

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S433–S480

Measures Introduced: Sixty-six bills and thirteen resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 461–526, S.J. Res. 14–17, S. Res. 71–78, and S. Con. Res. 4.

Pages S455–58

Measures Passed:

Congratulating the Kansas City Chiefs: Senate agreed to S. Res. 71, congratulating the Kansas City Chiefs on their victory in Super Bowl LVII.

Pages S436–37

National Elizabeth Peratrovich Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 77, designating February 16, 2023, as “National Elizabeth Peratrovich Day”.

Pages S475–76

Authorizing Senate blood drives: Senate agreed to S. Res. 78, authorizing the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate to conduct quarterly blood donation drives.

Page S476

Appointments:

Commission on the Future of the Navy: The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 117–263, announced the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Commission on the Future of the Navy: Thomas W. “Tommy” Ross of Virginia.

Page S475

Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate convene for pro forma sessions, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times: Friday, February 17, 2023, at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 11 a.m.; Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.; and that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, February 23, 2023, it next convene at 3 p.m., on Monday, February 27, 2023.

Page S477

Walker Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jamar K. Walker, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Page S438

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provi-

sions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, February 16, 2023, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, February 27, 2023.

Page S438

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S438

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S438

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, February 27, 2023, Senator Lankford be recognized to deliver Washington’s Farewell Address, as provided under the previous order of Tuesday, January 31, 2023; and that following his remarks, Senate resume consideration of the nomination, and that the motions to invoke cloture filed during the session of Thursday, February 16, 2023, ripen at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, February 27, 2023.

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Whitehead Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jamal N. Whitehead, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington.

Page S438

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Jamar K. Walker, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Page S438

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S438

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S438

Martinez-Olguin Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Araceli Martinez-Olguin, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Page S438

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Jamal N. Whitehead, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington. **Page S438**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S438**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S438**

Guzman Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Margaret R. Guzman, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Pages S438–41

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Araceli Martinez-Olguin, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California. **Page S438**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S438**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S438**

Kahn Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Maria Araujo Kahn, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit. **Pages S441–51**

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

By 50 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 24), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S441**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that all post-cloture time be considered expired on the nomination and the vote on confirmation of the nomination be at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Republican Leader. **Page S451**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 51 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 22), Daniel J. Calabretta, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

Page S437

By 61 yeas to 34 nays (Vote No. EX. 23), Lester Martinez-Lopez, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense. **Pages S433–36, S437–38**

Jill E. Steinberg, of Georgia, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia for the term of four years. **Page S451**

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy. **Pages S476–77**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Michael Sfraga, of Alaska, to be Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs.

40 Army nominations in the rank of general.

8 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

46 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

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Executive Reports of Committees:

Page S455

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S458–59

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S459–65

Additional Statements:

Page S455

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Page S465

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—24) **Pages S437–38, S441**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 4:49 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Friday, February 17, 2023. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S477.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee announced the following subcommittee assignment for the 118th Congress:

Subcommittee on Commodities, Risk Management, and Trade: Senators Smith (Chair), Gillibrand, Durbin, Booker, Warnock, Fetterman, Hyde-Smith, McConnell, Ernst, Tuberville, and Grassley.

Subcommittee on Rural Development and Energy: Senators Welch (Chair), Klobuchar, Bennet, Smith, Durbin, Luján, Tuberville, Ernst, Braun, Grassley, and Fischer.

Subcommittee on Conservation, Climate, Forestry, and Natural Resources: Senators Bennet (Chair), Klobuchar, Smith, Luján, Warnock, Welch, Marshall, McConnell, Hoeven, Hyde-Smith, and Thune.

Subcommittee on Food and Nutrition, Specialty Crops, Organics, and Research: Senators Fetterman (Chair), Brown, Klobuchar, Gillibrand, Booker, Warnock, Braun, McConnell, Ernst, Marshall, and Tuberville.

Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, Poultry, Local Food Systems, and Food Safety and Security: Senators Gillibrand (Chair), Brown, Durbin, Booker, Luján, Welch, Hoeven, Hyde-Smith, Marshall, and Thune.

Senators Stabenow and Boozman serve as ex officio members of all subcommittees.

FARM BILL

Committee on Agriculture: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the 2023 Farm Bill, focusing on nutrition programs, after receiving testimony from Cindy Long, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service, and Stacy Dean, Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, both of the Department of Agriculture.

PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGERS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine bringing transparency and accountability to pharmacy benefit managers, after receiving testimony from Senator Grassley; Ryan Oftebro, Kelley-Ross Pharmacy Group, Seattle, Washington; Debra Patt, Texas Oncology, Austin; Erin Trish, University of Southern California Mann School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Los Angeles; and Casey B. Mulligan, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

GLOBAL ENERGY SECURITY

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the impact of the Russian Federation's war in Ukraine on European and global energy security one year after the invasion, after receiving testimony from Andrew Light, Assistant Secretary of Energy, Office of International Affairs; Ditte Juul Jorgensen, European Commission, Brussels, Belgium; and Anna B. Mikulski, Rice University Baker Institute for Public Policy, Houston, Texas.

TRADE AND LABOR

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine ending trade that cheats American workers by modernizing trade laws and enforcement, fighting forced labor, eliminating counterfeits, and leveling the playing field, after receiving testimony from Cindy Allen, FedEx Logistics, Memphis, Tennessee; Andy Meserve, United Steelworkers, Owensboro, Tennessee; Scott Nova, Workers Rights Consortium, and John Pickel, National Foreign Trade Council, both of Washington, D.C.; and Brenda B. Smith, Expeditors International of Washington, Inc., Glen Burnie, Maryland.

NOMINATION

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Richard R. Verma, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Cardin, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine health care workforce shortages, after receiving testimony from James D. Herbert, University of New England, Biddeford, Maine; James E.K. Hildreth, Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee; Sarah L. Szanton, Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, Baltimore, Maryland; Leonardo Seoane, Ochsner Health, New Orleans, Louisiana; and Douglas O. Staiger, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Rosemarie Hidalgo, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Violence Against Women Office, Amy Lefkowitz Solomon, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Kate E. Brubacher, to be United States Attorney for the District of Kansas, and Ismail J. Ramsey, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of California, all of the Department of Justice.

Also, Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments for the 118th Congress:

Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights: Senators Klobuchar (Chair), Whitehouse, Coons, Blumenthal, Hirono, Booker, Welch, Lee, Grassley, Hawley, Cotton, Tillis, and Blackburn.

Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety: Senators Padilla (Chair), Whitehouse, Klobuchar, Coons, Hirono, Booker, Welch, Cornyn, Grassley, Cruz, Cotton, Tillis, and Blackburn.

Subcommittee on the Constitution: Senators Feinstein (Chair), Blumenthal, Booker, Ossoff, Cruz, Cornyn, and Lee.

Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Counterterrorism: Senators Booker (Chair), Feinstein, Whitehouse, Klobuchar, Coons, Padilla, Ossoff, Cotton, Grassley, Cornyn, Lee, Cruz, and Kennedy.

Subcommittee on Intellectual Property: Senators Coons (Chair), Hirono, Padilla, Ossoff, Welch, Tillis, Cornyn, Cotton, and Blackburn.

Subcommittee on Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and Federal Rights: Senators Whitehouse (Chair), Feinstein, Blumenthal, Hirono, Booker, Padilla, Welch, Kennedy, Grassley, Lee, Cruz, Tillis, and Hawley.

Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law: Senators Ossoff (Chair), Feinstein, Blumenthal, Welch, Blackburn, Kennedy, and Hawley.

Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law: Senators Blumenthal (Chair), Klobuchar, Coons, Hirono, Padilla, Ossoff, Hawley, Kennedy, Blackburn, Lee, and Cornyn.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Joshua David Jacobs, of Washington, to be Under Secretary for

Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Murray, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 10, to improve the workforce of the Department of Veterans Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 30, to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2023, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 106, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to States to improve outreach to veterans, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 112, to amend title 38, United States Code, to strengthen benefits for children of Vietnam veterans born with spina bifida;

S. 132, to require a pilot program on activities under the pre-separation transition process of members of the Armed Forces for a reduction in suicide among veterans, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 141, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home and community based services for veterans, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 185, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the program for direct housing loans made to Native American veterans;

S. 216, to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the family caregiver program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to include services related to mental health and neurological disorders; and

S. 326, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a study and clinical trials on the effects of cannabis on certain health outcomes of veterans with chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House will meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, February 17, 2023.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2023

(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., Friday, February 17

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Friday, February 17

Senate Chamber

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

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 10 a.m.



Congressional Record

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