

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2973–S3021

Measures Introduced: Twenty-eight bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1143–1170, and S. Res. 167–171. **Pages S3009–10**

Measures Reported:

S. 518, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide for technical assistance for small treatment works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 115–71)

S. 675, to amend and reauthorize certain provisions relating to Long Island Sound restoration and stewardship. (S. Rept. No. 115–72)

S. 826, to reauthorize the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and certain wildlife conservation funds, to establish prize competitions relating to the prevention of wildlife poaching and trafficking, wildlife conservation, the management of invasive species, and the protection of endangered species, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 115–73)

S. 831, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 West Pike Street in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, as the “Police Officer Scott Bashioum Post Office Building”.

Pages S3008–09

Measures Passed:

Department of Defense Laboratory Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 170, expressing the sense of the Senate that defense laboratories are on the cutting-edge of scientific and technological advancement, and supporting the designation of May 18, 2017, as “Department of Defense Laboratory Day”. **Page S3020**

National Travel and Tourism Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 171, supporting the goals and ideals of National Travel and Tourism Week and honoring the valuable contributions of travel and tourism to the United States. **Page S3020**

Brand Nomination—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the nomination of Rachel L. Brand, of Iowa, to be Associate Attorney General.

Pages S2974–80

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

By 51 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. 130), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S2979–80**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, May 18, 2017, with the time until 12 noon equally divided in the usual form; and that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the post-cloture time on the nomination expire at 12 noon. **Page S3021**

Messages from the House: **Page S3005**

Measures Referred: **Page S3005**

Executive Communications: **Pages S3005–07**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S3007–08**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S3010–11**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S3011–18**

Additional Statements: **Page S3005**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S3020–21**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—130) **Pages S2979–80**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 5:56 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 18, 2017. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S3021.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

MILITARY SPACE ORGANIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces concluded a hearing to examine military space organization, policy, and programs, including challenges of delayed delivery of critical space capabilities, after receiving testimony from Heather A. Wilson, Secretary of the Air Force, General David L. Goldfein, USAF, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and

General John W. Raymond, USAF, and General Samuel A. Greaves, USAF, Space and Missile Systems Center, both a Commander, both of Air Force Space Command, all of the Department of Defense; and Cristina T. Chaplain, Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management, Government Accountability Office.

U.S. MILITARY SMALL ARMS REQUIREMENTS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Airland concluded a hearing to examine United States military small arms requirements, after receiving testimony from Lieutenant General John M. Bednarek, USA (Ret.), former Chief, Office of Security Cooperation-Iraq; and Major General Robert H. Scales, Jr., USA (Ret.), former Commandant, U.S. Army War College.

RUNNING THE GOVERNMENT FOR LESS

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine running the government for less, after receiving testimony from Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office; and Keith Hall, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

CURRENT ISSUES IN AMERICAN SPORTS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine current issues in American sports, focusing on protecting the health and safety of American athletes, after receiving testimony from Jay C. Butler, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Chief Medical Officer, Anchorage; Shellie Pfohl, U.S. Center for SafeSport, Denver, Colorado; Scott R. Sailor, National Athletic Trainers' Association, Carrollton, Texas; Robert A. Stern, Boston University School of Medicine Alzheimer's Disease and CTE Center, Boston, Massachusetts; Lauryn Williams, United States Anti-Doping Agency, Colorado Springs, Colorado; and Maureen Deutscher, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

AMERICA'S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine improving America's transportation infrastructure, after receiving testimony from Elaine L. Chao, Secretary of Transportation.

NOMINATION

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Scott P. Brown, of New Hampshire, to be Ambassador to New Zealand, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Inde-

pendent State of Samoa, Department of State, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Collins, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

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. 829, to reauthorize the Assistance to Firefighters Grants program, the Fire Prevention and Safety Grants program, and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 951, to reform the process by which Federal agencies analyze and formulate new regulations and guidance documents, 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, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 577, to require each agency, in providing notice of a rule making, to include a link to a 100 word plain language summary of the proposed rule;

S. 584, to amend chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Regulatory Flexibility Act), to ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules;

S. 579, to require agencies to publish an advance notice of proposed rule making for major rules;

S. 459, to designate the area between the intersections of Wisconsin Avenue, Northwest and Davis Street, Northwest and Wisconsin Avenue, Northwest and Edmunds Street, Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, as "Boris Nemtsov Plaza";

S. 595, to provide U.S. Customs and Border Protection with additional flexibility to expedite the hiring process for applicants for law enforcement positions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 696, to amend title 5, United States Code, to appropriately limit the authority to award bonuses to Federal employees, with an amendment;

S. 504, to permanently authorize the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Card Program;

S. 842, to prohibit Federal agencies and Federal contractors from requesting that an applicant for employment disclose criminal history record information before the applicant has received a conditional offer;

S. 760, to expand the Government's use and administration of data to facilitate transparency, effective governance, and innovation;

S. 831, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 West Pike Street in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, as the "Police Officer Scott Bashioum Post Office Building";

S. 1103, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue Department-wide guidance and to develop training programs as part of the Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign;

S. 1088, to require the collection of voluntary feedback on services provided by agencies; and

S. 1099, to provide for the identification and prevention of improper payments and the identification of strategic sourcing opportunities by reviewing and analyzing the use of Federal agency charge cards.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 458, to support the education of Indian children, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 691, to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe; and

S. 1116, to amend the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000, the Buy Indian Act, and the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide industry and economic development opportunities to Indian communities, with an amendment.

HIGH RISK LIST FOR INDIAN PROGRAMS OVERSIGHT

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Government Accountability Office's high risk list for Indian programs, including actions needed to address serious weaknesses in Federal management of programs serving Indian tribes, after receiving testimony from Melissa Emrey-Arras, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, Government Accountability Office; Michael Black, Acting Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs, and Tony Dearman, Director, Bureau of Indian Education, both of the Department of the Interior; and Rear Admiral Chris Buchanan, Assistant Surgeon General, Public Health Service, Acting Director, Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services.

VETERANS AFFAIRS LEGISLATION

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 23, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to adopt and implement a standard identification protocol for use in the tracking and procurement of biological implants by the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 112, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize per diem payments under comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans to furnish care to dependents of homeless veterans, S. 324, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of adult day health care services for veterans, S. 543, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to include in each contract into which the Secretary enters for necessary services authorities and mechanism for appropriate oversight, S. 591, to expand eligibility for the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand benefits available to participants under such program, to enhance special compensation for members of the uniformed services who require assistance in everyday life, S. 609, to amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001 and title 38, United States Code, to require the provision of chiropractic care and services to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and to expand access to such care and services, S. 681, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, S. 764, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the enrollment of veterans in certain courses of education, S. 784, to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2017, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, S. 804, to improve the provision of health care for women veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 899, to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the requirements that new Federal employees who are veterans with service-connected disabilities are provided leave for purposes of undergoing medical treatment for such disabilities apply to certain employees of the Veterans Health Administration, S. 1024, to amend title 38, United States Code, to reform the rights and processes relating to appeals of decisions regarding claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, S. 1094, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the accountability of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, an original bill entitled, "Serving our Rural Veterans Act", and an

original bill entitled, “Veteran Partners’ Efforts to Enhance Reintegration Act”, after receiving testimony from Jennifer S. Lee, Deputy Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health for Policy and Services, Veterans Health Administration; Louis J. Celli, Jr., The American Legion, Kayda Keleher, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Adrian M. Atizado, Disabled American Veterans, Allison Jaslow, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, and J. David Cox, Sr., American Federation of Government Employees, AFL–CIO, all of Washington, D.C.

AGING WITH COMMUNITY

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine aging with community, focusing on building connections that last a lifetime, after receiving testimony from Lindsay Goldman, The New York Academy of Medicine, Rye Brook; Meg Callaway, Piscataquis Thriving in Place Collaborative, Dover-Foxcroft, Maine; Cathy A. Bollinger, Embracing Aging York County Community Foundation, Spring Grove, Pennsylvania; and Anamarie Garces, Miami-Dade Age-Friendly Initiative, Miami, Florida.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 35 public bills, H.R.2475–2509; and 7 resolutions, H. Res.329–335 were introduced. **Pages H4309–11**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H4312–13**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 195, to amend title 44, United States Code, to restrict the distribution of free printed copies of the Federal Register to Members of Congress and other officers and employees of the United States, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–128, Part 1);

H.R. 2227, to modernize Government information technology, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–129, Part 1); and

H.R. 2266, to amend title 28 of the United States Code to authorize the appointment of additional bankruptcy judges; and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–130). **Pages H4308–09**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Fitzpatrick to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H4227**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:54 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H4232**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rabbi Thomas A. Louchheim, Congregation Or Chadash, Tucson, AZ. **Page H4233**

Thin Blue Line Act—Rule for Consideration: The House agreed to H. Res. 323, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 115) to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide additional aggravating factors for the imposition of the death penalty based on the status of the victim, by a recorded vote of 233 yeas to 184 noes, Roll No. 260, after the pre-

vious question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 230 yeas to 189 nays, Roll No. 259. **Pages H4236–45**

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

Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 2017: H.R. 2266, amended, to amend title 28 of the United States Code to authorize the appointment of additional bankruptcy judges; **Pages H4245–48**

Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2017: S. 419, to require adequate reporting on the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits program; **Pages H4248–51**

Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2017: H.R. 984, to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe (Agreed by unanimous consent that the ordering of the yeas and nays on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 984 be vacated to the end that the Chair put the question de novo); **Pages H4251–59, H4266**

Modernizing Government Technology Act of 2017: H.R. 2227, amended, to modernize Government information technology; **Pages H4259–66**

Federal Agency Mail Management Act of 2017: H.R. 194, to ensure the effective processing of mail by Federal agencies; **Pages H4266–67**

Federal Register Printing Savings Act of 2017: H.R. 195, to amend title 44, United States Code, to restrict the distribution of free printed copies of the

Federal Register to Members of Congress and other officers and employees of the United States;

Pages H4267–68

Federal Intern Protection Act of 2017: H.R. 653, to amend title 5, United States Code, to protect unpaid interns in the Federal Government from workplace harassment and discrimination;

Pages H4268–69

Improving Fusion Centers' Access to Information Act: H.R. 2169, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance information sharing in the Department of Homeland Security State, Local, and Regional Fusion Center Initiative;

Pages H4269–71

Border Enforcement Security Task Force Reauthorization Act of 2017: H.R. 2281, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reauthorize the Border Enforcement Security Task Force program within the Department of Homeland Security;

Pages H4271–73

Removing Outdated Restrictions to Allow for Job Growth Act: H.R. 1177, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to release on behalf of the United States the condition that certain lands conveyed to the City of Old Town, Maine, be used for a municipal airport, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 418 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 262;

Pages H4273–74, H4294–95

Renaming the Red River Valley Agricultural Research Center in Fargo, North Dakota, as the Edward T. Schafer Agricultural Research Center: H.R. 2154, amended, to rename the Red River Valley Agricultural Research Center in Fargo, North Dakota, as the Edward T. Schafer Agricultural Research Center;

Pages H4274–75

Combating European Anti-Semitism Act of 2017: H.R. 672, amended, to require continued and enhanced annual reporting to Congress in the Annual Report on International Religious Freedom on anti-Semitic incidents in Europe, the safety and security of European Jewish communities, and the efforts of the United States to partner with European governments, the European Union, and civil society groups, and to combat anti-Semitism;

Pages H4275–78

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the fight against corruption in Central America: H. Res. 145, amended, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the fight against corruption in Central America; and

Pages H4278–81

Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2017: H.R. 1677, amended, to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, encourage a negotiated political

settlement, and hold Syrian human rights abusers accountable for their crimes.

Pages H4281–91

Question of Privilege: Representative Pascrell rose to a question of the privileges of the House and submitted a resolution. The Chair ruled that the resolution did not present a question of the privileges of the House. Subsequently, Representative Pascrell appealed the ruling of the chair and Representative Rothfus moved to table the appeal. Agreed to the motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the Chair by a yea-and-nay vote of 229 yeas to 188 nays with 1 answering “present”, Roll No. 261.

Pages H4291–94

American Law Enforcement Heroes Act of 2017: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass S. 583, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds to hire veterans as career law enforcement officers.

Page H4295

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H4237.

Senate Referrals: S. 419 was held at the desk. S. 583 was held at the desk. S. 867 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. S.J. Res. 22 was held at the desk.

Page H4308

Discharge Petition: Representative Swalwell (CA) presented to the clerk a motion to discharge the Committee on Foreign Affairs from the consideration of H.R. 356, to establish the National Commission on Foreign Interference in the 2016 Election (Discharge Petition No. 2).

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4244, H4245, H4293, and H4294–95. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Committee Meetings

STATE OF THE RURAL ECONOMY: SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE SONNY PERDUE

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “State of the Rural Economy: Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue”. Testimony was heard from Sonny Perdue, Secretary, Department of Agriculture.

AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE PUBLIC WITNESS HEARING

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a

hearing entitled “American Indian and Alaska Native Public Witness Hearing”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ADVANCES IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held an oversight hearing entitled “Advances in Biomedical Research”. Testimony was heard from Francis Collins, Director, National Institutes of Health.

APPROPRIATIONS—HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a budget hearing on the House of Representatives. Testimony was heard from the following officials from the House of Representatives: Karen L. Haas, Clerk; Paul D. Irving, Sergeant at Arms; and Phil Kiko, Chief Administrative Officer.

AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE PUBLIC WITNESS HEARING

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “American Indian and Alaska Native Public Witness Hearing”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE JUDICIARY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held an oversight hearing on the Judiciary. Testimony was heard from Julia S. Gibbons, Chair, Committee on the Budget of the Judicial Conference of the United States; and James C. Duff, Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

APPROPRIATIONS—ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a budget hearing entitled “Architect of the Capitol: FY 2018 Budget”. Testimony was heard from Stephen T. Ayers, Architect of the Capitol.

INITIAL FINDINGS OF THE SECTION 809 PANEL: SETTING THE PATH FOR STREAMLINING AND IMPROVING DEFENSE ACQUISITION

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Initial Findings of the Section 809 Panel: Setting the Path for Streamlining and Improving Defense Acquisition”. Testimony was heard from the following officials from the Section 809 Panel: Deidre Lee, Chair; and Commissioners Joseph Dyer, Charlie Williams Jr., and William LaPlante.

MILITARY PERSONNEL POSTURE: FY 2018

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing entitled “Military Personnel Posture: FY 2018”. Testimony was heard from Lieutenant General James McConville, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, U.S. Army; Vice Admiral Robert Burke, Chief of Naval Personnel; Lieutenant General Mark Brilakis, Deputy Commandant, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, U.S. Marine Corps; and Lieutenant General Gina Grosso, Deputy Chief of Staff, Manpower, Personnel and Services, U.S. Air Force.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 2353, the “Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act”. H.R. 2353 was ordered reported, as amended.

FUTURE OF EMERGENCY ALERTING

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled “Future of Emergency Alerting”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING INITIATIVES TO ADVANCE PUBLIC HEALTH

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Examining Initiatives to Advance Public Health”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ENERGY OPPORTUNITIES IN SOUTH AMERICA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere held a hearing entitled “Energy Opportunities in South America”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE BALKANS: THREATS TO PEACE AND STABILITY

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats held a hearing entitled “The Balkans: Threats to Peace and Stability”. Testimony was heard from Hoyt Brian Yee, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Department of State; and public witnesses.

REVITALIZING U.S.-ASEAN RELATIONS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific held a hearing entitled “Revitalizing U.S.-ASEAN Relations”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

TRANSFORMING GPO FOR THE 21ST CENTURY AND BEYOND

Committee on House Administration: Committee on House Administration held a hearing entitled “Transforming GPO for the 21st Century and Beyond”. Testimony was heard from Davita Vance-Cooks, Director, Government Publishing Office.

CHALLENGES FACING LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Challenges Facing Law Enforcement in the 21st Century”. Testimony was heard from Jim McDonnell, Sheriff, Los Angeles County, California; Alonzo Thompson, Chief of Police, Spartanburg, South Carolina; Art Acevedo, Chief of Police, City of Houston, Texas; and a public witness.

REVIEWING RECENT STATE SUCCESSSES WITH THE RIGS TO REEFS PROGRAM

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled “Reviewing Recent State Successes with the Rigs to Reefs Program”. Testimony was heard from Frank Rusco, Director, Natural Resources and Environment Team, Government Accountability Office; J. Dale Shively, Leader, Artificial Reef Program, Coastal Fisheries Division, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; and public witnesses.

SEEKING BETTER MANAGEMENT OF AMERICA’S OVERGROWN, FIRE-PRONE NATIONAL FORESTS

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing entitled “Seeking Better Management of America’s Overgrown, Fire-Prone National Forests”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SBA’S 7(a) LOAN PROGRAM: A DETAILED REVIEW

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “SBA’s 7(a) Loan Program: A Detailed Review”. Testimony was heard from Linda Rusche, Director, Office of Credit Risk Management, Office of Capital Access, Small Business Administration; and William Manger, Associate Administrator, Office of Capital Access, Small Business Administration.

THE NEED TO REFORM FAA AND AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TO BUILD A 21ST CENTURY AVIATION SYSTEM FOR AMERICA

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Need to Reform FAA and Air Traffic Control to Build a 21st Century Aviation System for America”. Testimony was heard from Calvin Scovel III, Inspector General, Department of Transportation; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 91, the “Building Supportive Networks for Women Veterans Act”; H.R. 467, the “VA Scheduling Accountability Act”; H.R. 1005, to improve the provision of adult day health care services for veterans; H.R. 1162, the “No Hero Left Untreated Act”; H.R. 1329, the “Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2017”; H.R. 1461, the “VET Protection Act of 2017”; H.R. 1545, the “VA Prescription Data Accountability Act of 2017”; H.R. 1662, to prohibit smoking in any facility of the Veterans Health Administration; H.R. 1725, the “Quicker Veterans Benefits Delivery Act of 2017”; H.R. 1848, the “Veterans Affairs Medical Scribe Pilot Act of 2017”; and H.R. 2288, the “Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017”. H.R. 1461 and H.R. 1725 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 2288, H.R. 1329, H.R. 1005, H.R. 1662, H.R. 467, H.R. 1545, H.R. 1848, H.R. 91, and H.R. 1162 were ordered reported, without amendment.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Human Resources held a hearing entitled “Opportunities for Youth and Young Adults to Break the Cycle of Poverty”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

SOCIAL CAPITAL IN AMERICA

Joint Economic Committee: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the state of social capital in America today, after receiving testimony from Robert D. Putnam, Harvard Kennedy School, and Mario L. Small, Harvard University, both of Cambridge, Massachusetts; and Charles Murray, American Enterprise Institute, and Yuval Levin, The Ethics and Public Policy Center, both of Washington, D.C.

RUSSIAN MILITARY THREAT IN EUROPE

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine the growing Russian military threat in Europe, focusing on assessing and addressing the challenge, after receiving testimony from Michael Carpenter, University of Pennsylvania Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement, Steven Pifer, The Brookings Institution, and Stephen G. Rademaker, The Podesta Group, all of Washington, D.C.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY,
MAY 18, 2017**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kari A. Bingen, of Virginia, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary, Robert Story Kareem, of the District of Columbia, and Kenneth P. Rapuano, of Virginia, both to be an Assistant Secretary, and Ryan Dean Newman, of New Mexico, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army, all of the Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine domestic and international policy, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 10 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of David Bernhardt, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior, 10:15 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Finance: business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, “The Creating High-Quality Results and Outcomes Necessary to Improve Chronic (CHRONIC) Care Act of 2017”, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of William Francis Hagerty IV, of Tennessee, to be Ambassador to Japan, Department of State, 9:30 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 867, to provide support for law enforcement agency efforts to protect the mental health and well-being of law enforcement officers, and the nomination of Amul R. Thapar, of Kentucky, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, 10 a.m., SD-226.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, oversight hearing entitled “Coast Guard Requirements, Priorities and Future Acquisition Plans”, 8 a.m., 2007 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Emerging Transportation Technologies”, 10 a.m., 2358-A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the U.S. Capitol Police, 10 a.m., HT-2 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the Library of Congress, 2:30 p.m., HT-2 Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, hearing entitled “Amphibious Warfare in a Contested Environment”, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, hearing entitled “Regulatory Barriers Facing Workers and Families Saving for Retirement”, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, markup on H.R. 1222, the “Congenital Heart Futures Reauthorization Act of 2017”; H.R. 2410, the “Sickle Cell Disease Research, Surveillance, Prevention, and Treatment Act of 2017”; and the “FDA Reauthorization Act of 2017”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade, hearing entitled “Lessons from the IMF’s Bailout of Greece”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled “U.S. Interests in Africa”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled “Disappeared, Jailed, and Tortured in China: Wives Petition for Their Husbands’ Freedom”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence, markup on the “Transnational Criminal Organization Exploitation Threat Assessment Act”; H.R. 2453, the “DHS Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program Act of 2017”; H.R. 2468, the “Unifying DHS Intelligence Enterprise Act”; H.R. 2471, the “Terrorist Release Announcements to Counter Extremist Recidivism Act”; H.R. 2454, the “Department of Homeland Security Data Framework Act of 2017”; H.R. 2470, the “Homeland Threat Assessment Act”; H.R. 2443, the “Department of Homeland Security Classified Facility Inventory Act”; H.R. 2427, the “Pathways to Improving Homeland Security at the Local Level Act”; H.R. 2433, the “Homeland Security Assessment of Terrorist Use of Virtual Currencies Act”; and H.R. 2442, the “Office of State and Local Law Enforcement Information Sharing Review Act”, 10 a.m., HVC-210.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency, hearing entitled “From the Border to Disasters and Beyond: Critical Canine Contributions to the DHS Mission”, 2 p.m., HVC-210.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1973, the “Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse Act of 2017”; H.R. 2473, the “Enforcing Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2017”; H.R. 2431, the “Michael Davis, Jr. and Danny Oliver in Honor of State and Local Law Enforcement Act”; H.R. 2407, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, and for other purposes; and H.R. 2406, to amend section 442 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize United

States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and for other purposes, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans, hearing on H.R. 2371, to require the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration to establish a pilot project to provide increased transparency for customers, and for other purposes; and the “Water Rights Protection Act”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Federal Employee Compensation: An Update”, 9 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled “Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Improving Water Quality Through Integrated Planning”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Tax Policy, hearing entitled “How Tax Reform Will Grow Our Economy and Create Jobs”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Current Status of the Medicare Program, Payment Systems, and Extenders”, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, May 18

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Rachel L. Brand, of Iowa, to be Associate Attorney General, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 12 noon.

Following disposition of the nomination of Rachel L. Brand, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Terry Branstad, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to the People's Republic of China.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, May 18

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Begin consideration of H.R. 1039—Probation Officer Protection Act of 2017 (Subject to a Rule). Complete consideration of H.R. 115—Thin Blue Line Act.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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