INTRODUCTION OF THE McINTIRE-STENNIS ACT DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA EQUALITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 23, 2026

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the McIntire-Stennis Act District of Columbia Equality Act, which would make the District of Columbia eligible for funding under the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act (Act) in the same manner as states.

The Act provides funding to states and certain territories for forestry research programs. The funding assists states and territories in carrying out forestry research programs at state forestry schools and colleges and developing a trained pool of forest scientists capable of conducting forestry research.

D.C. residents pay the same federal taxes as residents of states and therefore D.C. is almost always treated as a state under federal programs. The Act defines "State" to include Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam, whose residents do not pay full federal taxes. D.C.'s exclusion from the Act makes it ineligible for funding that would support research at D.C.'s public university, the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). The College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences at UDC, the Nation's only urban land-grant university, offers programs that complement D.C.'s ongoing forestry efforts and serve individuals in D.C. and beyond. Rectifying D.C.'s exclusion from the Act would ensure equal treatment for D.C. and provide UDC a fair share of resources.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 24, 2026 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 25

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Stevan Pearce, of New Mexico, to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management, Kyle Haustveit, of North Dakota, to be Under Secretary of Energy, and David LaCerte, of Louisiana, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

SD–366

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine Water Resources Development Act of 2026, focusing on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects, programs, and priorities.

SD–562

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Casey Means, of California, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, subject to qualifications therefor as provided by law and regulations, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service for a term of four years.

SD–430

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine certain pending nominations.

SD–G50

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine from fraud to recovery, focusing on restoring integrity in small business programs.

SR–428A

3 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH–219

FEBRUARY 26

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Mark Ditlevson, of Minnesota, and Brian Birdwell, of Texas, both to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

SD–G50

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine FDA bureaucracy, focusing on regulator to roadblock.

SH–216

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine an update from the Prudential regulators, focusing on rightsizing regulation to promote American opportunity.

SD–538

Committee on Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing on tech competition, critical minerals, and supply chain security.

SVC–217

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 1602, to coordinate Federal research and development efforts focused on modernizing mathematics in STEM education through mathematical and statistical modeling, including data-driven and computational thinking, problem, project, and performance-based learning and assessment, interdisciplinary exploration, and career connections, S. 1558, to require a standard financial aid offer form, S. 3747, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to recognize students who have completed secondary school education in a home school setting as high school graduates, S. 1782, to prohibit discrimination on the basis of mental or physical disability in cases of organ transplants, S. 1552, to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors, S. 3315, to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to coordinate to improve cybersecurity in the health care and public health sectors, and other pending business.

SD–430

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider H.R. 6719, to prohibit threats to a minor, S. 3398, to amend title 18, United States Code, to criminalize intentional threats to distribute child sexual abuse material, and to provide appropriate penalties for the use of child sexual abuse material to extort or coerce victims, S. 3397, to make coercion of children to commit harm a criminal offense, S. 3394, to direct the United States Sentencing Commission to amend the sentencing guideline relating to child sexual abuse material, S. 3798, to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish criminal offenses with respect to violations involving ATMs, regardless of whether the ATM is located on the physical premises of a financial institution, and the nomination of Gregory Gilmore, to be United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois.

SD–106

MARCH 3

10 a.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of Veterans of Foreign Wars and multi VSOs.

SD–G50

MARCH 4

10 a.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion and multi VSOs.

SD–G50