

in Afghanistan, after receiving testimony from Richard G. Olson, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Department of State; Donald L. Sampler, Assistant to the Administrator and Director of the Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs, United States Agency for International Development;

Ali A. Jalali, National Defense University Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, Department of Defense; and James B. Cunningham, Atlantic Council South Asia Center, and Jodi Vittori, Global Witness, both of Washington, D.C.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 18 public bills, H.R. 4262–4279; and 3 resolutions, H.J. Res. 78–79; and H. Res. 567, were introduced.

Pages H9373–75

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H9375–76

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 566, providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2029) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; providing for proceedings during the period from December 19, 2015, through January 4, 2016; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–382).

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Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rear Admiral Margaret Grun Kibben, Chief of Chaplains for the United States Navy, Washington, DC.

Page H9331

Resignation of the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives: Read a letter from Ed Cassidy, in which he submitted his resignation as Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, effective upon the election of his successor.

Page H9332

Administration of the Oath of Office to an Officer of the House: The Speaker administered the Oath of Office to William Plaster of the Commonwealth of Virginia to act as and to exercise the duties of Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, effective December 31, 2015.

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

Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2015: Concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2820, to reauthorize the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-

and-nay vote of 421 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 695;

Pages H9333–35, H9339

National Guard and Reservist Debt Relief Extension Act of 2015: H.R. 4246, to exempt for an additional 4-year period, from the application of the means-test presumption of abuse under chapter 7, qualifying members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 90 days, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 419 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 696;

Pages H9335–37, H9339–40

Emergency Information Improvement Act of 2015: S. 1090, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide eligibility for broadcasting facilities to receive certain disaster assistance, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 420 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 697;

Pages H9337–38, H9340–41

Further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2016: H.J. Res. 78, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2016;

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Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015: Concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 2297, to prevent Hizballah and associated entities from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 425 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 698;

Pages H9341–46, H9356

First Responders Passport Act of 2015: H.R. 3750, amended, to waive the passport fees for first responders proceeding abroad to aid a foreign country suffering from a natural disaster, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 421 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 699;

Pages H9346–48, H9356–57

Tracking Foreign Fighters in Terrorist Safe Havens Act: H.R. 4239, amended, to require intelligence community reporting on foreign fighter flows to and from terrorist safe havens abroad, by a

$\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 423 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 700; and **Pages H9349–52, H9357–58**

Strengthening Cybersecurity Information Sharing and Coordination in Our Ports Act of 2015: H.R. 3878, amended, to enhance cybersecurity information sharing and coordination at ports in the United States. **Pages H9352–55**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:43 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Pages H9355–56**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated on Tuesday, December 15th:

Combat Terrorist Use of Social Media Act of 2015: H.R. 3654, amended, to require a report on United States strategy to combat terrorist use of social media. **Page H9341**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, December 17. **Page H9358**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:08 p.m. and reconvened at 7:34 p.m. **Page H9372**

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Global Health Innovation Act of 2015: H.R. 2241, amended, to direct the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to submit to Congress a report on the development and use of global health innovations in the programs, projects, and activities of the Agency. **Pages H9348–49**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today and message received from the Senate appear on pages H9346, H9372.

Senate Referrals: S. 571 was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. S. 238 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. **Page H9346**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Six yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H9339, H9340, H9340–41, H9356, H9356–57, and H9357–58. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Committee Meetings

EXAMINING THE CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU'S MASS DATA COLLECTION PROGRAM

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Examining the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s Mass Data Collection Program”. Testimony was heard from former Speaker of the House of Representatives Newt Gingrich; and public witnesses.

THE FUTURE OF U.S.-PAKISTAN RELATIONS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Future of U.S.-Pakistan Relations”. Testimony was heard from Richard Olson, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Department of State.

EGYPT TWO YEARS AFTER MORSI, PART II

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa held a hearing entitled “Egypt Two Years After Morsi (Part II)”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD, OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS, AND OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNCIL REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing entitled “Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB), Office of Government Ethics (OGE), and Office of Special Council (OSC) Reauthorization”. Testimony was heard from Walter M. Shaub, Jr., Director, Office of Government Ethics; Carolyn N. Lerner, Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel; and Susan Tsui Grundmann, Chair, Merit Systems Protection Board.

SENATE AMENDMENT TO THE MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on Senate amendment to H.R. 2029, the “Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016”. The committee granted, by record vote of 9–2, a rule that provides for consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 2029. The rule makes in order a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment with two House amendments: Amendment #1 (consolidated appropriations) consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114–39 modified