

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session and stands adjourned until 3:30 p.m. on Friday, February 16, 2024.

### Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

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## House of Representatives

### Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 17 public bills, H.R. 7345–7361; and 3 H. Res. 1011–1013, were introduced. **Pages H637–38**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Page H639**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows: H.R. 3162, (H. Rept. 118–389); and H.R. 1796, to improve individual assistance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–390, Part 1). **Page H637**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Greene (GA) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H585**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 11:08 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H594**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 2:12 p.m. and reconvened at 3:45 p.m. **Page H610**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure: Condemning rape and sexual violence committed by Hamas in its war against Israel: H. Res. 966, condemning rape and sexual violence committed by Hamas in its war against Israel, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  ye-and-nay vote of 418 yeas with none voting “nay” and one answering “present”, Roll No. 44. **Pages H612–16**

**Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2024—Rule for Consideration:** The House agreed to H. Res. 1009, providing consideration of the bill (H.R. 7176) to repeal restrictions on the export and import of natural gas, by a recorded vote of 212 yeas

to 208 noes, Roll No. 46, after the previous question was ordered by a ye-and-nay vote of 212 yeas to 206 nays, Roll No. 45. **Pages H603–10, H616–17**

**SALT Marriage Penalty Elimination Act and Denouncing the harmful, anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration—Rule for Consideration:** The House failed to agree to H. Res. 994, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7160) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the limitation on the amount certain married individuals can deduct for State and local taxes, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 987) denouncing the harmful, anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration, by a recorded vote of 195 yeas to 225 noes, Roll No. 48, after the previous question was ordered by a ye-and-nay vote of 213 yeas to 209 nays, Roll No. 47. **Pages H595–H603, H617–18**

**Suspension—Proceedings Resumed:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Tuesday, February 13th.

**Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act:** H.R. 3202, amended, to prohibit any official action to recognize or normalize relations with any Government of Syria that is led by Bashar al-Assad, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  ye-and-nay vote of 389 yeas to 32 nays, Roll No. 49. **Pages H618–19**

**Suspension—Proceedings Postponed:** The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

*Strengthening the Quad Act:* H.R. 5375, amended, to require a strategy for bolstering engagement and cooperation between the United States, Australia, India, and Japan and to seek to establish a Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate closer cooperation on shared interests and values.

Pages H610–12

**Committee Resignation:** Read a letter from Representative Gomez wherein he resigned from the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

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**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Four yea-and-nay votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H615, H616, H616–17, H617–18, H618, and H618–19.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING TESTIMONY FROM THE HONORABLE THOMAS J. VILSACK, SECRETARY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

*Committee on Agriculture:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “For the Purpose of Receiving Testimony from The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture”. Testimony was heard from Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary, Department of Agriculture.

### THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE’S BUDGET AND ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

*Committee on the Budget:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Congressional Budget Office’s Budget and Economic Outlook”. Testimony was heard from Phillip Swagel, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

### EXAMINING THE POLICIES AND PRIORITIES OF THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION

*Committee on Education and Workforce:* Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a hearing entitled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Wage and Hour Division”. Testimony was heard from Jessica Looman, Administrator, Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

### LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO SUPPORT PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Legislative Proposals to Support Patients and Caregivers”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### POWERED UP: STATE UTILITY REGULATORS ON CHALLENGES TO RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE ELECTRICITY

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security held a hearing entitled “Powered Up: State Utility Regulators on Challenges to Reliable, Affordable Electricity”. Testimony was heard from Keith Hay, Senior Director of Policy, Colorado Energy Office; Jim Huston, Chairman, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission; Nick Myers, Commissioner, Arizona Corporation Commission; and Tricia Pridemore, Commissioner, Georgia Public Service Commission.

### OVERSIGHT OF THE FINANCIAL CRIMES ENFORCEMENT NETWORK AND THE OFFICE OF TERRORISM AND FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE

*Committee on Financial Services:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) and the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence (TFI)”. Testimony was heard from Brian E. Nelson, Undersecretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, Department of the Treasury; and Andrea Gacki, Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Department of the Treasury.

### AUKUS IMPLEMENTATION AND CHALLENGES TO INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL IN THE 21ST CENTURY

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “AUKUS Implementation and Challenges to International Security and Arms Control in the 21st Century”. Testimony was heard from Bonnie D. Jenkins, Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, Department of State.

### IRAN’S PROXY IN YEMEN: THE HOUTHİ THREAT TO MIDDLE EAST STABILITY, GLOBAL SHIPPING, AND U.S. SERVICEMEMBERS

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia held a hearing entitled “Iran’s Proxy in Yemen: The Houthi Threat to Middle East Stability, Global Shipping, and U.S. Servicemembers”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### THE FUTURE OF FREEDOM IN NIGERIA

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Subcommittee on Africa held a hearing entitled “The Future of Freedom in Nigeria”. Testimony was heard from Frank Wolf, Commissioner, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom; and public witnesses.

**MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

*Committee on House Administration:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 4486, the “Hiring Preference for Veterans and Americans with Disabilities Act”; H.R. 7319, the “End Zuckerbucks Act of 2024”; and H.R. 7321, the “Electronic Filing of Electioneering Communication Reports Act”. H.R. 4486 and H.R. 7319 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 7321 was ordered reported, without amendment.

**OVERSIGHT OF THE UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the United States Marshals Service”. Testimony was heard from Ronald L. Davis, Director, U.S. Marshals Service, Department of Justice.

**LEGISLATIVE MEASURES**

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a hearing on H.R. 3119, to provide for the issuance of a Manatee Semipostal Stamp; H.R. 6784, the “ESA Flexibility Act”; H.R. 6854, the “Habitat Enhancement Now Act”; and H.R. 7157, the “Strengthen Wood Product Supply Chains Act”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Duarte, Stauber, Soto, and Fischbach; Stephen Guertin, Deputy Director for Policy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

**REFORMING INTELLIGENCE AND SECURING AMERICA ACT**

*Committee on Rules:* Full Committee began a hearing on H.R. 7320, the “Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act”. Testimony was heard from Chairman Jordan and Representative Nadler.

**ISS AND BEYOND: THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF AMERICAN LOW-EARTH ORBIT ACTIVITIES**

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:* Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics hearing entitled “ISS and Beyond: The Present and Future of American Low-Earth Orbit Activities”. Testimony was heard from Kenneth Bowersox, Associate Administrator, Space Operations Mission Directorate, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Robert J. Ferl, Co-Chair, Committee on Biological and Physical Sciences in Space, The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; and public witnesses.

**MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE**

*Committee on Small Business:* Full Committee held a markup on the Committee’s Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2025. The Committee’s Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2025 passed.

**BURDENSOME REGULATIONS: EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF EPA REGULATIONS ON MAIN STREET**

*Committee on Small Business:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Burdensome Regulations: Examining the Impact of EPA Regulations on Main Street”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**VA’S HR OFFICE: DID LEADERS IGNORE AND PERPETRATE SEXUAL HARASSMENT?**

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “VA’s HR Office: Did Leaders Ignore and Perpetrate Sexual Harassment?”. Testimony was heard from Denis McDonough, Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs; Cassandra Law, Assistant Secretary, Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security and Preparedness, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses. Part of this hearing was closed.

**IS VA ILLEGALLY SPENDING TAXPAYER DOLLARS IN ITS COMPENSATION AND PENSION PROGRAMS?**

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:* Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing entitled “Is VA Illegally Spending Taxpayer Dollars in its Compensation and Pension Programs?”. Testimony was heard from Ronald S. Burke, Jr., Deputy Under Secretary for Policy and Oversight, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Lasheco Graham, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Financial Management, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Brent E. Arronte, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations, Office of Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs.

***Joint Meetings***

No joint committee meetings were held.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024**

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

## House

*Committee on Armed Services*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Outpacing China: Expediting the Fielding of Innovation”, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

*Committee on Education and Workforce*, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, hearing entitled “Protecting American Savers and Retirees from DOL’s Regulatory Overreach”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce*, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “Securing Communications Networks from Foreign Adversaries”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials, hearing entitled “Safeguarding American Prosperity and People’s Livelihoods: Legislation to Modernize Air Quality Standards”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services*, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy, hearing entitled “Lender of Last Resort: Issues with the Fed Discount Window and Emergency Lending”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Digital Assets, Financial Technology and Inclusion, hearing entitled “Crypto Crime in Context Part II: Examining Approaches to Combat Illicit Activity”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Behind the Scenes: How the Biden Administration Failed to Enforce the Doha Agreement”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

*Committee on Homeland Security*, Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology, hearing entitled “Examining Fire Hazards: Lithium-Ion Batteries and Other Threats to Fire Safety”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

*Committee on the Judiciary*, Full Committee markup on H.R. 4848, the “Censorship Accountability Act”; H.R. 2595, the “Forfeiture Funds Expenditure Transparency Act”; H.R. 6824, the “NICS Data Reporting Act”; H.R. 7335, the “Transparency in National Security Threats Act”; H.R. 7322, the “Standing Up to the Executive branch for Immigration Enforcement Act”; H.R. 7343, the “Detain and Deport Illegal Aliens Who Assault Cops Act”; H.R. 7334, the “Detain and Deport Illegal Aliens Who Commit Robbery Act”; H.R. 7326, to amend chapters 4, 10, and 131 of title 5, United States Code, as necessary to keep those chapters current and to correct related technical errors; H.R. 7324, to make improvements in the enactment of title 41, United States Code, into a positive law title and to improve the Code; H.R. 7341, to make technical amendments to title 49, United States

Code, as necessary to improve the Code; H.R. 7339, to make revisions in Title 51, United States Code, as necessary to keep the title current, and to make technical amendments to improve the United States Code; and H.R. 7316, to make improvements in the enactment of title 54, United States Code, into a positive law title and to correct related technical errors, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources*, Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing entitled “Economic Diversification to Create Prosperous Tribal Economies”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Bidenomics and Land Management: The Misguided National Strategy to Develop Environmental Economic Decisions”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Accountability*, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, hearing entitled “Assessing America’s Vaccine Safety Systems, Part 1”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs, hearing entitled “The Consequences of Catch and Release at the Border”, 1 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Examining Federal Science Agency Actions to Secure the U.S. Science and Technology Enterprise”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

*Committee on Small Business*, Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure, hearing entitled “Leveling the Playing Field: Challenges Facing Small Business Contracting”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, hearing entitled “Implementation of Buy America Provisions: Stakeholder Perspectives”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs*, Subcommittee on Technology Modernization, hearing entitled “Electronic Health Record Modernization Deep Dive: Can the Oracle Pharmacy Software Be Made Safe and Effective?”, 8 a.m., 360 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Artificial Intelligence at VA: Exploring its Current State and Future Possibilities”, 10 a.m., 360 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing entitled “Sink or Swim? A Deep Dive into the Current State of VA’s Home Loan Program in a Competitive Market”, 1:30 p.m., 360 Cannon.

*Committee on Ways and Means*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Hearing with Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, Daniel Werfel”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

3:30 p.m., Friday, February 16

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

10 a.m., Thursday, February 15

## Senate Chamber

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

## House Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** Consideration of H.R. 7176—Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2024.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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