

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate confirmed the nomination of Jamieson Greer, of Maryland, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1361–S1412

Measures Introduced: Twenty-seven bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 735–761, and S. Res. 98–100. **Pages S1396–97**

Measures Passed:

Black History Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 99, celebrating Black History Month. **Page S1391**

Measures Failed:

Energy National Emergency Declaration: By 47 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 95), Senate failed to pass S.J. Res. 10, terminating the national emergency declared with respect to energy, after Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged from further consideration.

Pages S1364–67, S1367–83, S1383–90

Measures Considered:

Waste Emissions Charge for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems—Agreement: Senate began consideration of S.J. Res. 12, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Waste Emissions Charge for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems: Procedures for Facilitating Compliance, Including Netting and Exemptions”. **Pages S1390–91**

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

By 52 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. 96), Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to consideration of the joint resolution. **Pages S1390–91**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the joint resolution at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, February 27, 2025; that at 12 noon, all time be expired, and if the Senate receives H.J. Res. 35, Senate vote on passage of the House joint resolution, as provided

under the CRA; and that upon disposition of the joint resolution, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Linda McMahon, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education, and that Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination at 1:45 p.m. **Page S1402**

Appointments:

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that a correction to an appointment made on February 25, 2025, be printed in the *Record*:

British-American Interparliamentary Group Conference: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and upon recommendation of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, as amended, appointed the following Senator as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the British-American Interparliamentary Group Conference during the 119th Congress: Senator Whitehouse. **Page S1391**

Board of Trustees of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 100–458, sec. 114(b)(2)(c), the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development for a six-year term: Thomas Daffron of Maine. **Page S1391**

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control: The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99–93, as amended by Public Law 99–151, appointed the following Senators as members of the United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control: Senators Whitehouse (Vice Chairman), Blumenthal, and Luján. **Page S1391**

Vote Change—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senator Bennet be permitted to change his vote on Roll Call

Vote No. 89 from yea to nay, since it will not affect the outcome. **Page S1383**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 56 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 94), Jamieson Greer, of Maryland, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.

Pages S1367, S1412

Messages from the House: **Page S1396**

Measures Referred: **Page S1396**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1397–98**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S1398–S1402

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S1402**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S1402**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—96) **Pages S1367, S1390, S1390–91**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:56 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 27, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1402.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine perspectives from the field, focusing on farmer and rancher views on the agricultural economy, after receiving testimony from Tim Boring, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Stockbridge; Bret Erickson, J and D Produce Inc., Edinburg, Texas, on behalf of the International Fresh Produce Association; Jeremy Hinton, Kentucky Horticulture Council, Hodgenville, on behalf of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation; Anna Murphree Rhinewalt, Sandy Ridge Farms, Inc., Senatobia, Mississippi, on behalf of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation and the Mississippi Sweet Potato Council; and Benjamin Etcheverry, New Mexico Chile Association, Deming.

DIGITAL ASSETS

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Digital Assets concluded a hearing to examine bipartisan legislative frameworks for digital assets, after receiving testimony from Lewis Rinaudo Cohen, Cahill Gordon and Reindel LLP, Washington, D.C.; Jonathan Jachym, Kraken, San Francisco, California; Jai Massari, Lightspark, West

Hollywood, California; and Timothy G. Massad, Harvard Kennedy School Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine interdicting illicit drug trafficking, focusing on a view from the front lines, after receiving testimony from Shannon Kelly, Assistant Director Office of Homeland Interdiction and Supply Disruption, Office of National Drug Control Policy; Rear Admiral Adam A. Chamie, Assistant Commandant for Response Policy, U.S. Coast Guard, and Jonathan P. Miller, Executive Assistant Commissioner, Air and Marine Operations, Customs and Border Protection, both of the Department of Homeland Security; Kevin Hall, Spokane Police Department, Spokane, Washington; and Jena Ehlinger, Texas.

IJA IMPLEMENTATION

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act implementation and case studies, after receiving testimony from Russell R. McMurry, Georgia Department of Transportation, Atlanta, on behalf of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials; Gary Johnson, Granite Construction Inc., Cedar Park, Texas; and Michael A. Carroll, Philadelphia Office of Transportation and Infrastructure, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on behalf of the National Association of City Transportation Officials.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Dean Sauer, of Missouri, to be Solicitor General of the United States, and Harmeet Dhillon, of California, and Aaron Reitz, of Texas, both to be an Assistant Attorney General, all of the Department of Justice, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

7(A) LOAN PROGRAM

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine managing risk for the long-term in the 7(a) loan program, focusing on hearing from lenders, after receiving testimony from Timothy M. Fitzgibbon, First National Bank, West Des Moines, Iowa; Raymond Lanza-Weil, Common Capital, Inc., Springfield, Massachusetts; Itzel Sims, First Security Bank, Little Rock, Arkansas; and Mayrena Guerrero, Colorful Resilience LLC, West Springfield, Massachusetts.

BUSINESS MEETING

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee adopted its rules of procedure for the 119th Congress.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine combating the opioid epidemic, after receiving testimony from Sheriff Dennis M. Lemma, Seminole County Sheriff's Office, Sanford, Florida; Greg Duckworth, Raleigh County Commissioner, Beckley, West Virginia; Malik Burnett, American Society of Addiction Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland; and Bradley D. Stein, RAND, and Elizabeth Mateer, both of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 55 public bills, H.R. 1588–1642; and 3 resolutions, H.J. Res. 62; and H. Res. 166–167, were introduced.

Pages H876–79

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H880–81

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative LaMalfa to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H839

Recess: The House recessed at 10:42 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m.

Page H843

Recess: The House recessed at 1:23 p.m. and reconvened at 3:30 p.m.

Page H854

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

Directing the Joint Committee on the Library to procure a statue of Benjamin Franklin for placement in the Capitol: H.R. 250, to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to procure a statue of Benjamin Franklin for placement in the Capitol;

Pages H854–55

Semiquincentennial Congressional Time Capsule Act: H.R. 469, to provide for the creation of a Congressional time capsule in commemoration of the semiquincentennial of the United States; and

Pages H855–57

Medal of Honor Act: H.R. 695, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the rate of the special pension payable to Medal of Honor recipients, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-may vote of 424 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 51.

Pages H857–59

Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule

submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Waste Emissions Charge for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems: Procedures for Facilitating Compliance, Including Netting and Exemptions”: The House passed H.J. Res. 35, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Waste Emissions Charge for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems: Procedures for Facilitating Compliance, Including Netting and Exemptions”, by a yea-and-nay vote of 220 yeas to 206 nays with one answering “present”, Roll No. 52.

Pages H846–53, H859–60

H. Res. 161, the rule providing for consideration of the joint resolutions (H.J. Res. 20) and (H.J. Res. 35), and the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 14) was agreed to yesterday, February 25th.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, February 27th.

Page H860

Senate Referral: S.J. Res. 11 was held at the desk.

Page H853

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate appears on page H853.

Quorum Calls Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H859 and H859–60.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Committee Meetings**AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE PUBLIC WITNESS HEARING DAY 2**

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a

hearing entitled “American Indian and Alaska Native Public Witness Hearing Day 2”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FEDERAL INVESTMENTS IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Federal Investments in Elementary Education”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE PUBLIC WITNESS HEARING DAY 2

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “American Indian and Alaska Native Public Witness Hearing Day 2”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held an oversight hearing on the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Testimony was heard from Kathleen Toomey, Associate Deputy Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice.

STRENGTHENING AMERICA’S DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE, WORKFORCE, AND PRODUCTION LINES TO DETER WAR

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Strengthening America’s Defense Industrial Base, Workforce, and Production Lines to Deter War”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE ROLE OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS IN GREAT POWER COMPETITION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations held a hearing entitled “The Role of Special Operations in Great Power Competition”. Testimony was heard from Lieutenant General Jonathan P. Braga, U.S. Army, Commander, U.S. Army Special Operations Command; Lieutenant General Michael E. Conley, U.S. Air Force, Commander, Air Force Special Operations Command; Major General Peter D. Huntley, U.S. Marine Corps, Commander, Marine Forces Special Operations Command; and Rear Admiral Milton J. Sands III, U.S. Navy, Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command.

UNLEASHING AMERICA’S WORKFORCE AND STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY

Committee on Education and Workforce: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Unleashing America’s

Workforce and Strengthening Our Economy”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

AN EXAMINATION OF HOW REINING IN PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGERS WILL DRIVE COMPETITION AND LOWER COSTS FOR PATIENTS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “An Examination of How Reining in PBMs Will Drive Competition and Lower Costs for Patients”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION’S ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT SPENDING PUSH

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Examining the Biden Administration’s Energy and Environment Spending Push”. Testimony was heard from Jonathan Black, Chief Advisor for Strategic Planning and Program Oversight, Office of Inspector General, Department of Energy; J. Alfredo Gomez, Director, Natural Resources and Environment Team, Government Accountability Office; Nicole Murley, Acting Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, Environmental Protection Agency; and Frank Rusco, Director, Natural Resources and Environment Team, Government Accountability Office.

THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN CAPITAL: STRENGTHENING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MARKETS BY INCREASING INVESTOR ACCESS AND FACILITATING CAPITAL FORMATION

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Capital Markets held a hearing entitled “The Future of American Capital: Strengthening Public and Private Markets by Increasing Investor Access and Facilitating Capital Formation”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a markup on the Committee’s Authorization and Oversight Plan; H.R. 1000, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for education and training programs and resources of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; H. Res. 113, directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to transmit to the House of Representatives certain documents relating to Department of Homeland Security policies and activities related to the security of Department information and data and the recruitment and retention of its workforce; and H.

Res. 114, directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to transmit to the House of Representatives certain documents relating to Department of Homeland Security policies and activities related to domestic preparedness and collective response to terrorism and the Department's cybersecurity activities. H.R. 1000, H. Res. 113, and H. Res. 114 were ordered reported, without amendment. The Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan was agreed to, as amended.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 875, the "Protect Our Communities from DUIs Act"; H.R. 176, the "No Immigration Benefits for Hamas Terrorists Act"; H.R. 1071, the "No Censors on our Shores Act"; and the Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan. H.R. 1071, H.R. 875, and H.R. 176 were ordered reported, as amended. The Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan was adopted.

EVALUATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT AND THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a hearing entitled "Evaluating the Implementation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEADING THE CHARGE: OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN AMERICA'S ENERGY RELIABILITY

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs held a hearing entitled "Leading the Charge: Opportunities to Strengthen America's Energy Reliability". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

AMERICA LAST: HOW FOREIGN AID UNDERMINED U.S. INTERESTS AROUND THE WORLD

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency held a hearing entitled "America Last: How Foreign Aid Undermined U.S. Interests Around the World". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

STEP BY STEP: THE ARTEMIS PROGRAM AND NASA'S PATH TO HUMAN EXPLORATION OF THE MOON, MARS, AND BEYOND

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics held a hearing entitled "Step by Step: The Artemis Program and

NASA's Path To Human Exploration of the Moon, Mars, and Beyond". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FOSTERING AMERICAN INNOVATION: INSIGHTS INTO SBIR AND STTR PROGRAMS

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Fostering American Innovation: Insights into SBIR and STTR Programs". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a markup on the Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan; H.R. 1182, the "Compressed Gas Cylinder Safety and Oversight Improvements Act of 2025"; H. Con. Res. 9, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition; H.R. 501, the "Promoting Resilient Buildings Act of 2025"; H.R. 744, the "Disaster Management Costs Modernization Act"; and H.R. 1382, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to San Francisco Bay restoration, and for other purposes. H.R. 1182, H. Con. Res. 9, and H.R. 744 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 501 and H.R. 1382 were ordered reported, as amended. The Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan was adopted.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1491, the "Disaster Related Extension of Deadlines Act"; H.R. 517, the "Filing Relief for Natural Disasters Act"; and H.J. Res. 25, disapproving the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service related to "Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales". H.R. 1491 and H.R. 517 were ordered reported, as amended. H.J. Res. 25 was ordered reported, without amendment.

Joint Meetings

LEGISLATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Joint Hearing: Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs concluded a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of The American Legion, Minority Veterans of America, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., National Association of County Veterans Services Officers, Military Officers Association of America, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families, and Wounded Warrior Project,

after receiving testimony from James LaCoursiere, Jr., Joe Sharpe, Matthew Jabaut, Matthew Shuman, Julia Mathis, John Bowen, and Cole Lyle, all of the American Legion; Command Sergeant Major Gary Ginsburg, USA (Ret.), Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A.; Lindsay Church, Minority Veterans of America; Michael McLaughlin, National Association of County Veterans Services Officers; Commander Rene A. Campos, USN (Ret.), Military Officers Association of America; Timothy Sheppard, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs; Raymond Toenniessen, Syracuse University D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families; and Walter E. Piatt, Wounded Warrior Project.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of John Phelan, of Florida, to be Secretary of the Navy, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to receive a closed briefing on global nuclear and missile threats, 11:45 a.m., SVC-217.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Stephen Miran, of New York, to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, Jeffrey Kessler, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security, William Pulte, of Florida, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and Jonathan McKernan, of Tennessee, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: business meeting to consider the nomination of Steven Bradbury, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation, and routine lists in the Coast Guard, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, Freight, Pipelines, and Safety, to hold hearings to examine cargo theft, focusing on the threat to consumers and the U.S. supply chain, 10:30 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to consider the nomination of Lori Chavez-DeRemer, of Oregon, to be Secretary of Labor, and other pending calendar business, 9:30 a.m., SD-562.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Keith Sonderling, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor, 10 a.m., SD-562.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: business meeting to consider the nominations of Troy Edgar, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, and James Bishop, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, 9 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 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, both of the Department of Justice, 9 a.m., SH-216.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "American Indian and Alaska Native Public Witness Hearing Day 3", 9 a.m., 2008 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, hearing entitled "Protecting Victims of Human Trafficking and Online Exploitation", 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, February 27

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Thursday, February 27

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of S.J. Res. 12, Waste Emissions Charge for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems, and vote on passage of the joint resolution at 12 noon.

Following disposition of the joint resolution, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Linda McMahon, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 1:45 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.J. Res. 20—Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Gas-fired Instantaneous Water Heaters”.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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