

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1207–S1221.

Measures Introduced: Six bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 617–622, and S. Res. 93. **Page S1217**

Measures Reported:

S. 166, to stop exploitation through trafficking, with an amendment.

S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S1217**

Measures Passed:

Congressional Gold Medal: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 431, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Foot Soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, or the final Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March in March of 1965, which served as a catalyst for the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the bill was then passed. **Page S1220**

Veto Messages:

Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act Veto Message—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the veto message to accompany S. 1, to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline. **Page S1215**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the veto message to accompany the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Wednesday, March 4, 2015. **Page S1215**

House Messages:

Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act: Senate resumed consideration of the House Message to accompany H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015,

taking action on the following motion proposed thereto: **Pages S1208–15**

Pending:

McConnell Motion to insist upon the Senate amendment, agree to the request by the House of Representatives for a conference, and authorize the Presiding Officer to appoint conferees. **Page S1208**

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

By 47 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 64), 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 McConnell Motion to insist upon the Senate amendment, agree to the request by the House of Representatives for a conference, and authorize the Presiding Officer to appoint conferees. **Page S1214**

By 58 yeas to 31 nays (Vote No. 65), Senate tabled the House Message to accompany the bill. **Page S1214–15**

Appointments:

Election Assistance Board of Advisors: The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to Public Law 107–252, Title II, Section 214, reappointed the following individual to the Election Assistance Board of Advisors: Dr. Barbara Simons of California. **Page S1220**

Messages from the House: **Pages S1216–17**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1217–18**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1218–20**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—65) **Pages S1214–15**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 6:28 p.m., until 9:45 a.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2015. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1221.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 20 public bills, H.R. 1188–1207; and 4 resolutions, H. Res. 132, 133, 135, and 136, were introduced.

Pages H1524–25

Additional Cosponsors:

Page H1526

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 280, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recoup bonuses and awards paid to employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–32, Part 1);

H.R. 1029, to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–33);

H.R. 1030, to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible (H. Rept. 114–34);

H.R. 294, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts and agreements for the transfer of veterans to non-Department medical foster homes for certain veterans who are unable to live independently, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–35); and

H. Res. 134, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 749) to reauthorize Federal support for passenger rail programs, and for other purposes, and providing for proceedings during the period from March 6, 2015, through March 13, 2015 (H. Rept. 114–36).

Pages H1523–24

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Emmer to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H1503

Recess: The House recessed at 12:20 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.

Page H1505

Recess: The House recessed at 2:10 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

Pages H1506, H1510

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act: H.R. 294, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts and agreements for the transfer of veterans to non-Department medical foster homes for certain veterans who are unable to live independently, by a 2/3 ye-a-and-nay vote of 405 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 107; and

Pages H1509–11

Agreed to amend the title so as to read “To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts and agreements for the placement of veterans in non-Departmental medical foster homes for certain veterans who are unable to live independently.”

Page H1511

Authorizing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recoup bonuses and awards paid to employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs: H.R. 280, amended, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recoup bonuses and awards paid to employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Pages H1507–09, H1511

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow, March 3.

Page H1511

President’s Export Council—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the President’s Export Council: Representatives Kildee and DelBene.

Page H1511

Migratory Bird Conservation Commission—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission: Representative Thompson (CA).

Page H1511

Recess: The House recessed at 8:53 p.m. and reconvened at 9:30 p.m.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on pages H1510–11. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Committee Meetings

LEGISLATIVE HEARING

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law held a hearing on H.R. 348, the “Responsibly And Professionally Invigorating Development Act of 2015”; H.R. 712, the “Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2015”; and H.R. 1155, the “Searching for and Cutting Regulations that are Unnecessarily Burdensome Act of 2015”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PASSENGER RAIL REFORM AND INVESTMENT ACT OF 2015

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 749, the “Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015”. The committee granted, by voice vote, a structured rule for H.R. 749. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule makes in order as original text for the purpose of amendment an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114–9 and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. In section 2, the rule provides that on any legislative day during the period from March 6, 2015, through March 13, 2015: the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment. In section 3, the rule provides that the Speak-

er may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 2. In section 4, the rule provides that at any time through the legislative day of March 13, 2015, the Chair may postpone further consideration of a measure in the House to such time as may be designated by the Speaker. Testimony was heard from Chairman Shuster and Representatives Mica and Fitzpatrick.

ONGOING INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Ongoing Intelligence Activities”. This hearing was closed.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D159)

H.R. 33, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Signed on February 27, 2015. (Public Law 114–3)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: business meeting to consider the nominations of Jeffery S. Hall, of Kentucky, and Dallas P. Tonsager, of South Dakota, both to be a Member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, Farm Credit Administration, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine a review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program, 2:30 p.m., SH–216.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine Federal Reserve accountability and reform, 2:30 p.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Commerce and the Department of Transportation, 9 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine fairness in taxation, 9 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to receive a closed briefing on an update on the campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), 4 p.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest, to hold an oversight hearing to examine United States citizenship and immigration services, focusing on ensuring agency priorities comply with the law, 2:30 p.m., SD-226.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, hearing on National Institutes of Health budget, 8:30 a.m., 2358-C Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Defense, hearing on United States Africa Command budget, 9 a.m., H-140 Capitol. This hearing will be closed.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing on U.S. Forest Service budget, 1 p.m., B-308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, hearing on Installations, Environment, Energy and BRAC budget, 1 p.m., 2358-A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, hearing on Department of Agriculture Marketing and Regulatory Programs budget, 2 p.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, hearing on Department of Commerce budget, 2 p.m., H-309 Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The President’s Proposed Authorization for Use of Military Force Against ISIL and U.S. Policy, Strategy, and Posture in the Greater Middle East”, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled “Alignment of Infrastructure Investment and Risk and Defense Strategic Requirements”, 3:30 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing entitled “21st Century Energy Markets: How the Changing Dynamics of World Energy Markets Impact our Economy and Energy Security”, 1:30 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Understanding the Cyber Threat and Implications for the 21st Century Economy”, 2 p.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Semi-Annual Report of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection”, 2:30 p.m., HVC-210.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1147, the “Legal Workforce Act”; H.R. 1149, the “Protection of Children Act of 2015”; H.R. 1153, the “Asylum Reform and Border Protection Act of 2015”; and H.R. 1148, the “Michael Davis, Jr. in Honor of State and Local Law Enforcement Act”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Health Care, Benefits and Administrative Rules; and Subcommittee on Government Operations, joint hearing entitled “Challenges Facing OIRA in Ensuring Transparency and Effective Rulemaking”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 1029, the “EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2015”; and H.R. 1030, the “Secret Science Reform Act of 2015”, 3 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing entitled “Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization: Enabling a 21st Century Aviation System”, 9:30 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Résumé of Congressional Activity

FIRST SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House. The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 6 through February 28, 2015

	<i>Senate</i>	<i>House</i>	<i>Total</i>
Days in session	31	30	..
Time in session	177 hrs., 11'	144 hrs., 5'	..
Congressional Record:			
Pages of proceedings	1,206	1,502	..
Extensions of Remarks .....	..	280	..
Public bills enacted into law .....	..	3	3
Private bills enacted into law .....	..	..	..
Bills in conference .....	..	..	..
Measures passed, total	62	80	142
Senate bills	3	1	..
House bills	4	44	..
Senate joint resolutions .....	..	..	..
House joint resolutions .....	..	..	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	1	1	..
House concurrent resolutions	2	3	..
Simple resolutions	52	31	..
Measures reported, total	*29	*31	60
Senate bills	7	..	..
House bills	2	19	..
Senate joint resolutions .....	..	..	..
House joint resolutions .....	..	..	..
Senate concurrent resolutions .....	..	..	..
House concurrent resolutions .....	..	..	..
Simple resolutions	20	12	..
Special reports	1	..	..
Conference reports .....	..	..	..
Measures pending on calendar	16	7	..
Measures introduced, total	714	1,375	2,089
Bills	607	1,187	..
Joint resolutions	9	37	..
Concurrent resolutions	6	20	..
Simple resolutions	92	131	..
Quorum calls	4	1	..
Yea-and-nay votes	63	62	..
Recorded votes .....	..	43	..
Bills vetoed .....	..	..	..
Vetoes overridden .....	..	..	..

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 6 through February 28, 2015

Civilian nominations, totaling 117, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	2
Unconfirmed	115
Other Civilian nominations, totaling 642, disposed of as follows:	
Unconfirmed	642
Air Force nominations, totaling 300, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	33
Unconfirmed	267
Army nominations, totaling 108, disposed of as follows:	
Unconfirmed	108
Navy nominations, totaling 66, disposed of as follows:	
Unconfirmed	66
Marine Corps nominations, totaling 1,032, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	8
Unconfirmed	1,024

Summary

Total nominations carried over from the First Session	0
Total nominations received this Session	2,265
Total confirmed	43
Total unconfirmed	2,222
Total withdrawn	0
Total returned to the White House	0

*These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 4 written reports have been filed in the Senate, 31 reports have been filed in the House.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:45 a.m., Tuesday, March 3

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, March 3

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will be in a period of morning business until 10:30 a.m.

At 10:30 a.m., Senate will recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the Joint Meeting of Congress with His Excellency Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, as well as for their respective party conferences.

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Joint Meeting with the Senate to Receive His Excellency Binyamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel. Consideration of H.R. 749—Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015 (Subject to a Rule).

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