director for Cybersecurity, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency; and Brandon Wales, Acting Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

INNOVATION AND INVESTMENT IN WATER RESOURCES INFRASTRUCTURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Innovation and Investment in Water Resources Infrastructure”. Testimony was heard from Jason Uhley, General Manager-Chief Engineer, Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, California; Thomas J. Winston, President and Chief Executive Officer, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Ohio; and public witnesses.

NATIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES AND U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “National Security Challenges and U.S. Military Activities in the Indo-Pacific”. Testimony was heard from David F. Helvey, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Affairs, Department of Defense; Admiral Philip S. Davidson, U.S. Navy, Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command; and General Robert B. Abrams, U.S. Army, Commander, United Nations Command/Combined Forces Command/U.S. Forces Korea.

PRIVATIZED MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING: UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF HOUSING REFORMS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness; and Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a joint hearing entitled “Privatized Military Family Housing: Update on Implementation of Housing Reforms”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE PATH FORWARD: RESTORING THE VITAL MISSION OF EPA

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “The Path Forward: Restoring the Vital Mission of EPA”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

JUSTICE FOR ALL: ACHIEVING RACIAL EQUITY THROUGH FAIR ACCESS TO HOUSING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Justice for All: Achieving Racial Equity Through Fair Access to Housing and Financial Services”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

A YEAR INTO THE PANDEMIC: THE STATE OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on International Development, International Organizations, and Global Corporate Social Impact held a hearing entitled “A Year into the Pandemic: The State of International Development”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SECRETARY BLINKEN: THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION’S PRIORITIES FOR U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Secretary Blinken: The Biden Administration’s Priorities for U.S. Foreign Policy”. Testimony was heard from Antony Blinken, Secretary, Department of State.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a business meeting on Committee Resolution 117–12, Contestee Mariannette Miller-Meeks’s Motion to Dismiss Notice of Contest Regarding the Election for Representative in the 117th Congress from the Second Congressional District of Iowa, and for other purposes. Committee Resolution 117–12 was agreed to, without amendment.

THE NEXT STEPS FOR THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Next Steps for the Paycheck

Protection Program”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR RAIL: WHY RAIL IS MORE RELEVANT THAN EVER FOR ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials held a hearing entitled “Full Steam Ahead for Rail: Why Rail is More Relevant Than Ever for Economic and Environmental Progress”. Testimony was heard from Shannon Valentine, Secretary of Transportation, Virginia; and public witnesses.

HEALTH PROFESSION OPPORTUNITY GRANTS: PAST SUCCESSES AND FUTURE USES

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support held a hearing entitled “Health Profession Opportunity Grants: Past Successes and Future Uses”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold hearings to examine farmers and foresters, focusing on opportunities to lead in tackling climate change, 10:15 a.m., SR–301.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the final recommendations and report of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: business meeting to consider the nomination of David Turk, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the reliability, resiliency, and affordability of electric service in the United States amid the changing energy mix and extreme weather events, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider the nominations of Wendy Ruth Sherman, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary, and Brian P. McKeon, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources, both of the Department of State, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on opportunities and challenges for the United States around the world, 10 a.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Judiciary: Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights, to hold hearings to examine competition policy for the twenty-first century, focusing on the case for antitrust reform, 10 a.m., SD–226.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Full Committee, hearing entitled “A Look at Food Insecurity in America”, 1300 Longworth and Webex.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the Architect of the Capitol and the Government Publishing Office, 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “COVID–19 and the Mental Health and Substance Use Crises”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, oversight hearing on the U.S. Postal Service, 2 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Education and Labor, Full Committee, business meeting on new subcommittee assignments, 10:15 a.m., Zoom.

Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled “Clearing the Air: Science-Based Strategies to Protect Workers from COVID–19 Infections”, 10:45 a.m., Zoom.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, hearing entitled “Kids Online During COVID: Child Safety in an Increasingly Digital Age”, 10:30 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions, hearing entitled “Slipping Through the Cracks: Policy Options to Help America’s Consumers During the Pandemic”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa and Global Counterterrorism, hearing entitled “The Crisis in Yemen: Part 1”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, hearing entitled “Controlled Substances: Federal Policies and Enforcement”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn and Webex.

Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, hearing entitled “The Constitutional Framework for Congress’s Ability to Uphold Standards of Member Conduct”, 2 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, hearing entitled “Building Back Better: Building Resilience for the Economy, Climate, and Ecosystems”, 2 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures, hearing entitled “Tax Tools to Help Local Governments”, 2 p.m., Webex.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10:30 a.m., Thursday, March 11

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Thursday, March 11

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the motion to discharge the nomination of Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, from the Committee on Finance, and vote on agreeing to the motion at 12 noon.

At 1:30 p.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Debra Anne Haaland, of New Mexico, to be Secretary of the Interior.

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Complete consideration of H.R. 8—Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021. Complete consideration of H.R. 1446—Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2021.

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