

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

(Legislative Day of Tuesday, October 21, 2025)

(Senate continued in session from Tuesday, October 21, 2025)

#### *Routine Proceedings, pages S7587–S7704*

**Measures Introduced:** Seven bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 3027–3033, and S. Res. 462. **Page S7699**

#### **Measures Reported:**

S. 1318, to direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a program to identify American-Jewish servicemembers buried in United States military cemeteries overseas under markers that incorrectly represent their religion and heritage. (S. Rept. No. 119–89)

S. 778, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require a lactation space in each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2392, to increase, effective as of December 1, 2025, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans. **Page S7699**

#### **Measures Considered:**

**Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act:** Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 5371, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026. **Pages S7695–96**

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

By 54 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 581), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Pages S7695–96**

Senator Thune entered a motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill.

**Page S7696**

**Global Tariffs—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that notwith-

standing Rule XXII, at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, following consultation with the Democratic Leader, no later than Friday, October 31, 2025, it be in order to discharge the Committee on Finance of S.J. Res. 88, terminating the national emergency declared to impose global tariffs, and Senate proceed to its consideration; that there be up to 6 hours for debate only on the joint resolution with the time equally divided between the Leaders or their designees; and that following the use or yielding back of that time, Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution. **Page S7701**

**Shutdown Fairness Act—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, the motion to invoke cloture with respect to the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 3012, to appropriate funds for pay and allowances of excepted Federal employees for periods of work performed during a lapse in appropriations, ripen at 12:15 p.m., on Thursday, October 23, 2025; that following disposition of that vote, Senate execute the order of Wednesday, October 22, 2025, with respect to the nomination of Stephen Chad Meredith, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky; and that the motions to invoke cloture with respect to the nomination of Rebecca L. Taibleson, of Wisconsin, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit ripen following disposition of the nomination of Stephen Chad Meredith. **Pages S7703–04**

**Lewis and Meredith Nominations—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Bill Lewis, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama, and Stephen Chad Meredith, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky, all post-cloture time be expired and Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader, no earlier than Thursday, October 23, 2025. **Page S7695**

**Lewis Nomination:** Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Bill Lewis, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama. **Page S7696**

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

By 60 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. EX. 582), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S7696**

**Meredith Nomination:** Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Stephen Chad Meredith, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky. **Pages S7696–97**

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

By 52 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 583), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S7696–97**

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

By 52 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 584), William W. Mercer, of Montana, to be United States District Judge for the District of Montana. **Pages S7697, S7701**

**Nomination Withdrawn:** Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Paul Ingrassia, of New York, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel, for the term of five years, which was sent to the Senate on June 16, 2025. **Page S7701**

**Measures Discharged:** **Pages S7698–99**

**Measures Placed on the Calendar:** **Page S7703**

**Measures Read the First Time:** **Pages S7699, S7701**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Page S7699**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S7699–S7700**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Page S7700**

**Additional Statements:** **Page S7698**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S7701**

**Record Votes:** Four record votes were taken today. (Total—584) **Pages S7696–97**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m., on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, and adjourned at 7:02 p.m., on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, to then reconvene at 7:03 p.m., on the same day, and adjourned at 7:05 p.m., until 10 a.m., on Thursday, October 23, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S7703–04.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Stephen Carmel, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration, who was introduced by Senator Kelly, Laura DiBella, of Florida, and Robert Harvey, of Florida, both to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner, and Timothy Petty, of Indiana, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, who was introduced by Senator Risch, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Mitch Graves, and Jeff Hagood, both of Tennessee, who were introduced by Senators Blackburn and Hagerty, Randall Jones, of Alabama, who was introduced by Senator Tuberville, and Arthur Graham, of Florida, each to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 2960, to develop economic tools to deter aggression by the People's Republic of China against Taiwan, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2130, to make improvements to the AUKUS partnership, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2424, to require a report of, and a strategy to combat, arms sales of the Government of the People's Republic of China, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1744, to amend the Arms Export Control Act to include Taiwan among the list of recipient countries with respect to which shorter certification and reporting periods apply and to expedite licensing for allies transferring military equipment to Taiwan, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2626, to strengthen the leadership role of the United States at the Inter-American Development Bank, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2146, to require the United States Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund to advocate for increased transparency with respect to exchange rate policies of the People's Republic of China, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2950, to require the Secretary of State and relevant executive branch agencies to address international scam compounds defrauding people in the United States, to hold significant transnational criminal organizations accountable, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2550, to provide for international cooperation to secure critical mineral supply chains, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1854, to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to political and economic elites in Haiti, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2657, to impose sanctions relating to the support of the People's Republic of China for the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2018, to modify certain limitations and exclusions regarding defense articles and requirements regarding security assistance and sales with respect to the Republic of Cyprus, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 799, to establish and implement a multi-year Legal Gold and Mining Partnership Strategy to reduce the negative environmental and social impacts of illicit gold mining in the Western Hemisphere, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2684, to support countries in Latin America and the Caribbean that maintain official diplomatic relations with Taiwan, to counter efforts by the People's Republic of China to coerce or pressure governments into breaking such ties, to deepen coordination with Taiwan on diplomatic, development, and economic engagement in the Western Hemisphere, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2224, to amend the Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019 to provide that the United States, in its role as a member of any international organizations, should oppose any attempts by the People's Republic of China to resolve Taiwan's status by distorting the decisions, language, policies, or procedures of any such organization;

S. 2918, to amend the Rebuilding Economic Prosperity and Opportunity for Ukrainians Act to improve the implementation of the seizure of Russian sovereign assets for the benefit of Ukraine;

S. 1000, to establish an Ambassador-at-Large for Arctic Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. Res. 409, recognizing the 74th anniversary of the signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Philippines and the strong bilateral security alliance between our two nations in the wake of escalating aggression and political lawfare by the People's Republic of China in the South China Sea;

S. 2978, to provide for the designation of the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. Res. 226, condemning the Government of the People's Republic of China for engaging in transnational repression; and

The nominations of Joel Rayburn, of Oklahoma, to be an Assistant Secretary (Near Eastern Affairs) (without recommendation), and Andrew Veprek, of Louisiana, to be an Assistant Secretary (Population, Refugees, and Migration), both of the Department of State.

## LABOR LAW REFORM

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine labor law reform part 2, focusing on new solutions for finding a pro-worker way forward, after receiving testimony from Thomas Beck, Littler Mendelson Workplace Policy Institute, Nashville, Tennessee; F. Vincent Vernuccio, Institute for the American Worker, Hamilton, Virginia; Jonathan S. Hartley, Stanford University, Stanford, California; Joshua C. Arnold, Boeing Defense, St. Louis, Missouri; and Mary Turner, National Nurses United, Plymouth, Minnesota.

## NOMINATIONS

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Andrew Duva, of Florida, to be an Assistant Attorney General, William J. Crain, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, and Alexander C. Van Hook, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

## BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of John Bartrum, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health.

## MODERNIZING HEALTH CARE

*Special Committee on Aging:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine modernizing health care, focusing on how shoppable services improve outcomes and lower costs, after receiving testimony from Mark Cuban, Cost Plus Drugs, Dallas, Texas; G. Keith

Smith, Surgery Center of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, on behalf of the Free Market Medical Association; Donald B. Moulds, CalPERS, Sacramento, California;

and Jeanne M. Lambrew, The Century Foundation, New York, New York.

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# House of Representatives

## *Chamber Action*

The House was not in session today. The House will meet in Pro Forma session at 2 p.m. on Friday, October 24, 2025.

## *Committee Meetings*

No hearings were held.

## *Joint Meetings*

No joint committee meetings were held.

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### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

#### Senate

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight, to hold hearings to examine the beneficial use and regulation of chemicals, 10:30 a.m., SD-562.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Amer Ghalib, of Michigan, to be

Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, Brent Christensen, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and Benjamin Leon, Jr., of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Principality of Andorra, all of the Department of State, 10:30 a.m., SD-419.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* to hold hearings to examine the 340B program, focusing on examining its growth and impact on patients, 10 a.m., SD-430.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Edward Forst, of Florida, to be Administrator of General Services, Charles Arrington, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term expiring July 1, 2030, John Cuong Truong, Elana S. Suttenberg, and Stephen F. Rickard, each to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years, William Kirk, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Small Business Administration, Anthony D'Esposito, of New York, to be Inspector General, Department of Labor, and Platte Moring, of South Carolina, to be Inspector General, Department of Defense, 10 a.m., SD-342.

#### House

No hearings are scheduled.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

10 a.m., Thursday, October 23

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

2 p.m., Friday, October 24

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 12:15 p.m.), Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 3012, Shutdown Fairness Act. Following which Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Stephen Chad Meredith, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky. Following disposition of the nomination of Stephen Chad Meredith, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Rebecca L. Taibleson, of Wisconsin, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

## House Chamber

**Program for Friday:** House will meet Pro Forma session at 2 p.m.



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