

Robert is a champion for Kentucky businesses, tirelessly pushing for significant incentives that attract investment to the Commonwealth. These include lowering the State income tax, providing tax credits to the entertainment industry, and a host of other policies, all of which have helped foster a business-friendly atmosphere in Kentucky. And it is worth noting that all of President Stivers' legislative wins have been accompanied by an impressive stewardship of taxpayer dollars, ensuring Kentuckians are being served by good government and not losing their hard-earned dollars to wasteful spending.

Kentucky's bourbon industry has President Stivers as a close ally in the legislature. He helped change the State tax code to ease costs for the bourbon industry and change the flow of revenue so that our signature industry's success drives other sectors of Kentucky's economy, including education. Economic development in Kentucky is rapidly increasing, and when we search for those to thank, we should look no further than Robert Stivers.

In his role, he has also worked to elevate Kentucky's profile in national legislative organizations. He has served as chair of the Southern Legislative Conference, chair of the Council of State Governments, and as chair of the Senate Presidents Forum. In 2015, he was recognized by *Governing Magazine* as Public Official of the Year.

President Stivers leads with integrity every day, and while his portfolio proves an incredibly successful career, Robert's character is what distinguishes him the most. As a good listener and collaborator, he helps resolve disputes among his colleagues to make sure that minor disagreements refrain from blocking monumental progress. This is what it takes to make things happen, and Robert exemplifies this type of leadership all the time.

As a prudent advocate for Kentucky, Robert has been an invaluable partner in my work in the U.S. Senate. I have always seen it as my duty to ensure Kentucky punches above its weight in securing Federal funding, and I have had the pleasure of working with Senator Stivers on these efforts for many years. I am grateful for Robert's friendship and his steadfast leadership in the Kentucky State Senate. He is a trusted adviser, and I am honored to work with him on behalf of our constituents.

There is no doubt that Robert's work has made Kentucky a better place and has set our Commonwealth up for tremendous success. I know his family, and especially his four children, are incredibly proud of what he has been able to accomplish. So once again, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Robert Stivers for becoming the longest serving State senate leader in Kentucky history. ●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to

the Senate by Ms. Holstead, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 4064. A bill to provide for a system of regulation of the offer and sale of digital commodities by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and for other purposes.

#### PRIVILEGED NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On request by Senator TINA SMITH, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Irving Dennis, of Ohio, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2969. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Kuwait in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-117) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2970. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Australia in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-116) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2971. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Japan in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-111) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2972. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Depart-

ment of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Norway in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-107) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2973. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Germany, Greece, Netherlands, Poland, and Luxembourg in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-095) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2974. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Japan in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-115) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2975. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Ukraine in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-127) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2976. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Ukraine in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-139) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2977. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 3(d)(3) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed transfer of major defense equipment procured under a foreign military sale from the Government of Norway to the Government of Ukraine in the amount of \$14,000,000 or more (RSAT Case 25-11473) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2978. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to the Republic of Korea in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-123) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2979. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to

section 36(b)(1) and 36(c)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act, the Memorandum of Justification, to authorize the immediate transfer and licensing of U.S.-origin defense articles to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2980. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Sweden in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-140) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2981. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Federal Vacancies Reform Act, changes that occurred as of March 1, 2026, and Notification on Departures of Chiefs of Mission that occurred as of March 1, 2026"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CRUZ, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2563. A bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, to conduct an interagency review of and report to Congress on ways to increase the global competitiveness of the United States in attracting foreign direct investment (Rept. No. 119-116).

### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CRUZ for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

\*Matthew Anderson, of Colorado, to be Deputy Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

\*Michael Graham, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2030.

\*Richard Kloster, of West Virginia, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2028.

\*Seval Oz, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

\*Arvind Raman, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology.

\*Coast Guard nomination of Rear Adm. (lh) Jason P. Tama, to be Rear Admiral.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORD on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Coast Guard nominations beginning with Hillary R. Adams and ending with Joshua J.

Zirbes, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 13, 2026. (minus 2 nominees: Wade E. Arnold; Jason Y. Ryu)

\*Coast Guard nomination of Jesse M. Millard, to be Captain.

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Melissa Holyoak, of Utah, to be United States Attorney for the District of Utah for the term of four years.

Phillip Williams, Jr., of Alabama, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama for the term of four years.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. KIM):

S. 4068. A bill to establish an AmeriCorps Administration to carry out the national and volunteer service programs, to expand participation in such programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 4069. A bill to direct the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish definitions, standards, resources, and frameworks to ensure certain biological datasets are ready for use in artificial intelligence models, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 4070. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to cover physician services delivered by podiatric physicians to ensure access by Medicaid beneficiaries to appropriate quality foot and ankle care, to amend title XVIII of such Act to modify the requirements for diabetic shoes to be included under Medicare, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 4071. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a Business Child Care Liaison within the Internal Revenue Service; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHMITT:

S. 4072. A bill to reauthorize Agricultural and Food Policy Research Centers; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 4073. A bill making continuing appropriations for essential Transportation Security Administration pay and operations during the lapse in appropriations beginning on February 14, 2026, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 4074. A bill to make continuing appropriations for essential Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency pay and operations in the event of a Federal Government

shutdown, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 4075. A bill to make continuing appropriations for Federal Emergency Management Agency pay and operations in the event of a Federal Government shutdown, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 4076. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate the 190-day lifetime limit on inpatient psychiatric hospital services under the Medicare Program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 4077. A bill to ensure secure transport of Department of Defense freight, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 4078. A bill to amend section 5316 of title 31, United States Code, to include concerning money instruments relating to certain countries in reports under that section, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. GALLEGO (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. MCCORMICK):

S. 4079. A bill to establish in U.S. Customs and Border Protection a pilot program to adopt dogs from local animal shelters to be trained as support dogs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:

S. 4080. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide bonus depreciation for long-term residential rental housing; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. KIM, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GALLEGO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 4081. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to ensure that certain caregiving employees are no longer exempted from overtime and minimum wage protections; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. LEE, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 4082. A bill to implement reforms relating to foreign intelligence surveillance authorities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. KELLY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KIM, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. 4083. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make certain modifications in relation to the taxation of income required to fund basic living expenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SHEEHY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 4084. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to establish a working group to review and establish guidance and best practices for responding to electric vehicle fires, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.