

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.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 41 public bills, H.R. 7362–7402; and 6 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 91; and H. Res. 1014–1018, were introduced. **Pages H677–79**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H681–82**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Miller (IL) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H641**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:49 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H646**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Pastor Zach Terry, First Baptist Church, Fernandina Beach, Florida. **Page H646**

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

Uyghur Policy Act: H.R. 2766, amended, to support the human rights of Uyghurs and members of other minority groups residing primarily in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and safeguard their distinct identity, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 414 yeas to 6 nays, Roll No. 50; and **Pages H659–60**

Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Conflict Act: H.R. 533, amended, to amend the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 to modify certain provisions of that Act, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 392 yeas to 28 nays, Roll No. 53. **Pages H661–62**

Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2024: The House passed H.R. 7176, to repeal restrictions on the export and import of natural gas, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 224 yeas to 200 nays, Roll No. 52. **Pages H649–59, H660–61**

Rejected the Watson Coleman motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Commerce by a yeas-and-nays vote of 209 yeas to 213 nays, Roll No. 51. **Pages H660–61**

H. Res. 1009, the rule providing consideration of the bill (H.R. 7176) was agreed to yesterday, February 14th.

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Wednesday, February 14th.

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, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 379 yeas to 39 nays, Roll No. 54. **Pages H662–63**

Work Period Designation: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated the period from Thursday, February 15, 2024, through Tuesday, February 27, 2024, as a “district work period” under section 3(z) of House Resolution 5. **Page H663**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five yeas-and-nays votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H659–60, H660, H661, H661–62, and H662–63.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Committee Meetings

OUTPACING CHINA: EXPEDITING THE FIELDING OF INNOVATION

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Outpacing China: Expediting the Fielding of Innovation”. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Defense officials: William LaPlante, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment; Heidi Shyu, Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering; and Doug Beck, Director of the Defense Innovation Unit.

PROTECTING AMERICAN SAVERS AND RETIREES FROM DOL’S REGULATORY OVERREACH

Committee on Education and Workforce: Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions held a hearing entitled “Protecting American Savers and Retirees from DOL’s Regulatory Overreach”. Testimony was heard from Doug Ommen, Insurance Commissioner, Iowa Insurance Division; and public witnesses.

SECURING COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS FROM FOREIGN ADVERSARIES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled “Securing Communications Networks from Foreign Adversaries”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SAFEGUARDING AMERICAN PROSPERITY AND PEOPLE’S LIVELIHOODS: LEGISLATION TO MODERNIZE AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials held a hearing entitled “Safeguarding American Prosperity and People’s Livelihoods: Legislation to Modernize Air Quality Standards”. Testimony was heard from John Eunice, Deputy Director, Environmental Protection Division, Department of Natural Resources, Georgia; and public witnesses.

LENDER OF LAST RESORT: ISSUES WITH THE FED DISCOUNT WINDOW AND EMERGENCY LENDING

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy held a hearing entitled “Lender of Last Resort: Issues with the Fed Discount Window and Emergency Lending”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CRYPTO CRIME IN CONTEXT PART II: EXAMINING APPROACHES TO COMBAT ILLICIT ACTIVITY

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Digital Assets, Financial Technology and Inclusion held a hearing entitled “Crypto Crime in Context Part II: Examining Approaches to Combat Illicit Activity”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BEHIND THE SCENES: HOW THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION FAILED TO ENFORCE THE DOHA AGREEMENT

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Behind the Scenes: How the Biden Administration Failed to Enforce the Doha Agreement”. Testimony was heard from a public witness.

EXAMINING FIRE HAZARDS: LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES AND OTHER THREATS TO FIRE SAFETY

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology held a hearing entitled “Examining Fire Hazards: Lithium-Ion Batteries and Other Threats to Fire Safety”. Testimony was heard from Lori Moore-Merrell, U.S. Fire Administrator, U.S. Fire Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security; Daniel E. Flynn, Chief Fire Marshal, Fire Department, New York City, New York; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 6824, the “NICS Data Reporting Act”; H.R. 7322, the “Standing Up to the Executive branch for Immigration Enforcement 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. H.R. 6824 and H.R. 7322 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 7326, H.R. 7324, H.R. 7341, H.R. 7339, and H.R. 7316 were ordered reported, without amendment.

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION TO CREATE PROSPEROUS TRIBAL ECONOMIES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs held a hearing entitled “Economic Diversification to Create Prosperous Tribal Economies”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BIDENOMICS AND LAND MANAGEMENT: THE MISGUIDED NATIONAL STRATEGY TO DEVELOP ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMIC DECISIONS

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Bidenomics and Land Management: The Misguided National Strategy to Develop Environmental Economic Decisions”. Testimony was heard from Henry Wykowski, Advisor, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

ASSESSING AMERICA’S VACCINE SAFETY SYSTEMS, PART 1

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic held a hearing entitled “Assessing America’s Vaccine Safety Systems, Part 1”. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Health and Human Services officials: Daniel Jernigan, M.D., Director, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Peter Marks, M.D., Director, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration; and George Reed Grimes, M.D., Director, Division of Injury Compensation Programs, Health Resources and Services Administration.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF CATCH AND RELEASE AT THE BORDER

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs held a hearing entitled “The Consequences of Catch and Release at the Border”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING FEDERAL SCIENCE AGENCY ACTIONS TO SECURE THE U.S. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ENTERPRISE

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Examining Federal Science Agency Actions to Secure the U.S. Science and Technology Enterprise”. Testimony was heard from Arati Prabhakar, Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy; Rebecca Keiser, Chief of Research Security Strategy and Policy, National Science Foundation; Geri Richmond, Under Secretary for Science and Innovation, Department of Energy; and Michael Lauer, Deputy Director for Ex-

tramural Research, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services.

LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD: CHALLENGES FACING SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTING

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure held a hearing entitled “Leveling the Playing Field: Challenges Facing Small Business Contracting”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

IMPLEMENTATION OF BUY AMERICA PROVISIONS: STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a hearing entitled “Implementation of Buy America Provisions: Stakeholder Perspectives”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD MODERNIZATION DEEP DIVE: CAN THE ORACLE PHARMACY SOFTWARE BE MADE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE?

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Technology Modernization held a hearing entitled “Electronic Health Record Modernization Deep Dive: Can the Oracle Pharmacy Software Be Made Safe and Effective?”. Testimony was heard from Neil Evans, M.D., Acting Program Executive Director, Electronic Health Records Modernization Integration Office, Department of Veterans Affairs; David Case, Deputy Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs; and a public witness.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AT VA: EXPLORING ITS CURRENT STATE AND FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Artificial Intelligence at VA: Exploring its Current State and Future Possibilities”. Testimony was heard from Charles Worthington, Chief Technology Officer/Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer, Office of Information and Technology, Department of Veterans Affairs; Gil Alterovitz, Director, Veterans Affairs National Artificial Intelligence Institute, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Carolyn Clancy, M.D., Assistant Under Secretary for Health, Office of Discovery, Education and Affiliate Networks, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

SINK OR SWIM? A DEEP DIVE INTO THE CURRENT STATE OF VA'S HOME LOAN PROGRAM IN A COMPETITIVE MARKET

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing entitled "Sink or Swim? A Deep Dive into the Current State of VA's Home Loan Program in a Competitive Market". Testimony was heard from John E. Bell, Executive Director, Loan Guaranty Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

HEARING WITH COMMISSIONER OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, DANIEL WERFEL

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Hearing with Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, Daniel Werfel". Testi-

mony was heard from Daniel Werfel, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 16, 2024**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

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

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Friday, February 16

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.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Banks, Jim, Ind., E154
Blumenauer, Earl, Ore., E151
Connolly, Gerald E., Va., E149, E150, E152, E156
Davis, Danny K., Ill., E151, E156
DeLauro, Rosa L., Conn., E154
Fry, Russell, S.C., E155

Gallagher, Mike, Wisc., E154
Jackson Lee, Sheila, Tex., E149
Johnson, Henry C. "Hank", Jr., Ga., E153
LaMalfa, Doug, Calif., E153
Langworthy, Nicholas A., N.Y., E151
Leger Fernandez, Teresa, N.M., E155
McBath, Lucy, Ga., E153
McClain, Lisa C., Mich., E150

McClellan, Jennifer L., Va., E150, E155
Ross, Deborah K., N.C., E154
Ryan, Patrick, N.Y., E149, E155
Smucker, Lloyd, Pa., E152
Titus, Dina, Nev., E152
Valadao, David G., Calif., E155, E157
Wexton, Jennifer, Va., E154



Congressional Record

printed pursuant to directions of the Joint Committee on Printing as authorized by appropriate provisions of Title 44, United States Code, and published for each day that one or both Houses are in session, excepting very infrequent instances when two or more unusually small consecutive issues are printed one time. ¶Public access to the *Congressional Record* is available online through the U.S. Government Publishing Office, at www.govinfo.gov, free of charge to the user. The information is updated online each day the *Congressional Record* is published. For more information, contact the GPO Customer Contact Center, U.S. Government Publishing Office. Phone 202-512-1800, or 866-512-1800 (toll-free). E-Mail, contactcenter@gpo.gov. ¶To place an order for any of these products, visit the U.S. Government Online Bookstore at: bookstore.gpo.gov. Mail orders to: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 979050, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000, or phone orders to 866-512-1800 (toll-free), 202-512-1800 (D.C. area), or fax to 202-512-2104. Remit check or money order, made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or use VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or GPO Deposit Account. ¶Following each session of Congress, the daily *Congressional Record* is revised, printed, permanently bound and sold by the Superintendent of Documents in individual parts or by sets. ¶With the exception of copyrighted articles, there are no restrictions on the republication of material from the *Congressional Record*.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Superintendent of Documents, *Congressional Record*, U.S. Government Publishing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, along with the entire mailing label from the last issue received.