

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S125–S174

Measures Introduced: Fourteen bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3595–3608, and S. Res. 525–526. **Pages S146–147**

Measures Passed:

Congratulating the University of Michigan Wolverines Football Team: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 520, congratulating the University of Michigan Wolverines football team for winning the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association College Football National Championship, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S141**

National Co-Op Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 525, expressing support for the designation of October 2023 as “National Co-Op Month” and commending the cooperative business model and the member-owners, businesses, employees, farmers, ranchers, and practitioners who use the cooperative business model to positively impact the economy and society. **Page S141**

Flowers in the Senate Chamber: Senate agreed to S. Res. 526, repealing standing orders relating to flowers in the Senate Chamber. **Page S141**

Measures Considered:

Amending the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act—Agreement: Senate began consideration of H.R. 2872, to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue electronic stamps under such Act, after agreeing to the motion to proceed, and taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S140**

Pending:

Schumer (for Murray) Amendment No. 1381, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S141**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that the only amendments in order to the bill be the following: Paul Amendment No. 1384, Marshall motion to commit, Braun Amendment No. 1382, and Murray Amendment No. 1381; that at

12:30 p.m., on Thursday, January 18, 2024, Senate vote on adoption of the amendments in the order listed, with each subject to 60 affirmative votes required for adoption, with the exception of the Marshall motion to commit and Murray Amendment No. 1381; that there be two minutes for debate equally divided prior to each vote; and that upon disposition of Braun Amendment No. 1382, Murray Amendment No. 1381, as amended, if amended, be agreed to, and Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended, with 60 affirmative votes required for passage of the bill, without intervening action or debate. **Pages S140–141**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 11 a.m., on Thursday, January 18, 2024. **Page S140**

Executive Communications: **Pages S145–146**

Petitions and Memorials: **Page S145**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S145**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S147–149**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S149–150

Additional Statements: **Pages S142–145**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S151–174**

Notices of Intent: **Page S174**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S174**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 11:00 and adjourned at 9:10 p.m., until 11 a.m. on Thursday, January 18, 2024. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S174.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

CLOSING CORPORATE LOOPHOLES

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine closing corporate loopholes that reward offshoring jobs and profits, after receiving testimony from Kimberly A. Clausing, University of

California, Los Angeles; Roy Houseman, United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union, and John Arensmeyer, Small Business Majority, both of Washington, D.C.; James R. Hines Jr., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; and Mindy Herzfeld, University of Florida Levin College of Law, Gainesville.

2024 TAIWAN ELECTIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee received a closed briefing on strategic implications for cross-straits relations of the 2024 Taiwan elections from Daniel J. Kritenbrink, Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and Brett M. Holmgren, Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Research, both of the Department of State.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be Chairman, and Henry J. Kerner, of Virginia, to be a Member, both of the Merit Systems Protection Board, Suzanne Elizabeth Summerlin, of Florida, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations

Authority, Jeff Rezmovic, of Maryland, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, and Hampton Y. Dellinger, of North Carolina, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel.

CYBER SAFETY REVIEW BOARD

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Cyber Safety Review Board, focusing on expectations, outcomes, and enduring questions, after receiving testimony from Tarah Wheeler, Red Queen Dynamics, Seattle, Washington; and John S. Miller, Information Technology Industry Council, and Trey Herr, Atlantic Council, both of Washington, D.C.

FIRST STEP ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine five years of the First Step Act, focusing on reimagining rehabilitation and protecting public safety, after receiving testimony from Ja’Ron Smith, former Deputy Assistant for Domestic Policy, Washington, D.C.; Steve Markle, Council of Prison Locals, Rockville, Indiana; J. Charles Smith III, National District Attorneys Association, Frederick, Maryland; and Matthew Charles, Nashville, Tennessee.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 27 public bills, H.R. 7002–7028; and 3 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 82; and H. Res. 970–971, were introduced. **Pages H187–188**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H189–190**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 969, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6914) to require institutions of higher education to disseminate information on the rights of, and accommodations and resources for, pregnant students, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6918) to prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from restricting funding for pregnancy centers; and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 957) denouncing the Biden administration’s open-borders policies, condemning the national security and public safety crisis along the southwest border, and urging President Biden to end his administration’s open-borders policies (H. Rept. 118–350).

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Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Estes to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H149**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal by voice vote. **Page H165**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:32 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H152**

Recess: The House recessed at 1:02 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. **Page H164**

Recess: The House recessed at 3:18 p.m. and reconvened at 4:30 p.m. **Page H175**

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

Recruiting Families Using Data Act of 2023: H.R. 3058, amended, to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve foster and adoptive parent recruitment and retention, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 403 yeas to 9 nays, Roll No. 12. **Pages H173–174**

Denouncing the Biden administration's open-borders policies, condemning the national security and public safety crisis along the southwest border, and urging President Biden to end his administration's open-borders policies: The House agreed to H. Res. 957, denouncing the Biden administration's open-borders policies, condemning the national security and public safety crisis along the southwest border, and urging President Biden to end his administration's open-borders policies, by a ye-a-and-nay vote of 225 yeas to 187 nays, Roll No. 13.

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H. Res. 969, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 6914) and (H.R. 6918) and the resolution (H. Res. 957) was agreed to by a ye-a-and-nay vote of 198 yeas to 194 nays, Roll No. 11.

Pages H164–165

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three ye-a-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages S164–165, S175–176, and S176.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Committee Meetings

STRENGTHENING AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS LEADERSHIP WITH OPEN RADIO ACCESS NETWORKS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled “Strengthening American Communications Leadership with Open Radio Access Networks”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

A THREAT TO EVERY COMMUNITY: ASSESSING THE SAFETY, HEALTH, AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF PRESIDENT BIDEN'S BORDER POLICIES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “A Threat to Every Community: Assessing the Safety, Health, and Economic Consequences of President Biden's Border Policies”. Testimony was heard from Inna Vernikov, Councilwoman, New York City Council, New York; and public witnesses.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCING OF NUCLEAR ENERGY

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions held a hearing entitled “International Financing of Nuclear Energy”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE FLOW OF U.S. MONEY INTO CHINA'S MILITARY MIGHT

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Examining the Flow of U.S. Money into China's Military Might”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PROTECTING EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Indo-Pacific held a hearing entitled “Protecting Emerging Technologies for Peace and Stability in the Indo-Pacific”. Testimony was heard from Nathaniel Fick, Ambassador at Large, Bureau of Cyber-space and Digital Policy, Department of State; C.S. Eliot Kang, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, Department of State; and Thea D. Rozman Kendler, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, Department of Commerce.

SAFEGUARDING DISSIDENT VOICES: ADDRESSING TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION THREATS TO HOMELAND SECURITY

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence held a hearing entitled “Safeguarding Dissident Voices: Addressing Transnational Repression Threats to Homeland Security”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1246, to authorize leases of up to 99 years for land held in trust for federally recognized Indian tribes; H.R. 2950, the “Coastal Habitat Conservation Act of 2023”; H.R. 5482, the “Energy Poverty Prevention and Accountability Act of 2023”; H.R. 5770, the “Water Data Improvement Act”; H.R. 5874, to amend the United States-Mexico Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Act to reauthorize the United States-Mexico transboundary aquifer assessment program; H.R. 6443, the “Jamul Indian Village Land Transfer Act”; H.R. 6474, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to expedite geothermal exploration and development in previously studied or developed areas; and H.R. 6492, the “EXPLORE Act”. H.R. 1246, H.R. 6443, and H.R. 6474 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 2950, H.R. 5482, H.R. 5770, H.R. 5874, and H.R. 6492 were ordered reported, as amended.

THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S REGULATORY AND POLICYMAKING EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE U.S. IMMIGRATION LAW

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Biden Administration’s Regulatory and Policymaking Efforts to Undermine U.S. Immigration Law”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

TOWARD AN AI-READY WORKFORCE

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation held a hearing entitled “Toward an AI-Ready Workforce”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

RETURNING TO THE MOON: KEEPING ARTEMIS ON TRACK

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics held a hearing entitled “Returning to the Moon: Keeping Artemis on Track”. Testimony was heard from Catherine Koerner, Associate Administrator, Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; William Russell, Director, Contracting and National Security Acquisitions, Government Accountability Office; George A. Scott, Acting Inspector General, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and a public witness.

THE STATE OF TRANSPORTATION

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The State of Transportation”. Testimony was heard from Stephen A. Edwards, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, Virginia Port Authority; Roger Millar, Secretary of Transportation, Washington State Department of Transportation; and public witnesses.

VA REVOLVING FUNDS: ARE VETERANS BEING SHORTCHANGED

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “VA Revolving Funds: Are Veterans Being Shortchanged”. Testimony was heard from Teresa Riffel, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Financial Management Business Transformation, Financial Management Business Transformation Services, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Julie Matta, Deputy General Counsel, Government Accountability Office.

PATHWAYS TO INDEPENDENCE: SUPPORTING YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Work and Welfare held a hearing entitled “Pathways to Independence: Supporting Youth Aging Out of Foster Care”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Joint Economic Committee: Committee concluded a hearing to examine policy approaches to increasing the supply of affordable housing, focusing on rebuilding the American Dream, after receiving testimony from Jenn Lopez, Project Moxie, Durango, Colorado; Jenny Schuetz, Brookings Metro, and Tobias J. Peter, American Enterprise Institute, both of Washington, D.C.; and Salim Furth, George Mason University Mercatus Center, Arlington, Virginia.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine national security challenges, focusing on outpacing China in emerging technology, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: business meeting to consider S. 1863, to require the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study and submit a report on the greenhouse gas emissions intensity of certain products produced in the United States and in certain foreign countries, S. 2781, to promote remediation of abandoned hardrock mines, S. 3412, to redesignate the Richard H. Poff Federal Building located at 210 Franklin Road Southwest in Roanoke, Virginia, as the “Reuben E. Lawson Federal Building”, S. 3570, to designate the United States courthouse located at 500 West Pike Street in Clarksburg, West Virginia, as the “Irene M. Keeley United States Courthouse”, and S. 3577, to designate the Federal building located at 300 E. 3rd Street in North Platte, Nebraska, as the “Virginia Smith Federal Building”, 10:30 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to receive a closed briefing from the Secretary of State, 1:45 p.m., SVC-217.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine addressing long COVID, focusing on advancing research and improving patient care, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider the nominations of Seth Robert Aframe, of New Hampshire, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, Nicole G. Berner, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, Joshua Paul Kolar, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, Adeel Abdullah Mangi, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Jacquelyn D. Austin, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, Amy M. Baggio, and Mustafa Taher Kasubhai, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Oregon, Jacqueline Becerra, Melissa Damian, and David Seymour Leibowitz, each to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, Cristal C. Brisco, and Gretchen S. Lund, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana, Edward Sunyol Kiel, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, Eumi K. Lee, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, Sarah French Russell, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, Kirk Edward Sherriff, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, Julie Simone Sneed, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, Joseph Albert Laroski, Jr., of Maryland, and Lisa W. Wang, of the District of Columbia, both to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, Ramona Villagomez Manglona, to be Judge for the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, and Deborah Robinson, of New Jersey, to be Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

House

Committee on the Budget, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 5779, the “Fiscal Commission Act of 2023”; H.R. 6952, the “Fiscal State of the Nation Act”; and H.R. 6957, the “Debt-to-GDP Transparency and Stabilization Act”, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and Workforce, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, hearing entitled “Preparing Students for Success in the Skills-Based Economy”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security, hearing entitled “Fueling America’s Economy: Legislation to Improve Safety and Expand U.S. Pipeline Infrastructure”, 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce, hearing entitled “NIL Playbook: Proposal to Protect Student Athletes’ Dealmaking Rights”, 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Oversight of the SEC’s Proposed Climate Disclosure Rule: A Future of Legal Hurdles”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, hearing entitled “The Myth of the New

Cuban Entrepreneurs: An Analysis of the Biden Administration’s Cuba Policy”, 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Voices for the Victims: The Heartbreaking Reality of the Mayorkas Border Crisis”, 9:30 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, markup on Ratification of Subcommittee Assignments; H.R. 5736, the “Federal Accountability in Interviews Reform Act”; H.R. 1508, the “Traveler’s Gun Rights Act”; H.R. 1709, the “Tribal Firearm Access Act”; H.R. 5585, the “Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act”; H.R. 6976, the “Protect Our Communities from DUIs Act”; H.R. 6678, the “Consequences for Social Security Fraud Act”; and H.R. 6679, the “No Immigration Benefits for Hamas Terrorists Act”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Reporting for Duty: Examining the Impacts of the Department of the Interior’s Remote and Telework Policies”, 10:15 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, hearing on H.R. 897, the “Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act”; H.R. 3925, the “Youth Coastal Fishing Program Act of 2023”; H.R. 5441, the “Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act of 2023”; and H.R. 6235, the “Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2023”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing on H.R. 6062, to restore the ability of the people of American Samoa to approve amendments to the territorial constitution based on majority rule in a democratic act of self-determination, as authorized pursuant to an Act of Congress delegating administration of Federal territorial law in the territory to the President, and to the Secretary of the Interior under Executive Order 10264, dated June 29, 1951, under which the Constitution of American Samoa was approved and may be amended without requirement for further congressional action, subject to the authority of Congress under the Territorial Clause in article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the United States Constitution; and H.R. 6273, the “Guam Host Community Compensation Act”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs, hearing entitled “The Next Generation: Empowering American Nuclear Energy”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Unleashing Main Street’s Potential: Examining Avenues to Capital Access”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, hearing entitled “Oversight and Examination of Railroad Grade Crossing Elimination and Safety”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

11 a.m., Thursday, January 18

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, January 18

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 2872, Amending the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act (the legislative vehicle for the Continuing Resolution).

At 12:30 p.m., Senate will vote on or in relation to Paul Amendment No. 1384, Marshall motion to commit, and Braun Amendment No. 1382, with each subject to 60-affirmative votes required for adoption, with the exception of the Marshall motion to commit.

Following disposition of the amendments and motion listed, Murray Amendment No. 1381, in the nature of a substitute, be agreed to, and Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended, with 60-affirmative votes required for passage.

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 6914—Pregnant Students' Rights Act.

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