

“(i) a high level of drought;
“(ii) a reliance on reservoirs for water storage;

“(iii) a reliance on hydrologic storage, including groundwater, aquifers, and snowpack; and

“(iv) flooding and extreme rainfall.”; and

(C) in paragraph (7)—

(i) by striking “There are authorized to be appropriated” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) DERIVATION OF FUNDS.—Amounts made available to carry out this subsection shall be derived from amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the United States Geological Survey.”.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 6; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Simmons nomination; further, that the Senate execute the order of December 18 with respect to the Simmons nomination at 11:30 a.m.; further, that the Senate recess following disposition of the Simmons nomination until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings; finally, at 2:20 p.m., the Senate execute the order of December 18 with respect to the Bailey nomination.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the vote on the Bass nomination.

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 which were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2025, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 26, 2025, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ADRIAN SMITH) has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 1823. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Comptroller General of the United States to report on certain funding shortfalls in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 4323. An act to provide for the vacating of certain convictions and expungement of certain arrests of victims of human trafficking.

H.R. 4446. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the conditions under which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is required to redevelop the individualized vocational rehabilitation plan for a veteran, and for other purposes.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY) announced that on today, January 5, 2026, he had signed the following enrolled bills, which were previously signed by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ADRIAN SMITH) of the House:

H.R. 1823. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Comptroller General of the United States to report on certain funding shortfalls in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 4323. An act to provide for the vacating of certain convictions and expungement of certain arrests of victims of human trafficking.

H.R. 4446. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the conditions under which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is required to redevelop the individualized vocational rehabilitation plan for a veteran, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-2351. A communication from the President of the United States to the President pro tempore of the United States Senate, transmitting, consistent with the War Powers Resolution, a report relative to targeted and limited military strikes on January 3, 2026, within the territory of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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 Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. JUSTICE, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 3580. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make cost-share grants for

retrofitting agricultural tractors with roll-over protection structures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 101. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sales to Taiwan of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 691

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 691, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to improve the administration of antidumping and countervailing duty laws, and for other purposes.

S. 912

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 912, a bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to publish, on an annual basis, an assessment of United States dependency on critical agricultural products or inputs from the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

S. 1532

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1532, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 1677

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1677, a bill to provide health insurance benefits for outpatient and inpatient items and services related to the diagnosis and treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 1709

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1709, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish direct care registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratio requirements in hospitals, and for other purposes.

S. 1876

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1876, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to relocate a memorial honoring the 9 Air Force crew members who lost their lives in an airplane crash in the Cherokee and Nantahala National Forests during a training mission on August 31, 1982.

S. 1969

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1969, a bill to amend the

Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 to establish an additional reporting requirement, and for other purposes.

S. 2179

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2179, a bill to prohibit the use of M-44 devices, commonly known as "cyanide bombs", on public land, and for other purposes.

S. 2203

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2203, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to build safer, thriving communities, and save lives, by investing in effective community-based violence reduction initiatives, and for other purposes.

S. 2329

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2329, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect beneficiaries with limb loss and other orthopedic conditions by providing access to appropriate, safe, effective, patient-centered orthotic and prosthetic care, to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse with respect to orthotics and prosthetics, and for other purposes.

S. 2738

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2738, a bill to establish eligibility requirements for covered educational employees under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, and for other purposes.

S. 3145

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 3145, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to require the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to test a comprehensive alternative response for emergencies model under the Medicare program.

S. 3345

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3345, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure accurate payments to pharmacies under Medicaid and prevent the use of abusive spread pricing in Medicaid, and to assure pharmacy access and choice for Medicare beneficiaries and modernize and ensure PBM accountability under Medicare.

S.J. RES. 98

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 98, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United

States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against Venezuela that have not been authorized by Congress.

S.J. RES. 100

At the request of Mr. GALLEG0, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 100, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against vessels operating in the Caribbean Sea or the Eastern Pacific Ocean that have not been authorized by Congress.

AMENDMENT NO. 4056

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4056 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4016, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4148. Mr. MARSHALL (for Mr. SCOTT of Florida) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 320, to authorize the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977, and for other purposes.

SA 4149. Mr. MARSHALL (for Mr. SCOTT of Florida) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1626, to reauthorize the National Landslide Preparedness Act, and for other purposes.

SA 4150. Mr. GALLEG0 submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4148. Mr. MARSHALL (for Mr. SCOTT of Florida) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 320, to authorize the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 10. FUNDING CONTROLS.

Section 12 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7706), as amended by section 9, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(e) FUNDING.—Funds used by an agency to carry out this Act may, as provided in advance in appropriations Acts, only come from amounts authorized to be appropriated to that agency.

"(f) DEFICIT REDUCTION.—Any amount appropriated to an account of a Federal agency for the Federal agency to carry out a responsibility under this Act that is cancelled pursuant to section 1552(a) of title 31, United States Code, shall be transferred to the general fund of the Treasury and be applied to deficit reduction."

SA 4149. Mr. MARSHALL (for Mr. SCOTT of Florida) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1626, to reauthorize the National Landslide Preparedness Act, and for other purposes; as follows:

In section 3(b), add at the end the following:

(13) DEFICIT REDUCTION.—Section 3 of the National Landslide Preparedness Act (43

U.S.C. 3102) is amended by striking subsection (j) (as redesignated by paragraph (9)(A)) and inserting the following:

"(j) FUNDING; DEFICIT REDUCTION.—

"(1) FUNDING.—Funds used by an agency to carry out this section may, as provided in advance in appropriations Acts, only come from amounts authorized to be appropriated to that agency.

"(2) DEFICIT REDUCTION.—Any amount appropriated to an account of a Federal agency for the Federal agency to carry out a responsibility under this section that is cancelled pursuant to section 1552(a) of title 31, United States Code, shall be transferred to the general fund of the Treasury and be applied to deficit reduction."

SA 4150. Mr. GALLEG0 submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be obligated or expended for the use of military force, the conduct of hostilities, or the preparation for war against or with respect to Greenland.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Keith Bass, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

VOTE ON BASS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Bass nomination?

Mr. MARSHALL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT