

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 2333, Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6957–S6997

Measures Introduced: Fourteen bills were introduced, as follows: S. 3015–3028. **Page S6992**

Measures Reported:

S. 881, to improve understanding and forecasting of space weather events. (S. Rept. No. 116–171)

S. 919, to reduce regulatory burdens and streamline processes related to commercial space activities. (S. Rept. No. 116–172)

S. 2909, to extend the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into leases of non-excess property of the Administration. **Page S6991**

Measures Passed:

Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act: By a unanimous vote of 95 yeas (Vote No. 390), Senate passed H.R. 2333, to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of the responsibilities, workload, and vacancy rates of Department of Veterans Affairs suicide prevention coordinators. **Page S6967**

Appointments:

United States Commission on Civil Rights: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 98–183, as amended by Public Law 103–419, appointed the following individual to the United States Commission on Civil Rights: Gail Heriot of California. **Page S6995**

Sullivan Nomination: By 69 yeas to 25 nays (Vote No. EX. 392), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of John Joseph Sullivan, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Russian Federation, Department of State. **Page S6986**

Hahn Nomination: By 74 yeas to 19 nays (Vote No. EX. 393), Senate agreed to the motion to close

further debate on the nomination of Stephen Hahn, of Texas, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

Pages S6986–87

Skipwith Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Aurelia Skipwith, of Indiana, to be Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

Pages S6987–88

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

By 53 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 394), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S6987**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, December 12, 2019. **Page S6995**

Nomination Votes—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader, on Thursday, December 12, 2019, Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations of John Joseph Sullivan, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Russian Federation, Department of State, Stephen Hahn, of Texas, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services, and Aurelia Skipwith, of Indiana, to be Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior. **Page S6957**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 51 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 391), Lawrence VanDyke, of Nevada, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Pages S6957–67, S6967–86

Messages from the House: **Page S6989**

Measures Referred: **Page S6989**

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

Pages S6989, S6995

Executive Communications:

Pages S6989–90

Petitions and Memorials:

Pages S6990–91

Executive Reports of Committees:

Pages S6991–92

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S6992–94

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Page S6994

Additional Statements:

Page S6989

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Pages S6994–95

Privileges of the Floor:

Page S6995

Record Votes: Five record votes were taken today. (Total—394)

Pages S6967, S6986–87

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:28 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6995.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

U.S. STRATEGY IN AFGHANISTAN

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a closed hearing to examine an update on the situation and United States strategy in Afghanistan, after receiving testimony from General Austin S. Miller, USA, Commander, NATO Resolute Support mission and United States Forces-Afghanistan, and Randall G. Schriver, Assistant Secretary for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs, both of the Department of Defense.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported 137 nominations in the Army and Air Force.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 2204, to allow the Federal Communications Commission to carry out a pilot program under which voice service providers could block certain automated calls, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2381, to require review by the Government Accountability Office of screening protocols of the Transportation Security Administration relating to breast milk and formula; with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2638, to amend title 49, United State Code, to require small hub airports to construct areas for nursing mothers;

S. 2661, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to designate 9–8–8 as the universal telephone number for the purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system operating through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and through the Veterans Crisis Line, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2786, to establish a Federal advisory committee to provide policy recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation on positioning the United States to take advantage of emerging opportunities for Arctic maritime transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2802, to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to reauthorize and modify the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue and Response Grant Program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2881, to require the Federal Communications Commission to make not less than 280 megahertz of spectrum available for terrestrial use, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2898, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for a full annuity supplement for certain air traffic controllers;

S. 2909, to extend the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into leases of non-excess property of the Administration;

S. 2964, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend the authority of the Secretary of Transportation to issue non-premium aviation insurance;

S. 2979, to improve drug testing for transportation-related activities, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2981, to reauthorize and amend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002, with an amendment; and

S. 2730, to establish and ensure an inclusive transparent Drone Advisory Committee, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

NOMINATION

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Thomas B. Chapman, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

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