

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate insisted on its amendment to H.R. 5515, John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act, agreed to the request from the House for a conference, and appointed conferees.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4847–S4880

Measures Introduced: Five bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3187–3191, S. Res. 570–571, and S. Con. Res. 41. **Page S4875**

Measures Reported:

S. 2202, to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the National Transportation Safety Board, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 115–293)

Report to accompany S. 2800, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States. (S. Rept. No. 115–294) **Page S4874**

Measures Passed:

100 Years of Mateship: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 41, recognizing 100 years of the United States–Australia relationship—100 years of Mateship.

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House Messages:

John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act—Motions to Instruct Conferees: By 91 yeas to 8 nays (Vote No. 147), Senate insisted on its amendment to H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 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, agreed to the request of the House for a conference, and authorized the Chair to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate, after taking action on the following motions to instruct conferees on the part of the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill to be instructed to in-

sist on the inclusion in the final conference report the following motions proposed thereto:

Pages S4857–58, S4867–69

Adopted:

By 97 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. 148), Cornyn Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the conference report include language to maintain the position of the Senate regarding modernization of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, as reflected in title XVII of the Senate amendment. **Page S4868**

By 97 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. 149), Reed Motion to Instruct Conferees to (1) reaffirm the commitment of the United States to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) alliance as a community of freedom, peace, security, and shared values, including liberty, human rights, democracy, and the rule of law; (2) reaffirm the ironclad commitment of the United States to its obligations under Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty to the collective self-defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization alliance; (3) establish as the policy of the United States pursuit of an integrated approach to strengthening the defense of allies and partners in Europe as part of a broader, long-term strategy using all elements of United States national power to deter and, if necessary, defeat Russian aggression; (4) call on the Administration to urgently prioritize the completion of a comprehensive whole-of-government strategy to counter malign activities of Russia that seek to undermine faith in democratic institutions in the United States and around the world, and to submit that strategy to Congress without delay; and (5) reflect the support of the United States for the rules-based international order that has ensured, and will continue to promote, an international system that benefits all nations, and for deepening and expanding alliances and partnerships to jointly work with

one another on shared challenges in Europe and the Indo-Pacific Region and throughout the world.

Pages S4868–69

The Chair appointed the following conferees on the part of the Senate: Senators McCain, Inhofe, Wicker, Fischer, Cotton, Rounds, Ernst, Tillis, Sullivan, Perdue, Cruz, Graham, Sasse, Scott, Crapo, Reed, Nelson, McCaskill, Shaheen, Gillibrand, Blumenthal, Donnelly, Hirono, Kaine, King, Heinrich, Warren, Peters, and Brown.

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Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, at 12 noon, on Wednesday, July 11, 2018, the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany H.R. 5895, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019; that the Majority Leader, or his designee, be recognized to make a compound motion to go to conference, and that Senate immediately vote on the motion; and that if the motion is agreed to, Senators Cassidy and Corker each be recognized to offer a motion to instruct conferees, and Senate vote on the motions in the order listed, with no further action on the compound motion, and that there be two minutes of debate between each vote, equally divided in the usual form.

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Benczkowski Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Brian Allen Benczkowski, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice.

Pages S4858–67, S4869–72

By 51 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. 146), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

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A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, at 2 p.m., on Wednesday, July 11, 2018, all post-cloture time on the nomination be considered expired and Senate immediately vote on confirmation of the nomination; and that following disposition of the nomination, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Paul C. Ney, Jr., of Tennessee, to be General Counsel of the Department of Defense.

Pages S4870–71

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the Benczkowski nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, July 11, 2018; and that all time during adjournment, Leader remarks, and morning business count post-cloture on the nomination.

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Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 72 yeas to 27 nays (Vote No. EX. 145), Mark Jeremy Bennett, of Hawaii, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Pages S4848–57, H4858, H4880

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Brett M. Kavanaugh, of Maryland, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

39 Army nominations in the rank of general.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

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Messages from the House: **Pages S4872–73**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S4873**

Executive Communications: **Pages S4873–74**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S4874–75**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S4875–76**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S4876–79

Additional Statements: **Page S4872**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S4879–80**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S4880**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S4880**

Record Votes: Five record votes were taken today. (Total—149) **Page S4858, S4867–69**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:29 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 11, 2018. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4880.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 2497, to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriations of funds to Israel, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

The nominations of Randy W. Berry, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, Donald Lu, of California, to be Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic, and Alaina B. Teplitz, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the Democratic