

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 1370, Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign Authorization Act (the legislative vehicle for the “Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act”).

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S8187–S8281

Measures Introduced: Fifteen bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2260–2274, S.J. Res. 51, and S. Res. 364–366. **Pages S8259–60**

Measures Passed:

Congratulating the University of Nebraska-Lincoln volleyball team: Senate agreed to S. Res. 365, congratulating the University of Nebraska-Lincoln volleyball team for winning the 2017 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Volleyball Championship. **Pages S8263–64**

Gateway Arch National Park Designation Act: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged from further consideration of S. 1438, to redesignate the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in the State of Missouri as the “Gateway Arch National Park”, and the bill was then passed. **Page S8267**

African American Civil Rights Network Act: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1927, to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the African American Civil Rights Network, and the bill was then passed. **Page S8267**

Black Hills National Cemetery Boundary Expansion Act: Senate passed S. 35, to transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain Bureau of Land Management land from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for inclusion in the Black Hills National Cemetery, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S8267–68**

Cerros del Norte Conservation Act: Senate passed S. 432, to designate the Cerro del Yuta and Rio San Antonio Wilderness Areas in the State of New Mexico. **Pages S8267–68**

Kaibab National Forest: Senate passed S. 466, to clarify the description of certain Federal land under the Northern Arizona Land Exchange and Verde River Basin Partnership Act of 2005 to include additional land in the Kaibab National Forest. **Pages S8267–68**

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Act: Senate passed H.R. 267, to redesignate the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site in the State of Georgia. **Pages S8267–68**

The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act: Senate passed H.R. 560, to amend the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act to provide access to certain vehicles serving residents of municipalities adjacent to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. **Pages S8267–68**

Mount Hood Cooper Spur Land Exchange Clarification Act: Senate passed H.R. 699, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify provisions relating to certain land exchanges in the Mt. Hood Wilderness in the State of Oregon. **Pages S8267–68**

Coltsville National Historical Park: Senate passed H.R. 863, to facilitate the addition of park administration at the Coltsville National Historical Park. **Pages S8267–68**

National Memorial to Fallen Educators Act: Senate passed S. 167, to designate a National Memorial to Fallen Educators at the National Teachers Hall of Fame in Emporia, Kansas, after agreeing to the committee amendment. **Pages S8267–68**

John Muir Wilderness of the Sierra National Forest: Senate passed H.R. 381, to designate a mountain in the John Muir Wilderness of the Sierra National Forest as “Sky Point”. **Pages S8267–68**

Rockingham County, Virginia land transferred: Senate passed H.R. 954, to remove the use restrictions on certain land transferred to Rockingham County, Virginia. **Pages S8267–68**

400 Years of African American History Commission Act: Senate passed H.R. 1242, to establish the 400 Years of African American History Commission. **Pages S8267–68**

Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act: Senate passed H.R. 1306, to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in the State of Oregon. **Pages S8267–68**

Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site Boundary Modification Act: Senate passed H.R. 2611, to modify the boundary of the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site. **Pages S8267–69**

Diesel Emissions Reduction Act: Senate passed S. 1447, to reauthorize the diesel emissions reduction program. **Pages S8269–70**

Subsequently, passage of the bill was vitiated.

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Strengthening the Department of Homeland Security Secure Mail Initiative Act: Senate passed S. 1208, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide for an option under the Secure Mail Initiative under which a person to whom a document is sent under that initiative may elect to have the United States Postal Service use the Hold for Pickup service or the Signature Confirmation service in delivering the document, after agreeing to the committee amendments. **Pages S8270–71**

Federal Register Printing Savings Act: Senate passed 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, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S8271**

McConnell (for Grassley) Amendment No. 1864, to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer’s Disease Patient Alert Program, and to promote initiatives that will reduce the risk of injury and death relating to the wandering characteristics of some children with autism. **Page S8271**

Kevin and Avonte’s Law: Senate passed S. 2070, to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, to reauthorize the Missing

Alzheimer’s Disease Patient Alert Program, and to promote initiatives that will reduce the risk of injury and death relating to the wandering characteristics of some children with autism, after agreeing to the committee amendment, and the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S8271–76**

McConnell (for Grassley) Amendment No. 1865, to make technical corrections. **Page S8273**

Condemning the Government of Iran: Senate agreed to S. Res. 139, condemning the Government of Iran’s state-sponsored persecution of its Baha’i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights, after agreeing to the committee amendment. **Pages S8276–77**

Ceiling Fan Energy Conservation Harmonization Act: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged from further consideration of S. 2030, to deem the compliance date for amended energy conservation standards for ceiling light kits to be January 21, 2020, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S8277–78**

Length of fishing vessels: Senate passed S. 2273, to extend the period during which vessels that are shorter than 79 feet in length and fishing vessels are not required to have a permit for discharges incidental to the normal operation of the vessel. **Page S8278**

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Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Awareness Month: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 336, recognizing the seriousness of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome and expressing support for the designation of the month of September 2018 as “Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Awareness Month”, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto: **Page S8278**

McConnell (for Warren) Amendment No. 1866, to amend the resolving clause. **Page S8278**

McConnell (for Warren) Amendment No. 1867, to amend the preamble. **Page S8278**

Congratulating the University of Central Missouri women’s soccer team: Senate agreed to S. Res. 364, congratulating the University of Central Missouri women’s soccer team for winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II Women’s Soccer Championship at Swope Soccer Village in Kansas City, Missouri. **Pages S8278–79**

National Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Awareness Week: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 327, designating the week of November 5 through 12, 2017, as “National Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Awareness Week”, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S8279**

EPS Improvement Act: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 518, to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to exclude power supply circuits, drivers, and devices designed to be connected to, and power, light-emitting diodes or organic light-emitting diodes providing illumination from energy conservation standards for external power supplies, and the bill was then passed.

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INTERDICT Act: Senate passed H.R. 2142, to improve the ability of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to interdict fentanyl, other synthetic opioids, and other narcotics and psychoactive substances that are illegally imported into the United States.

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Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2228, to provide support for law enforcement agency efforts to protect the mental health and well-being of law enforcement officers, and the bill was then passed.

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Connected Government Act: Senate passed H.R. 2331, to require a new or updated Federal website that is intended for use by the public to be mobile friendly.

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United States Fire Administration, AFG, and SAFER Program Reauthorization Act: Senate passed H.R. 4661, to reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, the Assistance to Firefighters Grants program, the Fire Prevention and Safety Grants program, and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant program.

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House Messages:

Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act: By 66 yeas to 32 nays (Vote No. 325), Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 1370, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue Department of Homeland Security-wide guidance and develop training programs as part of the Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, having achieved 60 affirmatives votes, be agreed to.)

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

By 91 yeas to 8 nays (Vote No. 324), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to waive all applicable sections of the Congressional

Budget Act of 1974 and applicable budget resolution for the purpose of the House message to accompany the bill. Subsequently, the point of order that the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill was in violation of section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 was not sustained, and the point of order fails.

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Appointments:

United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106–398, as amended by Public Law 108–7, and in consultation with the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the re-appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: James M. Talent of Missouri, for a term expiring December 31, 2019.

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United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106–398, as amended by Public Law 108–7, and in consultation with the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the re-appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: The Honorable Carte P. Goodwin of West Virginia for a term beginning January 1, 2018 and expiring December 31, 2019.

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Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Saturday, December 23, 2017 at 11 a.m.; Wednesday, December 27, 2017 at 10 a.m.; Friday, December 29, 2017 at 11:30 a.m.; Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 4 p.m.; and that when the Senate adjourns on Tuesday, January 2, 2018, it next convene at 12 noon, on Wednesday, January 3, 2018, pursuant to the Constitution.

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Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order declaring a national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States posed by serious human rights abuse and corruption around

the world; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–23)

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Nominations Status Quo—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the list at the desk of nominations received during the 115th Congress, 1st session, remain in status quo, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXXI.

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Rood Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 5 p.m., on Wednesday, January 3, 2018, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of John C. Rood, of Arizona, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, under the order of Wednesday, December 20, 2017.

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Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Robert Charrow, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Robert P. Storch, of the District of Columbia, to be Inspector General of the National Security Agency.

Hester Maria Peirce, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2020.

Robert J. Jackson, Jr., of New York, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 5, 2019.

Suzanne Israel Tufts, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Katherine Brunett McGuire, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Kenneth E. Allen, of Kentucky, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2021.

A.D. Frazier, of Georgia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2022.

Jeffrey Smith, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2022.

James R. Thompson III, of Alabama, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2021.

Kate S. O'Scannlain, of Maryland, to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor.

Brock D. Bierman, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Preston Rutledge, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Jon J. Rychalski, of Montana, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs.

Christopher Caldwell, of Arkansas, to be Federal Cochairperson, Delta Regional Authority.

Kenneth J. Braithwaite, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Norway.

Leonard Wolfson, of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Irving Dennis, of Ohio, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

M. Lee McClenney, of Washington, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor to be Ambassador to the Republic of Paraguay.

Douglas Webster, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Education.

Christopher Ashley Ford, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Security and Non-Proliferation).

Timothy R. Petty, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

John G. Vonglis, of New York, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy.

Linda Capuano, of Texas, to be Administrator of the Energy Information Administration.

Johnny Collett, of Kentucky, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education.

Tadd M. Johnson, of Minnesota, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation for a term expiring October 6, 2022.

Lisa Johnson-Billy, of Oklahoma, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation for a term expiring August 25, 2018.

Lisa Johnson-Billy, of Oklahoma, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation for a term expiring August 25, 2024.

Pages S8241–43, S8280–81

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

William F. Jung, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

Jill Alko Otake, of Hawaii, to be United States District Judge for the District of Hawaii.

William M. McSwain, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania for the term of four years.

Billy J. Williams, of Oregon, to be United States Attorney for the District of Oregon for the term of four years.

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Messages from the House:

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Measures Referred:	Page S8254
Measures Read the First Time:	Page S8254
Executive Communications:	Pages S8254–58
Petitions and Memorials:	Pages S8258–59
Additional Cosponsors:	Pages S8260–61
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:	Pages S8261–63
Additional Statements:	Pages S8251–53
Amendments Submitted:	Pages S8265–67

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—325) **Pages S8235–36**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10:01 a.m. and adjourned at 10:02 p.m., until 11 a.m. on Saturday, December 23, 2017. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S8280.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 28 public bills, H.R. 4706–4733; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 671–672 were introduced. **Pages H10418–19**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H10421**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 670, providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R.1370) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue Department of Homeland Security-wide guidance and develop training programs as part of the Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4667) making further supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, for disaster assistance for Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, and calendar year 2017 wildfires, and for other purposes; and providing for proceedings during the period from December 22, 2017, through January 7, 2018 (H. Rept. 115–477);

H.R. 3168, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide continued access to specialized Medicare Advantage plans for special needs individuals, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–478, Part 1);

H.R. 3726, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to create alternative sanctions for technical noncompliance with the Stark rule under Medicare, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–479, Part 1);

H.R. 3727, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to include additional telehealth services for purposes of MA organization bids, and for other

purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–480, Part 1);

H.R. 3729, to amend titles XI and XVIII of the Social Security Act to facilitate provider and supplier cost reporting of ambulance services under the Medicare program, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–481, Part 1); and

Committee on Ethics. In the Matter Regarding the Arrests of Members of the House During a Protest Outside the United States Capitol on December 6, 2017 (H. Rept. 115–482). **Page H10418**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by a yea-and-nay vote of 225 yeas to 187 nays with one answering "present", Roll No. 707. **Pages H10347, H10361**

Recess: The House recessed at 9:09 a.m. and reconvened at 12:21 p.m. **Page H10348**

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures. Consideration began Tuesday, December 19th.

Jobs for Our Heroes Act: S. 1393, to streamline the process by which active duty military, reservists, and veterans receive commercial driver's licenses, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 418 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 706; and **Pages H10360–61**

No Human Trafficking on Our Roads Act: S. 1532, to disqualify from operating a commercial motor vehicle for life an individual who uses a commercial motor vehicle in committing a felony involving human trafficking, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 393 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 710.

Pages H10404–05