

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Senate continued in the session that began on Monday, February 6, 2017. See next volume of the Congressional Record.

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

RECENT YEMEN OPERATION

Committee on Armed Services: Committee received a closed briefing on the recent Yemen operation from Theresa Whelan, performing the duties of Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, and J-3 Lieutenant General John L. Dolan, USAF, Joint Staff Director for Operations, both of the Department of Defense.

CYBER THREATS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee received a closed briefing on cyber threats from Admiral Michael S. Rogers, USN, Commander, Cyber Command, Director, National Security Agency, Chief, Central Security Services, Department of Defense.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported an original resolution (S. Res. 53) authorizing expenditures by the Committee for the 115th Congress.

THE PLAN TO DEFEAT ISIS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the plan to defeat ISIS, focusing on key decisions and considerations, after receiving testimony from James F. Jeffrey, Washington Institute for Near East Policy, and Jeremy Bash, Beacon Global Strategies, both of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of David J. Shulkin, of Pennsylvania, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 87 public bills, H.R. 898–984; and 21 resolutions, H.J. Res. 65–69; H. Con. Res. 22; and H. Res. 95–98m 100–110 were introduced. **Pages H1079–84**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H1087**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 99, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 428) to survey the gradient boundary along the Red River in the States of Oklahoma and Texas, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 42) disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of

Labor relating to drug testing of unemployment compensation applicants (H. Rept. 115–10).

Page H1079

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Palazzo to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1015**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:41 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Pages H1019–20**

Committee Resignations: Read a letter from Representative Judy Chu (CA) wherein she resigned from the Committees on Ways and Means and Small Business. **Page H1031**

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 95, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. **Page H1031**

Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of the Interior relating to Bureau of Land Management regulations that establish the procedures used to prepare, revise, or amend land use plans pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976: The House passed H.J. Res. 44, disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of the Interior relating to Bureau of Land Management regulations that establish the procedures used to prepare, revise, or amend land use plans pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, by a yea-and-nay vote of 234 yeas to 186 nays, Roll No. 83.

Pages H1032–41, H1055–56

H. Res. 91, the rule providing for consideration of the joint resolutions (H.J. Res. 44), (H.J. Res. 57) and (H.J. Res. 58) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 233 yeas to 186 noes, Roll No. 82, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 234 yeas to 187 nays, Roll No. 81. **Pages H1023–31**

Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to accountability and State plans under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965: The House passed H.J. Res. 57, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to accountability and State plans under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, by a yea-and-nay vote of 234 yeas to 190 nays, Roll No. 84. **Pages H1046–55, H1056**

H. Res. 91, the rule providing for consideration of the joint resolutions (H.J. Res. 44), (H.J. Res. 57) and (H.J. Res. 58) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 233 yeas to 186 noes, Roll No. 82, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 234 yeas to 187 nays, Roll No. 81. **Pages H1023–31**

Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to teacher preparation issues: The House passed H.J. Res. 58, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to teacher preparation issues, by a yea-and-nay vote of 240 yeas to 181 nays, Roll No. 85. **Pages H1041–46, H1056–57**

H. Res. 91, the rule providing for consideration of the joint resolutions (H.J. Res. 44), (H.J. Res. 57) and (H.J. Res. 58) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 233 yeas to 186 noes, Roll No. 82, after the pre-

vious question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 234 yeas to 187 nays, Roll No. 81. **Pages H1023–31**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 9th and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12 noon on Monday, February 13th for Morning Hour debate. **Page H1057**

Committee Ranking: The House agreed to H. Res. 98, ranking a certain Member of a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives. **Page H1057**

Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission—Reappointment: Read a letter from Representative Pelosi, Minority Leader, in which she reappointed the following Member to serve as Co-Chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission: Representative McGovern. **Page H1057**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H1022.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1030, H1031, H1055–56, H1056, and H1056–57. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Committee Meetings

THE STATE OF THE MILITARY

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The State of the Military”. Testimony was heard from General Daniel B. Allyn, USA, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army; General Stephen W. Wilson, USAF, Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force; Admiral William F. Moran, USN, Vice Chief of Naval Operations; and General Glenn M. Walters, USMC, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Challenges and Opportunities in Higher Education”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy And Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a markup on H.R. 829, to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to clarify the treatment of lottery winnings and other lump sum income for purposes of income eligibility under the

Medicaid program, and for other purposes; and H.R. 181, to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to count portions of income from annuities of a community spouse as income available to institutionalized spouses for purposes of eligibility for medical assistance, and for other purposes. H.R. 829 was forwarded to the full committee, as amended. H.R. 181 was forwarded to the full committee, without amendment.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a business meeting to consider the committee's authorization and oversight plan for the 115th Congress. The committee adopted its authorization and oversight plan for the 115th Congress.

COUNTERING THE NORTH KOREAN THREAT: NEW STEPS IN U.S. POLICY

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Countering the North Korean Threat: New Steps in U.S. Policy". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ENDING THE CRISIS: AMERICA'S BORDERS AND THE PATH TO SECURITY

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Ending the Crisis: America's Borders and the Path to Security". Testimony was heard from John F. Kelly, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security; Steve C. McCraw, Director, Texas Department of Homeland Security; Joe Frank Martinez, Sheriff, Val Verde County, Texas; Leon N. Wilmot, Sheriff, Yuma County, Arizona; and Eddie Trevino, Jr., County Judge, Cameron County, Texas.

PRIORITIES OF THE HOUSE OFFICERS AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCH ENTITIES FOR FY 2018 AND BEYOND

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee concluded a hearing entitled "Priorities of the House Officers and Legislative Branch Entities for FY 2018 and Beyond". Testimony was heard from Karen Haas, Clerk, House of Representatives; Paul Irving, Sergeant-at-Arms, House of Representatives; and Philip Kiko, Chief Administrative Officer, House of Representatives.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 634, the "Election Assistance Commission Termination Act"; H.R. 133, to reduce Federal spending and the deficit by terminating taxpayer financing of Presidential election campaigns; and a committee resolution regarding views and estimates for FY2018. H.R. 634 and H.R. 133 were ordered reported, without amendment. The

committee resolution regarding views and estimates for FY2018 was agreed to.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 732, the "Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2017". H.R. 732 was ordered reported, as amended.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held an organizational meeting for the 115th Congress. The committee adopted its rules and authorization and oversight plan for the 115th Congress and appointed committee staff.

ACCOMPLISHING POSTAL REFORM IN THE 115TH CONGRESS—H.R. 756, THE POSTAL SERVICE REFORM ACT OF 2017

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Accomplishing Postal Reform in the 115th Congress—H.R. 756, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2017". Testimony was heard from Megan J. Brennan, Postmaster General, U.S. Postal Service; Robert G. Taub, Chairman, Postal Regulatory Commission; Lori Rectanus, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

RED RIVER GRADIENT BOUNDARY SURVEY ACT; HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DISAPPROVING THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RELATING TO DRUG TESTING OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION APPLICANTS

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 428, the "Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act"; H.J. Res. 42, disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to drug testing of unemployment compensation applicants. The committee granted, by voice vote, a closed rule for H.R. 428. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one motion to recommit. Additionally, the rule grants a closed rule for H.J. Res. 42. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution. The rule provides that the joint resolution shall be considered as

read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the joint resolution. The rule provides one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Chairman Thornberry, and Representatives Smith of Nebraska, Danny K. Davis of Illinois, McClintock, and Hanabusa.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held an organizational meeting for the 115th Congress. The committee adopted its rules and authorization and oversight plan for the 115th Congress.

MAKING EPA GREAT AGAIN

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Making EPA Great Again”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

REIMAGINING THE HEALTH CARE MARKETPLACE FOR AMERICA’S SMALL BUSINESSES

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Reimagining the Health Care Marketplace for America’s Small Businesses”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ASSESSING THE VA IT LANDSCAPE: PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Assessing the VA IT Landscape: Progress and Challenges”. Testimony was heard from David A. Powner, Director, IT Management Issues, Government Accountability Office; and Rob C. Thomas, II, Acting Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology and Chief Information Officer, Office of Information and Technology, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Social Security held an organizational meeting for the 115th Congress. The subcommittee successfully organized.

EXAMINING THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION’S REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE PROGRAM: DETERMINING WHO NEEDS HELP

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Social Security; and Subcommittee on Oversight, held a joint hearing entitled “Examining the Social Security Administration’s Representative Payee Program: Determining Who Needs Help”. Testimony was

heard from Marianna LaCanfora, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Office of Retirement and Disability Policy, Social Security Administration; Gale Stallworth Stone, Acting Inspector General, Social Security Administration; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2017

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold hearings to examine the current readiness of United States forces, 2:30 p.m., SR–232A.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine Inspector General recommendations for improving Federal agencies, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold an oversight hearing to examine modernizing our nation’s infrastructure, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Indian Affairs: business meeting to consider S. 39, to extend the Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, S. 63, to clarify the rights of Indians and Indian tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act, S. 91, to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, S. 140, to amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund, S. 245, to amend the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self Determination Act of 2005, S. 249, to provide that the pueblo of Santa Clara may lease for 99 years certain restricted land, S. 254, to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide flexibility and reauthorization to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages, S. 269, to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Tanana Tribal Council located in Tanana, Alaska, and to the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation located in Dillingham, Alaska, and S. 302, to enhance tribal road safety; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine emergency management in Indian Country, focusing on improving the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Federal-tribal relationship with Indian tribes, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

Wednesday, February 8

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate program is uncertain.
See next volume of the Congressional Record.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2:30 p.m., Thursday, February 9

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 2:30 p.m.

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