

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4123–S4163

Measures Introduced: Eight bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1616–1623, and S. Res. 229–230. **Pages S4135–36**

Measures Reported:

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. Rept. No. 115–133)

S. 760, to expand the Government's use and administration of data to facilitate transparency, effective governance, and innovation, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 115–134)

S. 756, to reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris. (S. Rept. No. 115–135)

S. 1096, to amend and enhance certain maritime programs of the Department of Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 115–136) **Page S4135**

Measures Considered:

National Defense Authorization Act: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and

for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year. **Pages S4130–34, S4139–63**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 53 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 166), David Bernhardt, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior. **Pages S4124–30, S4163**

Messages from the House: **Page S4135**

Measures Referred: **Page S4135**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S4136–37**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S4137–39**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S4139**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—166) **Page S4130**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 4 p.m. and adjourned at 11:19 p.m., until 12 noon on Tuesday, July 25, 2017. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4139.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 19 public bills, H.R. 3356–3357, 3359–3361, 3363–3376; and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 72; and H. Res. 469–472, were introduced. **Pages H6212–13**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H6214–15**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed on July 21, 2017 as follows:

H.R. 3353, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–237);

H.R. 3354, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–238);

H.R. 3355, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–239); and

H. Con. Res. 71, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027 (H. Rept. 115–240).

Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1927, to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the African American Civil Rights Network, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–241);

S. 249, to provide that the pueblo of Santa Clara may lease for 99 years certain restricted land, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–242);

H.R. 2749, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the oversight of contracts awarded by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–243);

H.R. 3358, making appropriations for the Departments of labor, health, and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–244);

H.R. 282, to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to authorize spouses of servicemembers to elect to use the same residences as the servicemembers (H. Rept. 115–245);

H.R. 2006, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the procurement practices of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–246);

H.R. 3218, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–247, Part 1);

H.R. 2772, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for requirements relating to the reassignment of Department of Veterans Affairs senior executive employees (H. Rept. 115–248);

H.R. 1690, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit an annual report regarding performance awards and bonuses awarded to certain high-level employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–249);

H.R. 2781, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certify the sufficient participation of small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans and small business concerns owned by veterans with service-connected disabilities in contracts under the Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiative, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–250);

H.R. 3180, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–251);

H. Res. 468, providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 111) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to “Arbitration Agreements” (H. Rept. 115–252); and

H.R. 3362, making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–253).

Pages H6211–12

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Comer to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H6149

Recess: The House recessed at 12:06 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.

Page H6150

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

Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017: H.R. 3218, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 405 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 409;

Pages H6158–70, H6197–98

Military Residency Choice Act: H.R. 282, to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to authorize spouses of servicemembers to elect to use the same residences as the servicemembers;

Pages H6170–71, H6198

Veterans Affairs Provider Equity Act: H.R. 1058, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of podiatrists in the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Pages H6171–72, H6198

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of podiatrists in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.”

Page H6198

Department of Veterans Affairs Bonus Transparency Act: H.R. 1690, amended, to amend title

38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit an annual report regarding performance awards and bonuses awarded to certain high-level employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs; **Pages H6172–73, H6198**

Veterans Affairs Medical Scribe Pilot Act of 2017: H.R. 1848, amended, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on the use of medical scribes in Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; **Pages H6173–74, H6198–99**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on the use of medical scribes in Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers, and for other purposes.” **Pages H6198–99**

Veterans Affairs Procurement Efficiency and Transparency Act: H.R. 2006, to amend title 38, United States Code, and to improve the procurement practices of the Department of Veterans Affairs; **Pages H6174–75, H6199**

Protecting Business Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2017: H.R. 2749, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the oversight of contracts awarded by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans; **Pages H6175–76, H6199**

Ensuring Veteran Enterprise Participation in Strategic Sourcing Act: H.R. 2781, amended, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certify the sufficient participation of small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans and small business concerns owned by veterans with service-connected disabilities in contracts under the Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiative; **Pages H6176–78, H6199**

Small Business Investment Opportunity Act of 2017: H.R. 2333, amended, to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount of leverage made available to small business investment companies; **Pages H6178–79**

Microloan Modernization Act of 2017: H.R. 2056, amended, to amend the Small Business Act to provide for expanded participation in the microloan program; **Pages H6179–81**

Investing in Main Street Act of 2017: H.R. 2364, to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount that certain banks and savings associations may invest in small business investment companies, subject to the approval of the appropriate Federal banking agency; and **Pages H6181–83**

Authorizing the Capitol Police Board to make payments from the United States Capitol Police Memorial Fund to employees of the United States

Capitol Police who have sustained serious line-of-duty injuries: H.R. 3298, amended, to authorize the Capitol Police Board to make payments from the United States Capitol Police Memorial Fund to employees of the United States Capitol Police who have sustained serious line-of-duty injuries. **Pages H6183–87**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:43 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H6195**

Requesting the Senate return to the House H.J. Res. 76: The House agreed to H. Res. 469, that the Clerk of the House of Representatives request the Senate to return to the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 76) granting the consent and approval of Congress for the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Maryland, and the District of Columbia to enter into a compact relating to the establishment of the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission. **Page H6196**

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

Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018: H.R. 3180, amended, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 241 yeas to 163 nays, Roll No. 407; and **Pages H6187–95, H6196**

Department of Veterans Affairs Bonus Transparency Act: S. 114, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit an annual report regarding performance awards and bonuses awarded to certain high-level employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 219 yeas to 186 nays, Roll No. 408. **Pages H6151–58, H6196–97**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13581 with respect to significant transnational criminal organizations is to continue in effect beyond July 24, 2017—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 115–57). **Page H6150**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H6150.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yeas-and-nays votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H6196, H6197, and H6197–98. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Committee Meetings

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION RELATING TO “ARBITRATION AGREEMENTS”; DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.J. Res. 111, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to “Arbitration Agreements”; and H.R. 3219, the “Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2018” [Make America Secure Appropriations Act, 2018]. The Committee granted, by record vote of 9–4, a closed rule for H.J. Res. 111. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. 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 motion to recommit. Testimony on H.J. Res 111 was heard from Chairman Hensarling and Representative Waters. Testimony on H.R. 3219 was heard from Chairman Frelinghuysen, Chairman Brooks of Indiana, and Representatives Lamborn, Lowey, Yoder, Ryan of Ohio, Dent, Wasserman Schultz, Simpson, Kaptur, Granger, Visclosky, Carter of Texas, Roybal-Allard, Slaughter, McGovern, Polis, Barr, Courtney, Garamendi, Davidson, Gomez, Dunn, Langevin, Lee, Gohmert, Panetta, Graves of Louisiana, Suozzi, Hurd, Titus, Mast, Perry, and Young of Alaska.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2017

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold hearings to examine commodities, credit, and crop insurance, focusing on perspectives on risk management tools and trends for the 2018 Farm Bill, 8:30 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, business meeting to mark up an original bill entitled, “Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018”, 11 a.m., SD–192.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, business meeting to mark up an original bill entitled, “Commerce, Justice, Science and Related

Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018.”, 2:30 p.m., SD–192.

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on SeaPower, to hold hearings to receive testimony on options and considerations for achieving a 355-ship Navy from naval analysts, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard, to hold hearings to examine efforts on marine debris in the oceans and Great Lakes, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety, to hold hearings to examine developing and deploying advanced clean energy technologies, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, to hold hearings to examine assessing the maximum pressure and engagement policy toward North Korea, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ralph R. Erickson, of North Dakota, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, Dabney Langhorne Friedrich, of California, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Stephen S. Schwartz, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, and Brian Allen Benczkowski, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters; to be immediately followed by a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Evaluating DOD Equipment and Uniform Procurement in Iraq and Afghanistan”, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “Oversight and Reauthorization of the Federal Communications Commission”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1624, the “Municipal Finance Support Act of 2017”; H.R. 2864, the “Improving Access to Capital Act”; H.R. 3110, the “Financial Stability Oversight Council Insurance Member Continuity Act”; H.R. 3321, the “National Strategy for Combating Terrorist, Underground, and Other Illicit Financing Act”; H.R. 3326, the “World Bank Accountability Act of 2017”; and H. Res. 442, of inquiry directing the Secretary of the Treasury to provide certain documents in the Secretary’s possession to the House of Representatives relating to President Trump’s financial connections to Russia, certain illegal financial schemes, and related information, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Authorization for the Use of Military Force and Current Terrorist Threats”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats, hearing entitled “Examining the President’s FY 2018 Budget Proposal for Europe and Eurasia”, 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, hearing entitled “Held for Ransom: The Families of Iran’s Hostages Speak Out”, 3 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.