Thursday, February 14, 2019

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate confirmed the nomination of William Pelham Barr, of Virginia, to be Attorney General.

Senate agreed to the conference report to accompany H.J. Res. 31, Further Continuing Appropriations.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1337–S1397

Measures Introduced: Fifty-one bills and nine resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 485–535, S. Res. 71–77, and S. Con. Res. 4–5. Pages S1382–84

Measures Reported:

Honoring the Memory of the Victims of the Senseless Attack at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School: Senate agreed to S. Res. 71, honoring the memory of the victims of the senseless attack at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School 1 year ago. Pages S1338–41

National FFA Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 77, designating the week of February 16 through 23, 2019, as “National FFA Week,” recognizing the important role of the National FFA Organization in developing young leaders, and celebrating 50 years of female membership in the National FFA Organization. Pages S1392–93

Calling for credible, transparent, and safe elections in Nigeria: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 1, calling for credible, transparent, and safe elections in Nigeria, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto:

- McConnell (for Menendez/Risch) Amendment No. 190, in the nature of a substitute. Page S1393
- McConnell (for Menendez/Risch) Amendment No. 191, to amend the preamble. Page S1393
- Enact into law a bill by reference: Senate passed S. 483, to enact into law a bill by reference. Page S1394

Measures Passed:

Justice for Victims of Lynching Act: Senate passed S. 488, to amend title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a deprivation of civil rights. Pages S1345–47

Enrollment Correction: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 4, providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.J. Res. 31. Page S1364

Honoring the life, achievements, and distinguished public service of John David Dingell, Jr.: Senate agreed to S. Res. 75, honoring the life, achievements, and distinguished public service of John David Dingell, Jr., and expressing condolences to his family on his passing. Pages S1392–93

National Speech and Debate Education Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 76, designating March 1, 2019, as “National Speech and Debate Education Day”. Pages S1392–93

Measures Considered:

Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act—Agreement: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 311, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion. Page S1364

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, February 14, 2019, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 25, 2019. Page S1364
A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that following the closing of morning business on Monday, February 25, 2019, Senator Fischer be recognized to deliver Washington’s Farewell Address; that following the address, Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill; and that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during the session of Thursday, February 14, 2019 ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 25, 2019.

Conference Reports:

**Further Continuing Appropriations:** By 83 yeas to 16 nays (Vote No. 26), Senate agreed to the conference report to accompany H.J. Res. 31, making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019.

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

By 84 yeas to 15 nays (Vote No. 25), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the conference report to accompany the joint resolution.

Department of Homeland Security Further Continuing Appropriations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of H.J. Res. 1, making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019, occur at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader.

Signing Authority—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senators Fischer and Boozman be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions on Friday, February 15, 2019.

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:

- Friday, February 15, 2019, at 7 a.m.;
- Tuesday, February 19, at 10 a.m.;
- Thursday, February 21, 2019, at 10 a.m.; and
- that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, February 21, 2019, it next convene at 3 p.m., on Monday, February 25, 2019.

Miller Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Eric D. Miller, of Washington, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

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 S. 311, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Desmond Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Michael J. Desmond, of California, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury.

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 Eric D. Miller, of Washington, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Wheeler Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Andrew Wheeler, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

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 Michael J. Desmond, of California, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury.

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.
Ryder Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of John L. Ryder, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

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 Andrew Wheeler, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Lowry Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the nomination of John Lowry III, of Illinois, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans’ Employment and Training, be referred jointly to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 54 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 24), William Pelham Barr, of Virginia, to be Attorney General.

Messages from the House:

Measures Referred:

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

Additional Cosponsors:

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements:

Amendments Submitted:

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—26)

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:29 p.m., until 7 a.m. on Friday, February 15, 2019. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S1394.)

Committee Meetings

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine United States Special Operations Command and United States Cyber Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2020 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Owen O. West, Assistant Secretary, Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict, General Raymond A. Thomas, III, USA, Commander, United States Special Operations Command, and General Paul M. Nakasone, USA, Commander, United States Cyber Command, Director, National Security Agency, and Chief, Central Security Service, all of the Department of Defense.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Bimal Patel, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Todd M. Harper, of Virginia, and Rodney Hood, of North Carolina, both to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board, and Mark Anthony Calabria, of Virginia, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

ENERGY INDUSTRY CYBERSECURITY EFFORTS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the status and outlook for cybersecurity efforts in the energy industry, after receiving testimony from Neil Chatterjee, Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and Karen S. Evans, Assistant Secretary, Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response, both of the Department of Energy; Major William J. Keber, West Virginia National Guard’s Critical Infrastructure Protection Battalion, Kingwood; James B. Robb, North American Electric Reliability Corporation, Atlanta, Georgia; and David Edward Whitehead, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc., Pullman, Washington.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments for the 116th Congress:

Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Senators Capito (Chair), Inhofe, Cramer, Braun, Rounds, Sullivan, Boozman, Wicker, Shelby, Cardin,
Sanders, Whitehouse, Merkley, Gillibrand, Booker, Markay, and Van Hollen.


Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety: Senators Braun (Chair), Inhofe, Capito, Cramer, Rounds, Sullivan, Boozman, Wicker, Ernst, Whitehouse, Cardin, Sanders, Merkley, Gillibrand, Booker, Markey, and Duckworth.

Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight: Senators Rounds (Chair), Inhofe, Shelby, Ernst, Booker, Gillibrand, and Markey.

Senators Barrasso and Carper serve as ex-officio members of each subcommittee.

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: 77 public bills, H.R. 1219–1295; and 6 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 19 and H. Res. 132–136 were introduced.

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H2028–33

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 131, providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 31) making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes, and providing for proceedings during the period from February 15, 2019, through February 22, 2019 (H. Rept. 116–10).

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

Recess: The House recessed at 10:54 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, Chaplain, United States Senate, Washington, DC.

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal by voice vote.

Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution: Representatives Matsui and Roybal-Allard.

United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly: Representative Vela.

Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts: Representatives Kennedy and Beatty.

Joint Economic Committee—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Joint Economic Committee: Representatives Beyer, Heck, Trone, Beatty, and Frankel.

United States Holocaust Memorial Council—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council: Representatives Deutch, Schneider, and Lewis.

Recess: The House recessed at 12:35 p.m. and reconvened at 6:27 p.m.


H. Res. 131, the rule providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 31) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 250 yeas to 196 nays, Roll No. 86, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 229 yeas to 195 nays, Roll No. 85.
Providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.J. Res. 31: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and agree to S. Con. Res. 4, providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.J. Res. 31.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow, February 15th.

Senate Referrals: S. Con. Res. 4 was held at the desk. S. 488 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on pages H2007–08.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2015, H2016, and H2023–24. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Committee Meetings
FOR THE PEOPLE: OUR AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “For the People: Our American Democracy”. Testimony was heard from Kim Wyman, Secretary of State, Washington; and public witnesses.

CONFERENCE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on the Conference Report to accompany H.J. Res. 31, making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes. [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019]. The Committee granted, by record vote of 8–4, a rule providing for consideration of the Conference Report to accompany H.J. Res. 31, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019. The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. The rule provides that the conference report shall be considered as read. The rule provides that the previous question shall be considered as ordered without intervention of any motion except one hour of debate and one motion to recommit if applicable. Debate on the conference report is divided pursuant to clause 8(d) of rule XXII. Section 2 of the rule provides that on any legislative day during the period from February 15, 2019, through February 22, 2019: the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment. Section 3 of the rule provides that the Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 2. Testimony was heard from Representatives Biggs, Cloud, Roy, and Davidson of Ohio.

Joint Meetings
DHS FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS


COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2019
(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate
No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House
No hearings are scheduled.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
7 a.m., Friday, February 15

Program for Friday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Friday, February 15

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 10 a.m.

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