

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1477–S1508

Measures Introduced: Forty-five bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 697–741, and S. Res. 105–108. **Pages S1500–01**

Measures Passed:

Pay of displaced staff: Senate agreed to S. Res. 108, to make technical corrections to the amendments made by Senate Resolution 30 (117th Congress) to Senate Resolution 458 (98th Congress). **Page S1507**

Girl Scouts of the United States: Senate agreed to S. Res. 106, recognizing Girl Scouts of the United States of America on its 109th birthday and celebrating its legacy of fostering civic action and community service among girls and creating leaders in Gold Award Girl Scouts, including the 2020 National Gold Award Girl Scouts. **Page S1507**

Women of the Aviation Workforce Week: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 96, designating March 8 through March 14, 2021, as “Women of the Aviation Workforce Week”, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S1507**

Schumer (for Rosen) Amendment No. 1399, to amend the preamble. **Page S1507**

Appointments:

Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d–276g, as amended, appointed the following Senator as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group conference during the 117th Congress: Senator Crapo. **Page S1507**

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control: The Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99–93, as amended by Public Law 99–151, appointed the following Senators as members of the United States Senate Caucus on International Nar-

cotics Control: Senators Grassley (Vice Chairman), Cornyn, and Risch. **Page S1507**

Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d–276g, as amended, appointed the following Senator as Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group conference during the 117th Congress: Senator Klobuchar. **Page S1507**

Senate National Security Working Group: The Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 64, adopted March 5, 2013, appointed the following Senators as members of the Senate National Security Working Group for the 117th Congress: Senators Cornyn (Administrative Co-Chair), Fischer (Co-Chair), Sasse (Co-Chair), Rubio, Blunt, Graham, Inhofe, Risch, and Romney. **Pages S1507–08**

Motion to Discharge Becerra Nomination: By 51 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. 117), Senate agreed to the motion to discharge the nomination of Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, from the Committee on Finance. **Pages S1479–84**

Subsequently, the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 27, relative to Senate procedure in the 117th Congress. **Page S1484**

Haaland Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Debra Anne Haaland, of New Mexico, to be Secretary of the Interior. **Pages S1484–96**

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

By 54 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 118), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1488**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, March 15, 2021; with all post-cloture time expiring at 5:30 p.m. **Page S1508**

Guzman Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Isabella Casillas

Guzman, of California, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration. **Page S1484**

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 Debra Anne Haaland, of New Mexico, to be Secretary of the Interior. **Page S1484**

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1484**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1484**

Tai Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Katherine C. Tai, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.

Page S1484

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 Isabella Casillas Guzman, of California, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration. **Page S1484**

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1484**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1484**

Nomination Discharged: The following nomination were discharged from further committee consideration and placed on the Executive Calendar:

Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, which was sent to the Senate on January 20, 2021, from the Senate Committee on Finance. **Page S1484**

Messages from the House: **Page S1499**

Measures Referred: **Page S1499**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S1499**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1501–02**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1502–06**

Additional Statements: **Page S1499**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S1506**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S1506–07**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—118) **Page S1484, S1488**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10:30 a.m. and adjourned at 4:02 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, March 15, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1508.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

FARMERS AND FORESTERS

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine farmers and foresters, focusing on opportunities to lead in tackling climate change, after receiving testimony from Clay Pope, National Farmers Union, Loyal, Oklahoma; Mark Isbell, USA Rice, England, Arkansas; John Reifsteck, GROWMARK cooperative, Bloomington, Illinois, on behalf of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives; Stefanie Smallhouse, Arizona Farm Bureau Federation, Gilbert; and Cori Wittman Stitt, Environmental Defense Fund, Lapwai, Idaho.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MILITARY, NATIONAL, AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the final recommendations and report of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service, after receiving testimony from former Representative Joseph J. Heck, Chairman, Debra S. Wada, Vice Chair, Military Service, and Alan Khazei, Commissioner, all of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of David Turk, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

ELECTRIC SERVICE AND EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the reliability, resiliency, and affordability of electric service in the United States amid the changing energy mix and extreme weather events, after receiving testimony from Mark A. Gabriel, Administrator, Western Area Power Administration, Department of Energy; James B. Robb, North American Electric Reliability Corporation, Atlanta, Georgia; Pat Wood, III, Hunt Energy Network, former Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Houston, Texas; Michael D. Shellenberger, Environmental Progress, Berkeley, California; and Manu Asthana, PJM Interconnection, Audubon, Pennsylvania.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Wendy Ruth Sherman, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary, and Brian P. McKeon, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources, both of the Department of State.

U.S. OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES AROUND THE WORLD

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee received a closed briefing on opportunities and challenges for the United States around the world from Antony Blinken, Secretary of State.

COMPETITION POLICY AND ANTITRUST REFORM

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights concluded a hearing to examine competition policy for the twenty-first century, focusing on the case for antitrust reform, after receiving testimony from George P. Slover, Consumer Reports, Ashley Baker, The Committee for Justice, Barry C. Lynn, Open Markets Institute, and Jan M. Rybnicek, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, all of Washington, D.C.; and Nancy L. Rose, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 84 public bills, H.R. 1783–1866; 1 private bills, H.R. 1867; and 12 resolutions, H. Res. 218–229, were introduced. **Pages H1351–56**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H1359**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021: The House passed H.R. 8, to require a background check for every firearm sale, by a yea-and-nay vote of 227 yeas to 203 nays, Roll No. 75. Consideration began yesterday, March 10th. **Pages H1330–32**

Rejected the Jordan motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary, by a yea-and-nay vote of 207 yeas to 217 nays, Roll No. 74. **Page H1331**

H. Res. 188, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 842), (H.R. 8), and (H.R. 1446) was agreed to Monday, March 8th.

Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2021: The House passed H.R. 1446, to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to strengthen the background check procedures to be followed before a Federal firearms licensee may transfer a firearm to a person who is not such a licensee, by a yea-and-nay vote of 219 yeas to 210 nays, Roll No. 77. Consideration began yesterday, March 10th. **Pages H1332–34**

Rejected the Hudson motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary, by a yea-and-nay vote of 206 yeas to 212 nays, Roll No. 76. **Pages H1332–33**

H. Res. 188, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 842), (H.R. 8), and (H.R. 1446) was agreed to Monday, March 8th.

Making a technical correction to the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act of 2019: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass S. 579, to make a technical correction to the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act of 2019. **Page H1334**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1331, H1331–32, H1332–33, and H1333–34.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Committee Meetings**A LOOK AT FOOD INSECURITY IN AMERICA**

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “A Look at Food Insecurity in America”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

APPROPRIATIONS—ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL; GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a budget hearing on the Architect of the Capitol and the Government Publishing Office. Testimony was heard from J. Brett Blanton, Architect of the Capitol; and Hugh Halpern, Director, Government Publishing Office.

COVID-19 AND THE MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE CRISES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “COVID-19 and the Mental Health and Substance Use Crises”. Testimony was heard from Mark Stringer, Director, Missouri Department of Mental Health; and public witnesses.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held an oversight hearing on the U.S. Postal Service. Testimony was heard from Louis DeJoy, United States Postmaster General, U.S. Postal Service.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Education and Labor: Full Committee held a business meeting on new subcommittee assignments. Subcommittee assignments were approved.

CLEARING THE AIR: SCIENCE-BASED STRATEGIES TO PROTECT WORKERS FROM COVID-19 INFECTIONS

Committee on Education and Labor: Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a hearing entitled “Clearing the Air: Science-Based Strategies to Protect Workers from COVID-19 Infections”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

KIDS ONLINE DURING COVID: CHILD SAFETY IN AN INCREASINGLY DIGITAL AGE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce held a hearing entitled “Kids Online During COVID: Child Safety in an Increasingly Digital Age”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SLIPPING THROUGH THE CRACKS: POLICY OPTIONS TO HELP AMERICA’S CONSUMERS DURING THE PANDEMIC

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions held a hearing entitled “Slipping Through the Cracks: Policy Options to Help America’s Consumers During the Pandemic”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE CRISIS IN YEMEN: PART 1

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa and Global Counterterrorism held a hearing entitled “The Crisis in Yemen: Part 1”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES: FEDERAL POLICIES AND ENFORCEMENT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security held a hearing entitled “Controlled Substances: Federal Policies and Enforcement”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR CONGRESS’S ABILITY TO UPHOLD STANDARDS OF MEMBER CONDUCT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties held a hearing entitled “The Constitutional Framework for Congress’s Ability to Uphold Standards of Member Conduct”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BUILDING BACK BETTER: BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR THE ECONOMY, CLIMATE, AND ECOSYSTEMS

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a hearing entitled “Building Back Better: Building Resilience for the Economy, Climate, and Ecosystems”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

TAX TOOLS TO HELP LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures held a hearing entitled “Tax Tools to Help Local Governments”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “VA Specialty Healthcare: Oversight of Women’s Health, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Whole Health, and Homelessness”, 11:30 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Cyber, Innovative Technologies, and Information Systems; and Subcommittee on National Security of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, joint hearing entitled

“Final Recommendations of the National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence”, 11 a.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Policy Recommendations on Haiti for the Biden Administration”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on House Administration, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Committee Funding for the 117th Congress”, 12 p.m., Webex.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law, hearing entitled “Reviving Competition, Part 2: Saving the Free and Diverse Press”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Science Behind Impacts of the Climate Crisis”, 11 a.m., Webex.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3 p.m., Monday, March 15

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10:30 a.m., Friday, March 12

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Debra Anne Haaland, of New Mexico, to be Secretary of the Interior, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon on at 5:30 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 10:30 a.m.

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