



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 172

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026

No. 17

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026

(Legislative day of Thursday, January 15, 2026)

The Senate met at 3 p.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable KATIE BOYD BRITT, a Senator from the State of Alabama.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, known to us in countless ways and times without number, we turn to You that in Your light we might see light.

Lord, so much pain, grief, and despair exists in our world. Give us Your balm, comfort, and hope. As our lawmakers work, help them to see the role they can play in doing Your will on Earth. As they become more aware of Your presence, may their lives experience the splendor, wisdom, and strength that You alone can give. May they not forget that You are still their mighty fortress, a bulwark never failing.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 26, 2026.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KATIE BOYD BRITT, a Senator from the State of Alabama, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. BRITT thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2025, the Secretary of the Senate, on January 21, 2026, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 6938. An act making consolidated appropriations, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2025, the enrolled bill was signed on January 22, 2026, during the recess of the Senate, by the President pro tempore.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 659. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals to give priority to individuals with certain professional experience in recommending such individuals to serve as members of the Board of Veterans' Appeals, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1663. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Officer, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1834. An act to advance policy priorities that will break the gridlock.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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H.R. 2988. An act to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to specify requirements concerning the consideration of pecuniary and nonpecuniary factors, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3496. An act to amend the Small Business Act for microloan eligibility for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5763. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to modify the criteria for loans for plant acquisition, construction, conversion or expansion, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5764. An act to amend the Small Business Act to require small business development centers to assist small business concerns with the use of artificial intelligence, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5784. An act to amend the Small Business Act to help small business concerns critically evaluate artificial intelligence tools, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5788. An act to amend title V of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to require an annual portfolio risk analysis of loans guaranteed under such title, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6359. An act to require institutions of higher education to disseminate information on the rights of, and accommodations and resources for, pregnant students, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6945. An act to amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to clarify the authority of States to use funds for pregnancy centers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7147. An act making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7148. An act making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res 140. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to Public Land Order No. 7917 for Withdrawal of Federal Lands; Cook, Lake, and Saint Louis Counties, MN.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 659. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals to give priority to individuals with certain professional experience in recommending such individuals to serve as members of the Board of Veterans' Appeals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 1663. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Officer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 2988. An act to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to specify requirements concerning the consideration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary factors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 3496. An act to amend the Small Business Act for microloan eligibility for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 5763. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to modify the criteria for loans for plant acquisition, construction, conversion or expansion, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 5764. An act to amend the Small Business Act to require small business development centers to assist small business concerns with the use of artificial intelligence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 5784. An act to amend the Small Business Act to help small business concerns critically evaluate artificial intelligence tools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 5788. An act to amend title V of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to require an annual portfolio risk analysis of loans guaranteed under such title, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 6945. An act to amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to clarify the authority of States to use funds for pregnancy centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

(Legislative Day January 15, 2026)

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 6359. An act to require institutions of higher education to disseminate information on the rights of, and accommodations and resources for, pregnant students, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

(Legislative Day January 15, 2026)

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 7148. An act making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maine.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 3627

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the previously scheduled rollcall vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 300, S. 3627, now occur at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, January 27.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 7148

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7148) making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

Ms. COLLINS. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 3:07 P.M. TODAY

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to adjourn until 3:07 p.m. today.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:06 p.m., adjourned until Monday, January 26, 2026, at 3:07 p.m.