

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S23–S50

Measures Introduced: Five bills were introduced, as follows: S. 3560–3564 **Pages S47–48**

Measures Reported:

S. 432, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the Nulhegan River and Paul Stream in the State of Vermont for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system. (S. Rept. No. 118–149)

S. 507, to establish the Ralph David Abernathy, Sr., National Historic Site. (S. Rept. No. 118–150)

S. 608, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the Deerfield River for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system. (S. Rept. No. 118–151)

S. 961, to redesignate the Salem Maritime National Historic Site in Salem, Massachusetts, as the “Salem Maritime National Historic Park”. (S. Rept. No. 118–152)

S. 1405, to provide for the exchange of certain Federal land and State land in the State of Utah. (S. Rept. No. 118–153)

S. 2018, to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an assessment to identify locations in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for broadband internet access service and areas in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for cellular service, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 118–154)

S. 2149, to sustain economic development and recreational use of National Forest System land in the State of Montana, to add certain land to the National Wilderness Preservation System, to designate new areas for recreation. (S. Rept. No. 118–155)

S. 2216, to release from wilderness study area designation certain land in the State of Montana, to improve the management of that land, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 118–156) **Page S47**

Rodriguez Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Jose Javier Rodriguez, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor. **Pages S32–35**

Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motions to invoke cloture with respect to the nominations of Jose Javier Rodriguez, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, and Joseph Goffman, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, be withdrawn; and that the motions to invoke cloture with respect to the nominations of S. Kato Crews, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, and Karoline Mehalchick, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, ripen at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Republican Leader, during the session of Wednesday, January 10, 2024. **Page S35**

Mehalchick Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Karoline Mehalchick, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. **Pages S35–42**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at approximately 10:00 a.m., on Wednesday, January 10, 2024. **Pages S49–50**

McEntarfer Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Erika L. McEntarfer, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor. **Pages S42–43**

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 Karoline Mehalchick, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. **Pages S42–43**

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S42**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S42**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 83 yeas to 14 nays (Vote No. EX. 2), John A. Kazen, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas. **Pages S23–32**

Messages from the House: **Page S44**

Executive Communications: **Pages S44–46**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S46–47**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S48–49**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Page S49

Additional Statements: **Pages S43–44**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S49**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—2) **Page S31**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 10, 2024. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S50.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 16 public bills, H.R. 6913–6928; and 6 resolutions, H. Res. 948–953, were introduced. **Pages H13–14**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H14–15**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 788, to limit donations made pursuant to settlement agreements to which the United States is a party, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–339);

H.R. 187, to ensure the payment of interest and principal of the debt of the United States, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–340);

H.R. 6370, to require the Office of Foreign Assets Control to develop a program under which private sector firms may receive a license to conduct nominal financial transactions in furtherance of the firms' investigations, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 118–341, Part 1); and

H. Res. 947, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 788) to limit donations made pursuant to settlement agreements to which the United States is a party, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 98) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to "Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status"; and providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 38) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Highway

Administration relating to "Waiver of Buy America Requirements for Electric Vehicle Chargers" (H. Rept. 118–342). **Page H13**

Call of the House: The Speaker called the House to order and ascertained the presence of a quorum (334 present, Roll No. 1). **Pages H5–6**

Committee to Notify the President of the Assembly of the House: The House agreed to H. Res. 948, authorizing the Speaker to appoint a committee on the part of the House to notify the President that a quorum of the House has assembled, and that the House is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make. Subsequently, the Speaker appointed Representatives Scalise and Jeffries to the committee. **Page H6**

Notifying the Senate That a Quorum of the House Has Assembled: The House agreed to H. Res. 949, authorizing the Clerk of the House to inform the Senate that a quorum of the House has assembled and that the House is ready to proceed with business. **Page H6**

Meeting Hour: The House agreed to H. Res. 950, providing for the hour of meeting of the House. **Page H6**

Morning Hour Debate: Agreed by unanimous consent that the order of the House of January 9, 2023, providing for Morning Hour Debate, be extended for the remainder of the 118th Congress, except that H. Res. 950 shall supplant H. Res. 6. **Page H6**

Member Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Johnson, wherein he resigned as Representative for the Sixth Congressional District of Ohio, effective January 21, 2024. **Page H6**

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Bice wherein she resigned from the Committee on the Budget. **Page H6**

Quorum Calls—Votes: One quorum call (Roll No. 1) developed during the proceedings of today and appears on pages H5–6.

Adjournment: The House met at 6:30 p.m. and adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Committee Meetings

STOP SETTLEMENT SLUSH FUNDS ACT OF 2023; PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE RELATING TO STANDARD FOR DETERMINING JOINT EMPLOYER STATUS; PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE RELATING TO WAIVER OF BUY AMERICA REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 788, the “Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2023”; H.J. Res. 98, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to “Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status”; and S.J. Res. 38, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Highway Administration relating to “Waiver of Buy America Requirements for Electric Vehicle Chargers”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 6–2, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 788, the Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2023, H.J. Res. 98, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to “Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status”, and S.J. Res. 38, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Highway Administration relating to “Waiver of Buy America Requirements for Electric Vehicle Chargers”. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 788, the “Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2023”, under a structured rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118–18 shall be considered as adopted, and the bill, as amended, shall

be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees. The rule makes in order only the further amendment printed in the report accompanying the resolution. Each amendment shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment printed in the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.J. Res. 98, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to “Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status”, under a closed rule. 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 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of S.J. Res. 38, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Highway Administration relating to “Waiver of Buy America Requirements for Electric Vehicle Chargers”, under a closed rule. 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 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure or their respective designees. Finally, the rule provides one motion to commit. Testimony was heard from Chairman Foxx, and Representatives Nehls, Auchincloss, Wild, Gooden, and Nadler.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 10, 2024**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine investing in the future, focusing on safeguarding municipal bonds from climate risk, 10 a.m., SD-608.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine harnessing AI to improve government services and customer service, 10 a.m., SD-562.

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law, to hold an oversight hearing to examine AI and the future of journalism, 2 p.m., SD-226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Education and Workforce, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 6914, the “Pregnant Students’ Rights Act”; and H.R. 443, the “Enhancing Detection of Human Trafficking Act”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials, hearing entitled “Protecting Clean American Energy Production and Jobs by Stopping EPA’s Overreach”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Capital Markets, hearing entitled “Examining the DOL Fiduciary Rule: Implications for Retirement Savings and Access”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Digital Assets, Financial Technology and Inclusion, hearing entitled “Regulatory Whiplash: Examining the Impact of FSOC’s Ever-changing Designation Framework on Innovation”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Havoc in the Heartland: How Secretary Mayorkas’ Failed Leadership Has Impacted the States”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, markup on Report Recommending that the House of Representatives Cite Robert Hunter Biden for Contempt of Congress, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Federal Lands; and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, joint hearing entitled “National Park Service’s Deferred Maintenance Backlog: Perspectives from the Government Accountability Office and the Inspector General”, 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Full Committee, business meeting, hearing on legislation recommending that the House of Representatives find Robert Hunter Biden in contempt of Congress for refusal to comply with a subpoena duly issued by the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, January 10

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, January 10

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Karoline Mehalchick, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, and vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Karoline Mehalchick, and S. Kato Crews, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, at a time to be determined during Wednesday's session.

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

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