

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1753–S1782

Measures Introduced: Nine bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 607–615, and S.J. Res. 38. **Page S1778**

Measures Reported:

S. 327, to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide a safe harbor related to certain investment fund research reports, with amendments.

S. 444, to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to expand the investor limitation for qualifying venture capital funds under an exemption from the definition of an investment company.

S. 462, to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to refund or credit certain excess payments made to the Commission.

S. 484, to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to terminate an exemption for companies located in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and any other possession of the United States, with amendments.

S. 488, to increase the threshold for disclosures required by the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to compensatory benefit plans. **Page S1778**

Measures Considered:

Department of Labor Rule—Agreement: Senate began consideration of H.J. Res. 42, disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to drug testing of unemployment compensation applicants, after agreeing to the motion to proceed to consideration of the joint resolution. **Page S1772**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the joint resolution at approximately 2 p.m., on Tuesday, March 14, 2017. **Page S1781**

Appointments:

National Council on the Arts: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to Public Law 105–83, the reappointment of the

following individual to serve as a member of the National Council on the Arts: Senator Baldwin.

Page S1781

United States Holocaust Memorial Council: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 96–388, as amended by Public Law 97–84, and Public Law 106–292, reappointed the following Senators to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council: Senators Sanders and Franken. **Page S1781**

President's Export Council: The Chair, pursuant to Executive Order 12131, as amended and extended, appointed the following Senators to the President's Export Council: Senators Klobuchar and Gillibrand. **Page S1781**

Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 85–874, as amended, reappointed the following Senator to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Senator Warner. **Page S1781**

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki): The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 94–304, as amended by Public Law 99–7, appointed the following Senators as members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki) during the 115th Congress: Senators Cardin, Whitehouse, Udall, and Shaheen. **Page S1781**

Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 106–286, appointed the following Members to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: Senators Feinstein, Merkley, and Peters. **Page S1781**

Coats Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Daniel Coats, of Indiana, to be Director of National Intelligence. **Page S1772**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, 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 15, 2017. **Page S1772**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1772**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1772**

McMaster Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration the nomination of Herbert R. McMaster, Jr., to be Lieutenant General. **Page S1772**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Daniel Coats, of Indiana, to be Director of National Intelligence. **Page S1772**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1772**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1772**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 55 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 86), Seema Verma, of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. **Page S1771**

Messages from the House: **Page S1777**

Measures Referred: **Page S1777**

Executive Communications: **Pages S1778–78**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1778–80**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1780–81**

Additional Statements:

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—86) **Page S1771**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 6:16 p.m., until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2017. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1781.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee announced following subcommittee assignments for the 115th Congress:

Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Senators Inhofe (Chair), Capito, Boozman, Wicker, Fischer, Moran, Ernst, Sullivan, Shelby, Cardin, Sanders, Whitehouse, Merkley, Gillibrand, Markey, Duckworth, and Harris.

Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety: Senators Capito (Chair), Inhofe, Boozman, Wicker, Fischer, Moran, Ernst, Shelby, Whitehouse, Cardin, Sanders, Merkley, Gillibrand, Markey, and Duckworth.

Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife: Senators Boozman (Chair), Inhofe, Capito, Wicker, Fischer, Rounds, Sullivan, Shelby, Duckworth, Cardin, Whitehouse, Merkley, Gillibrand, Booker, and Markey.

Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight: Senators Rounds (Chair), Moran, Ernst, Sullivan, Harris, Sanders, and Booker.

Senators Barrasso and Carper serve as ex officio members of each subcommittee.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 16 public bills, H.R. 1511–1526; 1 private bill, H.R. 1527; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 195–197 were introduced. **Pages H2058–59**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H2059–60**

Report Filed: A report was filed today (Legislative Day of March 13, 2017) as follows: H.R. 372, to restore the application of the Federal antitrust laws to the business of health insurance to protect competi-

tion and consumers, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–36). **Page H2058**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Cheney to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2055**

Communication from the Sergeant-at-Arms: The House received a communication from Paul D. Irving, Sergeant-at-Arms, wherein he notified the House that the time previously appointed for the next meeting of the House was to be 12 noon on Tuesday, March 14, 2017. Pursuant to clause 12(c)

of rule I, the Sergeant-at-Arms notified the House that an imminent impairment of the place of reconvening at that time is due to the weather. Subsequently, the Chair announced that the rescheduling of the time of meeting for the House at 12 noon on Monday, March 13, 2017 had been communicated to the Members. **Page H2055**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:02 p.m. on March 13, 2017 and reconvened at 3:25 p.m. on March 15, 2017. **Page H2055**

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns the legislative day of March 13, it adjourn to meet at 4:30 p.m. on March 15. **Page H2057**

Congressional Advisers on Trade Policy and Negotiations—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House as Congressional Advisers on Trade Policy and Negotiations: Representatives Neal and Pascrell. **Page H2057**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on page H2057.

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no Yea and Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon on March 13, 2017 and adjourned at 3:27 p.m. on March 15, 2017.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2017

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine information surrounding the Marines United website; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing in SR-222, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security, to hold hearings to examine continuing to improve truck safety on our nation's highways, 2:30 p.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine opportunities to improve American energy infrastructure, 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Robert Lighthizer, of Florida, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 1367, to improve the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to hire and retain physicians and other employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; H.R. 1259, the "VA Accountability First Act of 2017"; and H.R. 1181, the "Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act", 5 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of March 14 through March 17, 2017

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, at approximately 2 p.m., Senate will continue consideration of H.J. Res. 42, Department of Labor Rule.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Appropriations: March 15, Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold closed hearings to examine a ballistic missile defense program update, 10:30 a.m., SVC-217.

March 15, Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine STEM education, focusing on preparing students for the careers of today and the future, 10:30 a.m., SD-138.

Committee on Armed Services: March 14, to hold hearings to examine information surrounding the Marines United website; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing in SR-222, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

March 15, Subcommittee on Airland, to hold hearings to examine all arms warfare in the 21st century, 3:30 p.m., SR-232A.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: March 14, to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program, 10 a.m., SD-538.

March 15, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine assessing U.S. sanctions on Russia, focusing on the next steps, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: March 14, Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security, to hold hearings to examine continuing to improve truck safety on our nation's highways, 2:30 p.m., SR-253.

March 15, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine unmanned aircraft systems, focusing on innovation, integration, successes, and challenges, 10 a.m., SD-106.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: March 14, to hold hearings to examine opportunities to improve American energy infrastructure, 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: March 15, to hold hearings to examine innovative solutions to control invasive species and promote wildlife conservation, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: March 14, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Robert Lighthizer, of Florida, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: March 15, to hold hearings to examine six years of war in Syria, focusing on the human toll, 11 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: March 15, business meeting to consider S. 34, to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for the en bloc consideration in resolutions of disapproval for “midnight rules”, S. 21, to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law, S. 317, to provide taxpayers with an annual report disclosing the cost and performance of Government programs and areas of duplication among them, S. 500, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Health Affairs responsible for coordinating the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security related to food, agriculture, and veterinary defense against terrorism, S. 218, to restrict the inclusion of social security account numbers on documents sent by mail by the Federal Government, S. 188, to prohibit the use of Federal funds for the costs of painting portraits of officers and employees of the Federal Government, H.R. 274, to provide for reimbursement for the use of modern travel services by Federal employees traveling on official Government business, H.R. 366, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to make certain improvements in managing the Department’s vehicle fleet, an original bill entitled, “Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act”, an original bill entitled, “Office of Special Counsel Reauthorization Act”, an original bill entitled, “Follow the Rules Act”, an original bill entitled, “Regulatory Accountability Act”, and the nomination of Elaine C. Duke, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: March 15, to hold hearings to examine visas, focusing on investigating K-1 finance fraud, 10 a.m., SD-226.

March 15, Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism, to hold hearings to examine the Modus Operandi and toolbox of Russia and other autocracies for undermining democracies throughout the world, 2:30 p.m., SD-226.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: March 15, to hold hearings to examine GAO’s high risk list and the Veterans Health Administration, 2:30 p.m., SR-418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: March 14, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

March 15, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 1:30 p.m., SH-219.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, March 15, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Agriculture and Tax Reform: Opportunities for Rural America”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

March 16, Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research, hearing entitled “The Next Farm Bill: Agricultural Research”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

March 16, Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry, hearing entitled “The Next Farm Bill: Forestry Initiatives”, 2 p.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, March 15, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on Corporation for Public Broadcasting, 10 a.m., 2358-C Rayburn.

March 16, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Investing in the Future—Early Childhood Education Programs at the Department of Health and Human Services”, 10 a.m., 2358-C Rayburn.

March 16, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, hearing entitled “Members’ Day”, 10 a.m., HT-2 Capitol.

March 16, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, oversight hearing on Department of Transportation and Department of Housing and Urban Development, 10 a.m., 2358-A Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, March 15, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, hearing entitled “Crafting an Information Warfare and Counter-Propaganda Strategy for the Emerging Security Environment”, 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 16, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled “The Current State of the U.S. Navy”, 8 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 16, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Oversight Review of Infrastructure Needs and Projects Ready for Immediate Implementation in the Nuclear Security Enterprise”, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

March 16, Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing entitled “The Effect of Sequestration and Continuing Resolutions on Army Modernization and Readiness”, 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, March 15, Full Committee, markup on reconciliation submissions, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, March 15, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development, hearing entitled “Improving Federal Student Aid to Better Meet the Needs of Students”, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

March 16, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Honoring Our Commitment to Recover and Protect Missing and Exploited Children”, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, March 15, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled “Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expanding Hydropower Generation”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

March 15, Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection, hearing entitled “Disrupter Series: Advanced Materials and Production”, 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

March 16, Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection, hearing entitled “Disrupter Series: Smart Communities”, 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

March 16, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled “Reinvestment and Rehabilitation of Our Nation’s Safe Drinking Water Delivery Systems”, 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Ethics, March 15, Full Committee, organizational meeting for the 115th Congress, 1:30 p.m., 1015 Longworth.

Committee on Financial Services, March 16, Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade, hearing entitled “Sound Monetary Policy”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

March 16, Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled “Flood Insurance Reform: A Community Perspective”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, March 16, Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency, hearing entitled “Immigration Benefits Vetting: Examining Critical Weaknesses in USCIS Systems”, 9:30 a.m., HVC–210.

Committee on the Judiciary, March 15, Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, business meeting on adoption of the Subcommittee’s Rules of Procedure and Statement of Policy for Private Immigration Bills and Statement of Policy on Federal Charters and Request DHS Departmental Reports on the Beneficiaries of H.R. 349, H.R. 780 and H.R. 461, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

March 15, Full Committee, markup on S. 305, the “Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017”; and H.R. 1393, the “Mobile Workforce State Income Tax Simplification Act of 2017”, 11 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

March 16, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, hearing entitled “Bringing Justice Closer to the People: Examining Ideas for Restructuring the 9th Circuit”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

March 16, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, hearing entitled “Combating Crimes Against Children: Assessing the Legal Landscape”, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, March 15, Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans, hearing entitled “Examining the Creation and Management of Marine Monuments and Sanctuaries”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

March 16, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing entitled “Identifying Innovative Infrastructure Ideas for the National Park Service and Forest Service”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, March 16, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 756, the “Postal Service Reform Act of 2017”; and H.R. 760, the “Postal Service Financial Improvement Act of 2017”, 1:00 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, March 16, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access, hearing entitled “Cafeteria Plans: A Menu of Non-Options for Small Business Owners”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, March 16, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing entitled “Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: The National Preparedness System”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, March 15, Subcommittee on Human Resources, hearing entitled “Reauthorization of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

2 p.m., Tuesday, March 14

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

4:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 15

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of H.J. Res. 42, Department of Labor Rule.

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: The House will consider the following measures under suspension of the Rules: (1) H.R. 132—Arbuckle Project Maintenance Complex and District Office Conveyance Act of 2017; (2) H.R. 648—To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to amend the Definite Plan Report for the Seedskadee Project to enable the use of the active capacity of the Fontenelle Reservoir; and (3) H.R. 267—Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Act of 2017.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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