

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S99–S140.*

**Measures Introduced:** Ten bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2449–2458, S.J. Res. 29, S. Res. 346–347, and S. Con. Res. 28–29.

**Page S132**

#### Measures Passed:

**Rural Community Hospital Demonstration Extension Act:** Senate passed S. 607, to provide for a five-year extension of the Medicare rural community hospital demonstration program, after agreeing to the committee reported amendment, the title amendment, and the following amendment proposed thereto:

McConnell (for Grassley) Amendment No. 2952, relative to the five-year extension of the rural community hospital demonstration program.

**Pages S138–139**

**Fiscal Year 2016 Department of Veterans Affairs Seismic Safety and Construction Authorization Act:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 2422, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain major medical facility projects for which appropriations are being made for fiscal year 2016, and the bill was then passed.

**Page S139**

**Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies:** Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 28, to establish the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies for the inauguration of the President-elect and Vice President-elect of the United States on January 20, 2017.

**Pages S139–140**

**Authorizing Use of the Rotunda and Emancipation Hall:** Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 29, to authorize the use of the rotunda and Emancipation Hall of the Capitol by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies conducted for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States.

**Page S140**

#### Measures Considered:

**American Safe Act:** Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 4038, to require that supplemental certifications and background investigations be completed prior to the admission of certain aliens as refugees.

**Page S111**

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

By 55 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 4), 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 motion to proceed to consideration of the bill.

**Page S111**

#### Veto Messages:

**Waters of the United States—Veto Message:** Senate began consideration of the veto message on S.J. Res. 22, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the definition of “waters of the United States” under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

**Page S100**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the veto message on S.J. Res. 22, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Wednesday, January 20, 2016, a vote on cloture will occur at 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, January 21, 2016; and if cloture is not invoked, that the veto message be indefinitely postponed.

**Pages S111–112**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the veto message at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, January 21, 2016, with the time until 10:30 a.m., equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees.

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**Message from the President:** Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to the Constitution, the report of the veto of S.J. Res. 22, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the

Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the definition of “waters of the United States” under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, received on January 19, 2016; ordered to be printed in the Record, spread in full upon the Journal, and held at the desk. (PM–37)

**Pages S129–130**

**Nomination Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nomination:

Lisa S. Disbrow, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force. **Page S140**

**Measures Read the First Time:** **Page S130**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S130–31**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Page S132**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S132–33**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S133–35**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S127–129**

**Amendments Submitted:** **Pages S135–37**

**Notices of Hearings/Meetings:** **Page S137**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S137**

**Record Votes:** One record vote was taken today. (Total—4) **Page S111**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:37 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 21, 2016. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S140.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:* Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill entitled, “Improving Child Nutrition Integrity and Access Act of 2016”.

### EXECUTIVE ACTIONS ON GUN CONTROL

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Justice’s role in implementing new executive actions related to gun control, after receiving testimony from Loretta E. Lynch, Attorney General, Department of Justice; Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange, Mountain Brook; Ken Cuccinelli, former Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Virginia, United Self Defense Law Firm, Nokesville, Virginia; Mark Barden, Sandy Hook Promise, Newtown, Connecticut; and Joyce Lee Malcolm, George

Mason University School of Law, Alexandria, Virginia.

### U.S. STRATEGY AND POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine United States strategy and policy in the Middle East, after receiving testimony from General John M. Keane, USA (Ret.), former Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, Institute for the Study of War, and Philip H. Gordon, former Special Assistant to the President and White House Middle East Coordinator, Council on Foreign Relations, both of Washington, D.C.; and Ryan C. Crocker, former United States Ambassador to Afghanistan, Texas A&M University George Bush School of Government and Public Service, College Station.

### TASK FORCE FOR BUSINESS AND STABILITY OPERATIONS PROJECTS IN AFGHANISTAN OVERSIGHT

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Task Force for Business and Stability Operations projects in Afghanistan, after receiving testimony from Brian P. McKeon, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Policy, and John F. Sopko, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, both of the Department of Defense.

### NOMINATION

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Thomas F. Scott Darling, III, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Markey, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 659, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, with amendments;

S. 1024, to authorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1674, to amend and reauthorize certain provisions relating to Long Island Sound restoration and stewardship;

S. 1724, to provide for environmental restoration activities and forest management activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin, with an amendment;

S. 2143, to provide for the authority for the successors and assigns of the Starr-Camargo Bridge Company to maintain and operate a toll bridge across the Rio Grande near Rio Grande City, Texas; and

32 proposed resolutions relating to the General Services Administration.

### MIDDLE EAST AND JCPOA

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Middle East after the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, after receiving testimony from Michael Singh, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, and Brian Katulis, Center for American Progress, both of Washington, D.C.

### GOALS AND IDEOLOGY OF ISIS

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine understanding the goals and ideology of ISIS to better protect the homeland, after receiving testimony from Bernard Haykel, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey; Jessica Stern, Boston University Pardee School of Global Studies, Cambridge, Massachusetts; and Lorenzo Vidino, The George Washington University Program on Extremism, and Hedieh Mirahmadi, World Organization for Resource Development and Education, both of Washington, D.C.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Michael Joseph Missal, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs.

### CHALLENGES IN MENTAL HEALTH CARE

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine improving the Federal response to challenges in mental health care in America, after receiving testimony from Brian Hepburn, National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, Alexandria, Virginia; Penelope Strachan Blake, Good Samaritan

Medical Center, West Palm Beach, Florida, on behalf of the Emergency Nurses Association; William W. Eaton, Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health Department of Mental Health, Baltimore, Maryland; and Hakeem Rahim, Live Breathe LLC, Hempstead, New York, on behalf of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

### CRIMINAL INTENT STANDARDS

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the adequacy of criminal intent standards in Federal prosecutions, including S. 2298, to specify the state of mind required for conviction for criminal offenses that lack an expressly identified state of mind, after receiving testimony from Leslie R. Caldwell, Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice; and Edwin Meese III, former Attorney General, The Heritage Foundation, Robert Weissman, Public Citizen, and Stephen A. Saltzburg, The George Washington University Law School, on behalf of the American Bar Association, all of Washington, D.C.

### BIOMETRIC EXIT TRACKING SYSTEM

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest concluded a hearing to examine the biometric exit tracking system and actions needed by the Department of Homeland Security to address long-standing challenges in planning for a biometric exit system, after receiving testimony from John Wagner, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations, Customs and Border Protection, Anh Duong, Director, Borders and Maritime Security Division, Advanced Research Projects Agency, Science and Technology Directorate, and Craig C. Healy, Assistant Director, National Security Investigations Division, Homeland Security Investigations, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, all of the Department of Homeland Security; and Rebecca Gambler, Director, Homeland Security and Justice Issues, Government Accountability Office.

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# House of Representatives

## *Chamber Action*

The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, January 25, 2016, pursuant to the provisions of H. Con. Res. 107.

## *Committee Meetings*

No hearings were held.

## *Joint Meetings*

No joint committee meetings were held.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY,  
JANUARY 21, 2016**

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

**Senate**

*Committee on Armed Services:* to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Eric K. Fanning, of the District of Columbia, to be Secretary of the Army, Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* to hold hearings to examine the status of innovative technologies within the automotive industry, 9:30 a.m., SD-366.

*Committee on Finance:* to hold hearings to examine healthcare co-ops, focusing on a review of the financial and oversight controls, 10 a.m., SD-215.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* to hold hearings to examine political and economic developments in Latin America and opportunities for United States engagement, 10:45 a.m., SD-419.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* to hold hearings to examine laying out the reality of the Postal Service, 9:30 a.m., SD-342.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* business meeting to consider S. 247, to amend section 349 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to deem specified activities in support of terrorism as renunciation of United States nationality, H.R. 1428, to extend Privacy Act remedies to citizens of certified states, S. 483, to improve enforcement efforts related to prescription drug diversion and abuse, S. 1890, to amend chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code, to provide Federal jurisdiction for the theft of trade secrets, S. 2040, to deter terrorism, provide justice for victims, and the nominations of Mary S. McElroy, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island, and Susan Paradise Baxter, and Marilyn Jean Horan, both to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, 10:45 a.m., S-216, Capitol.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* to hold hearings to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs' transformation strategy, focusing on examining the plan to modernize the Department of Veterans Affairs, 10 a.m., SR-418.

**House**

No hearings are scheduled.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

9:30 a.m., Thursday, January 21

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

2 p.m., Monday, January 25

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** Senate will continue consideration of the veto message on S.J. Res. 22, Waters of the United States, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the veto message, at 10:30 a.m.

## House Chamber

**Program for Monday:** The House is scheduled to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, January 25, 2016, pursuant to the provisions of H. Con. Res. 107.



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