

# Daily Digest

## HIGHLIGHTS

Senate confirmed the nomination of John Ratcliffe, of Texas, to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S305–S341*

**Measures Introduced:** Forty bills and seven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 199–238, S.J. Res. 4–6, and S. Res. 31–34. **Pages S334–35**

#### Measures Passed:

**Washington University in St. Louis Bears Women's Soccer Team:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 34, congratulating the Washington University in St. Louis Bears women's soccer team for winning the 2024 NCAA Division III Women's Soccer Championship. **Page S329**

#### Measures Considered:

**Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 23, to impose sanctions with respect to the International Criminal Court engaged in any effort to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute any protected person of the United States and its allies. **Pages S307–10**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, 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 Sean Duffy, of Wisconsin, to be Secretary of Transportation. **Page S307**

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S307**

**Duffy Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Sean Duffy, of Wisconsin, to be Secretary of Transportation. **Page S307**

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 Scott Bessent, of South Carolina, to be Secretary of the Treasury. **Pages S310–18**

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S310**

**Hegseth Nomination—Agreement:** Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Peter Hegseth, of Tennessee, to be Secretary of Defense. **Page S318**

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

By 51 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. EX. 14), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S318**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Friday, January 24, 2025; and that all time during recess, adjournment, and Leader remarks count post-cloture. **Page S341**

**Nomination Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 74 yeas to 25 nays (Vote No. EX. 13), John Ratcliffe, of Texas, to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. **Pages S317–18**

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

By 72 yeas to 26 nays (Vote No. 12), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S310**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S333**

**Measures Referred:** **Page S333**

**Enrolled Bills Presented:** **Page S334**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Page S334**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S335–36**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S336–38**

**Additional Statements:** Pages S332–33

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** Page S341

**Quorum Calls:** One quorum call was taken today. (Total—2) Page S318

**Record Votes:** Three record votes were taken today. (Total—14) Pages S310, S317–18

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:11 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Friday, January 24, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S341.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### NOMINATION

*Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Brooke Rollins, of Texas, to be Secretary of Agriculture, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senators Cornyn and Cruz, testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Eric Turner, of Texas, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and adopted its rules of procedure for the 119th Congress.

Also, Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments for the 119th Congress:

*Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment:* Senators Rounds (Chair), Crapo, Kennedy, Lummis, Britt, Banks, Cramer, Moreno, Warner, Reed, Cortez Masto, Warnock, Kim, Blunt Rochester, and Alsobrooks.

*Subcommittee on National Security and International Trade and Finance:* Senators Hagerty (Chair),

Ricketts, Banks, McCormick, Kim, Van Hollen, and Cortez Masto.

*Subcommittee on Economic Policy:* Senators Kennedy (Chair), Rounds, Tillis, Ricketts, Banks, Warnock, Reed, Smith, and Blunt Rochester.

*Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development:* Senators Britt (Chair), Crapo, Rounds, Cramer, Moreno, McCormick, Smith, Van Hollen, Gallego, Blunt Rochester, and Alsobrooks.

*Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection:* Senators Tillis (Chair), Crapo, Kennedy, Hagerty, Lummis, Britt, Ricketts, Cramer, Cortez Masto, Reed, Warner, Warnock, Kim, Gallego, and Alsobrooks.

*Subcommittee on Digital Assets:* Senators Lummis (Chair), Tillis, Hagerty, Moreno, McCormick, Gallego, Warner, Van Hollen, and Smith.

*Senators Scott (SC) and Warren are ex officio members of each subcommittee.*

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Committee ordered favorably reported the Amendment of Rule 6(b) of the Committee Rules to establish the reporting quorum, and the nominations of Douglas Burgum, of North Dakota, to be Secretary of the Interior, and Christopher Wright, of Colorado, to be Secretary of Energy.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Lee Zeldin, of New York, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Douglas Collins, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

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# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 78 public bills, H.R. 641–718; and 9 resolutions, H.J. Res. 29; and H. Res. 57–64, were introduced.

Pages H383–87

**Additional Cosponsors:** Pages H389–90

**Reports Filed:** There were no reports filed today.

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Womack to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H303

**Recess:** The House recessed at 10:58 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. Page H309

**Guest Chaplain:** The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Chaplain Judy Malana, United

States Navy, Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies Staff, Washington, DC.

Pages H309–10

**Suspension—Proceedings Resumed:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Tuesday, January 21st.

*Requiring the Secretary of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address Rapid Ohia Death:* H.R. 375, to require the Secretary of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address Rapid Ohia Death, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yea-and-nay vote of 359 yeas to 62 nays, Roll No. 24. Page H346

*Fix Our Forests Act:* The House passed H.R. 471, to expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and improve forest management activities on National Forest System lands, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and on Tribal lands to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, by a yea-and-nay vote of 279 yeas to 141 nays, Roll No. 25.

Pages H312–35, H346–47

Agreed to:

Perry amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 119–1) that strikes carbon sequestration and ecosystem services prioritization from section 301 biochar demonstration projects; and Pages H333–34

Carbajal amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 119–1) that allows the U.S. Forest Services to approve the removal of hazardous trees near power lines on federal land without requiring a timber sale, easing a serious threat that has in the past been a major cause of destructive wildfires. Pages H334–35

H. Res. 53, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 471) and (S. 5) was agreed to yesterday, January 22nd.

*Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act:* The House passed H.R. 21, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion, by a yea-and-nay vote of 217 yeas to 204 nays with one answering “present”, Roll No. 27. Pages H335–45, H347–48

Rejected the Chu motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary by a yea-and-nay vote of 205 yeas to 216 nays, Roll No. 26.

Pages H347–48

H. Res. 5, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 21), was agreed to on Friday, January 3, 2025.

**Work Period Designation:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated the period from

Thursday, January 23, 2025, through Monday, February 3, 2025, as a “district work period” under clause 13 of rule 1. Page H348

**Quorum Calls Votes:** Four yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H346–H348.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

*Committee on Agriculture:* Full Committee held an organizational meeting. The Committee adopted its Rules for the 119th Congress, as amended. The Authorization and Oversight Plan and Bipartisan Staff List were adopted.

### ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

*Committee on Appropriations:* Full Committee held an organizational meeting. The Committee adopted its Rules and Subcommittee Jurisdictions for the 119th Congress.

### ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

*Committee on the Budget:* Full Committee held an organizational meeting. The Committee adopted its Rules and Oversight Plan for the 119th Congress.

### STRENGTHENING AMERICAN LEADERSHIP IN WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled “Strengthening American Leadership in Wireless Technology”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

*Committee on House Administration:* Full Committee held an organizational meeting. The Committee adopted its Rules, Subcommittee Members, Parking Policy, Resolution to Promulgate Regulations Regarding Mandatory Anti-Harassment and Anti-Discrimination Policies for House Offices, Resolution to Promulgate Regulations Regarding Displaying a Statement of Rights and Protections Provided to House Employees, Resolution to Promulgate Regulations Governing the House Retention through Educational Advancement Program for House Employees, and Resolution to Amend the Eligible Congressional Member Organization Handbook for the 119th Congress.

### LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a hearing on

H.R. 231, the “Colorado River Basin System Conservation Extension Act of 2025”; H.R. 261, the “Undersea Cable Protection Act of 2025”; H.R. 331, to amend the Aquifer Recharge Flexibility Act to clarify a provision relating to conveyances for aquifer recharge purposes; and legislation on the WaterSMART Access for Tribes Act. Testimony was heard from Representatives Hageman, Carter of Georgia, Fulcher, and Stansbury; Dwight Witherspoon, Attorney, Water Rights Unit, Navajo Nation Department of Justice; Wesley Hipke, Section Manager, Water Projects, Department of Water Resources, Idaho; and public witnesses.

#### AMERICA BUILDS: EXAMINING AMERICA’S FREIGHT AND PASSENGER RAIL NETWORK

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials held a hearing entitled “America Builds: Examining America’s Freight and Passenger Rail Network”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

#### CORRECTING VETERANS ADMINISTRATION’S VIOLATIONS OF VETERANS’ DUE PROCESS AND SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:* Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing entitled “Correcting VA’s Violations of Veterans’ Due Process and Second Amendment Rights”. Testimony was heard from Jordan B. Cohen, Analyst, Firearms Policy, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; and public witnesses.

### *Joint Meetings*

No joint committee meetings were held.

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#### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2025

*(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, January 24

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

9 a.m., Friday, January 24

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Friday:** Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Peter Hegseth, of Tennessee, to be Secretary of Defense, post-cloture.

At approximately 9 p.m., absent an agreement and if all time is used, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Peter Hegseth, to be followed by a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Kristi Noem, of South Dakota, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

## House Chamber

**Program for Friday:** House will meet in Pro Forma session at 9 a.m.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

## HOUSE

Amo, Gabe, R.I., E62  
 Carson, André, Ind., E64  
 Correa, J. Luis, Calif., E61, E66  
 Courtney, Joe, Conn., E61, E65  
 Estes, Ron, Kans., E65  
 Ezell, Mike, Miss., E64

Garamendi, John, Calif., E61, E63, E66  
 Garcia, Robert, Calif., E63  
 Jackson, Jonathan L., Ill., E65  
 Lieu, Ted, Calif., E62  
 McClain, Lisa C., Mich., E63  
 Nunn, Zachary, Iowa, E62  
 Omar, Ilhan, Minn., E65  
 Perry, Scott, Pa., E62

Pettersen, Brittany, Colo., E62  
 Schrier, Kim, Wash., E65  
 Sykes, Emilia Strong, Ohio, E61, E67  
 Veasey, Marc A., Tex., E64  
 Wagner, Ann, Mo., E63  
 Waters, Maxine, Calif., E65  
 Watson Coleman, Bonnie, N.J., E64



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