

# Daily Digest

## HIGHLIGHTS

Senate confirmed the nomination of Tulsi Gabbard, of Hawaii, to be Director of National Intelligence.

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S871–S956*

**Measures Introduced:** Twenty-six bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 532–557, and S. Res. 75–76. **Pages S929–30**

#### Measures Reported:

S. Res. 76, authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

**Page S929**

#### Measures Passed:

**Local Access to Courts Act:** Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. 32, to clarify where court may be held for certain district courts in Texas and California, and the bill was then passed. **Page S932**

**Kennedy, Jr. Nomination—Agreement:** Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services. **Pages S877–S923**

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

By 53 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 51), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S877**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, the post-cloture time with respect to the nomination of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. expire at 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, February 13, 2025; that following disposition of the nomination, the motion to invoke cloture with respect to the nomination of Brooke Rollins, of Texas, to be Secretary of Agriculture, be withdrawn, and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination, with no intervening action or debate; that following disposition of the nomination of Brooke Rollins, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Howard Lutnick, of New York, to be Secretary of Commerce, and Senate vote on the motion to invoke

cloture on the nomination at 1:45 p.m.; and if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Howard Lutnick, all time be considered expired, and Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Kelly Loeffler, of Georgia, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration, and if cloture is invoked on the nomination, all post-cloture time be expired; and that Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations of Howard Lutnick and Kelly Loeffler at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader, no earlier than Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

**Page S923**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, post-cloture, at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, February 13, 2025. **Page S932**

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

By 52 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. EX. 50), Tulsi Gabbard, of Hawaii, to be Director of National Intelligence. **Pages S871–77, S956**

**Measures Discharged:** **Pages S926–27**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S927–29**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Page S929**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S930–31**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S931–32**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S932**

**Privileges of the Floor:** **Page S932**

**Record Votes:** Two record votes were taken today. (Total—51) **Page S877**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 1:06 a.m., on Thursday, February 13, 2025, until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 13,

2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S932–33.)

## Committee Meetings

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on the Budget:* Committee ordered favorably reported an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2025 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2026 through 2034.

### THE ARCTIC AND GREENLAND

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Arctic and Greenland's geostrategic importance to U.S. interests, after receiving testimony from Jennifer Mercer, Section Head, Section for Arctic Sciences, Office of Polar Programs, Directorate for Geosciences, National Science Foundation; Alexander B. Gray, American Foreign Policy Council, and Rebecca Pincus, Wilson Center Polar Institute, both of Washington, D.C.; and Anthony Marchese, Texas Mineral Resources Corp., New York, New York.

### ADVANCING CARBON CAPTURE

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine advancing carbon capture, utilization and sequestration technologies and ensuring effective implementation of the USE IT Act, after receiving testimony from Kevin Connors, University of North Dakota Energy and Environmental Research Center, Grand Forks; Dan Yates, Ground Water Protection Council, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and Jack Andreasen Cavanaugh, Breakthrough Energy, Washington, D.C.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Finance:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Jamieson Greer, of Maryland, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Committee ordered favorably reported an original resolution (S. Res. 76) authorizing expenditures by the Committee for the 119th Congress.

Also, committee announced the following subcommittee assignments:

*Subcommittee on Education and the American Family:* Senators Tuberville (Chair), Paul, Murkowski, Scott,

Banks, Husted, Moody, Blunt Rochester, Murray, Kaine, Markey, Kim, and Alsobrooks.

*Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety:* Senators Mullin (Chair), Marshall, Scott, Hawley, Tuberville, Banks, Husted, Hickenlooper, Baldwin, Murphy, Kaine, Hassan, and Alsobrooks.

*Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security:* Senators Marshall (Chair), Paul, Collins, Murkowski, Mullin, Hawley, Banks, Husted, Moody, Markey, Murray, Baldwin, Murphy, Hassan, Hickenlooper, Kim, and Blunt Rochester.

*Senators Cassidy and Sanders are ex-officio members of each subcommittee.*

### NATIVE COMMUNITIES' PRIORITIES OVERSIGHT

*Committee on Indian Affairs:* Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine Native communities' priorities for the 119th Congress, after receiving testimony from Mark Macarro, National Congress of American Indians, William Smith, National Indian Health Board, Kerry D. Bird, National Indian Education Association, and Rodney Butler, Native American Finance Officers Association, all of Washington, D.C.; and Joseph Kuhio Lewis, Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, Kapolei, Hawaii.

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Todd Blanche, of Florida, to be Deputy Attorney General, and Abigail Slater, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, who was introduced by Representative Michael Simpson, both of the Department of Justice, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:* Committee ordered favorably reported S. 371, to require certain reports on small business disaster assistance to be published on the website of the Small Business Administration.

*Also, committee adopted its rules of procedure for the 119th Congress.*

*Committee recessed subject to the call, and will next meet on Thursday, February 13, 2025.*

### LONGEVITY

*Special Committee on Aging:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine optimizing longevity from research to action, after receiving testimony from Dan Buettner, Blue Zones, Miami, Florida; Rhonda Patrick, FoundMyFitness, San Diego, California; Eric Verdin, Buck Institute for Research on Aging, Novato, California; and Sarah C. Nosal, American

Academy of Family Physicians, New York, New York.

# House of Representatives

## *Chamber Action*

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 53 public bills, H.R. 1223–1275; and 22 resolutions, H.J. Res. 40–58; and H. Res. 126–128, were introduced.

**Pages H673–77**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Pages H678–79**

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

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Miller-Meeks to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

**Page H647**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 10:52 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m.

**Page H653**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 12:12 p.m. and reconvened at 3:31 p.m.

**Page H654**

**Midnight Rules Relief Act:** The House passed H.R. 77, to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for en bloc consideration in resolutions of disapproval for “midnight rules”, by a yea-and-nay vote of 212 yeas to 208 nays, Roll No. 41.

**Pages H654–63**

Rejected the Jacobs motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary by a yea-and-nay vote of 205 yeas to 213 nays, Roll No. 40.

**Pages H661–62**

H. Res 122, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 77) was agreed to yesterday, February 11th.

**Meeting Hour:** Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, February 13th.

**Page H673**

**Senate Message:** Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H654.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H662 and H662–63.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

## *Committee Meetings*

### **CAREER READY STUDENTS: INNOVATIONS FROM COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Career Ready Students: Innovations from Community Colleges and the Private Sector”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **PROTECTING AMERICAN INTERESTS IN A CONVERGENT GLOBAL THREAT ENVIRONMENT**

*Committee on Armed Services:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Protecting American Interests in a Convergent Global Threat Environment”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

*Committee on Education and Workforce:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1048, the “DETERRENT Act”; H.R. 649, the “Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025”; H.R. 1069, the “PROTECT Our Kids Act”; H.R. 1005, the “CLASS Act”; and H.R. 1049, the “Transparency in Reporting of Adversarial Contributions to Education Act”. H.R. 1048, H.R. 649, H.R. 1069, H.R. 1005, and H.R. 1049 were ordered reported, as amended.

### **AI IN MANUFACTURING: SECURING AMERICAN LEADERSHIP IN MANUFACTURING AND THE NEXT GENERATION OF TECHNOLOGIES**

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade held a hearing entitled “AI in Manufacturing: Securing American Leadership in Manufacturing and the Next Generation of Technologies”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **THE FEDERAL RESERVE’S SEMI-ANNUAL MONETARY POLICY REPORT**

*Committee on Financial Services:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Federal Reserve’s Semi-Annual Monetary Policy Report”. Testimony was heard

from Jerome H. Powell, Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

## **PART 2: COMMITTEE FUNDING FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS**

*Committee on House Administration:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Part 2: Committee Funding for the 119th Congress”. Testimony was heard from the following Chairmen: Thompson of Pennsylvania, Foxx, Arrington, Comer, Bost, Guthrie, Jordan, and Rogers of Alabama; and Representatives Craig, McGovern, Boyle of Pennsylvania, Connolly, Takano, Pallone, Raskin, and Smith of Washington.

### **THE CENSORSHIP-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Censorship-Industrial Complex”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 231, the “Colorado River Basin System Conservation Extension Act of 2025”; H.R. 249, to redesignate certain facilities at Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park in honor of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.; H.R. 302, the “Water Rights 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; H.R. 618, to amend the Apex Project, Nevada Land Transfer and Authorization Act of 1989 to include the City of North Las Vegas and the Apex Industrial Park Owners Association, and for other purposes; H.R. 1001, to provide for a memorandum of understanding to address the impacts of a certain record of decision on the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund; H.R. 1044, to amend Public Law 99–338 with respect to Kaweah Project permits; H.R. 1110, the “Grazing for Wildfire Risk Reduction Act”; and the Committee’s Authorization and Oversight Plan. H.R. 302, H.R. 231, H.R. 618, H.R. 1110, and H.R. 331 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 249, H.R. 1001, and H.R. 1044 were ordered reported, without amendment. The Authorization and Oversight Plan was adopted, as amended.

### **LEAVING INDIAN CHILDREN BEHIND: REVIEWING THE STATE OF BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION SCHOOLS**

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Leaving Indian Children Behind: Reviewing the State of BIE Schools”. Testimony was heard from Kathleen Sedney, Assistant Inspector General for Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations, Office of Inspector General, Department of the Interior; Melissa Emery-

Arras, Director for Education, Workforce, and Income Security Team, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

### **THE WAR ON WASTE: STAMPING OUT THE SCOURGE OF IMPROPER PAYMENTS AND FRAUD**

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform:* Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency held a hearing entitled “The War on Waste: Stamping Out the Scourge of Improper Payments and Fraud”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **FROM TRANSFORMATIVE SCIENCE TO TECHNOLOGICAL BREAKTHROUGHS: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY’S NATIONAL LABORATORIES**

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:* Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled “From Transformative Science to Technological Breakthroughs: DOE’s National Laboratories”. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Energy officials: John Wagner, Director, Idaho National Laboratory; Thom Mason, Director, Los Alamos National Laboratory; Paul Kearns, Director, Argonne National Laboratory; and Kimberly Budil, Director, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

### **DRIVING ECONOMIC GROWTH: SBA LENDING PROGRAMS AND THE VITAL ROLE OF COMMUNITY BANKS**

*Committee on Small Business:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Driving Economic Growth: SBA Lending Programs and the Vital Role of Community Banks”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **AMERICA BUILDS: A REVIEW OF PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS ROADWAY SAFETY**

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a hearing entitled “America Builds: A Review of Programs to Address Roadway Safety”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: EVALUATING VA COMMUNITY CARE**

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:* Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Roles and Responsibilities: Evaluating VA Community Care”. Testimony was heard from Sharon Silas, Director, Health Care Team, Government Accountability Office; Julie Kroviak, Principal Deputy Assistant Inspector General, Office of Healthcare Inspections, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs; Steven Braverman, Chief Operating Officer, Veterans

Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1155, the “Recovery of Stolen Checks Act”; H.R. 997, the “National Taxpayer Advocate Enhancement Act of 2025”; H.R. 998, the “Internal Revenue Service Math and Taxpayer Help Act”; H.R. 1152, the “Electronic Filing and Payment Fairness Act”; and H.R. 1156, the “Pandemic Unemployment Fraud Enforcement Act”. H.R. 1155, H.R. 997, H.R. 998, H.R. 1152, and H.R. 1156 were ordered reported, as amended.

## Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

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### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

#### Senate

*Committee on Armed Services:* to hold hearings to examine the posture of United States Northern Command and United States Southern Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2026 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC-217, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* to hold hearings to examine navigating Syria policy after Assad, 10:30 a.m., SD-419.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Linda McMahon, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education, 10 a.m., SD-562.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 119th Congress; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine eliminating waste by the foreign aid bureaucracy, 10 a.m., SD-342.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* business meeting to consider S. 331, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and the nomination of Kashyap Patel, of Nevada, to be Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, 9 a.m., SD-216.

*Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:* business meeting to continue consideration of S. 298, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to relocate 30 percent of the employees assigned to headquarters to duty stations outside the Washington metropolitan area, and S. 300, to improve accountability in the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration, Time to be announced, S-216, Capitol.

#### House

*Committee on the Budget,* Full Committee, markup on Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs,* Full Committee, hearing entitled “The USAID Betrayal”, 8:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

9:30 a.m., Thursday, February 13

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

9 a.m., Thursday, February 13

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 10:30 a.m. Following disposition of the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Brooke Rollins, of Texas, to be Secretary of Agriculture.

At 1:45 p.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Howard Lutnick, of New York, to be Secretary of Commerce, and on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Kelly Loeffler, of Georgia, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

## House Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** Consideration of H.R. 35—Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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