

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6999–S7034

Measures Introduced: Twenty-three bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3029–3051, S.J. Res. 61–62, S. Res. 453–455, and S. Con. Res. 30. **Pages S7026–27**

Measures Reported:

S. 877, to prohibit the sale of shark fins. (S. Rept. No. 116–173)

S. 1822, to require the Federal Communications Commission to issue rules relating to the collection of data with respect to the availability of broadband services, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–174)

S. 2641, to promote United States national security and prevent the resurgence of ISIS, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. Con. Res. 23, honoring the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge fought during World War II, recognizing the valiant efforts of the Allied Forces in December 1944, and remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice, all of which contributed to the Allied victory in the European Theater, and with an amended preamble. **Page S7026**

Measures Passed:

Armenian Genocide: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 150, expressing the sense of the Senate that it is the policy of the United States to commemorate the Armenian Genocide through official recognition and remembrance, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S7010**

Legal Representation: Senate agreed to S. Res. 455, to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel in the Case of *Richard Arjun Kaul v. Senator Charles Schumer, et al.* **Page S7033**

Battle of the Bulge: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 23, honoring the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge fought during World War II, recognizing the valiant efforts of the Allied Forces in December 1944, and remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice, all of which contributed to the Allied

victory in the European Theater, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S7033–34

McConnell (for Cramer) Amendment No. 1256, to add language to the preamble. **Page S7034**

Conference Reports:

National Defense Authorization Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the conference report to accompany S. 1790, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 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 S7019–23**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the conference report to accompany the bill, 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, December 12, 2019, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, December 16, 2019. **Page S7019**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3:00 p.m., on Monday, December 16, 2019, Senate resume consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill; and that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, the motion to invoke cloture filed during the session of Thursday, December 12, 2019, ripen at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, December 16, 2019. **Page S7034**

Appointments:

Board of Visitors of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 194(a), as amended by Public Law 101–595, and further amended by Public Law 113–281, appointed the following Senator to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy: Senator Wicker. **Page S7033**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 52 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. EX. 395), Aurelia Skipwith, of Indiana, to be Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Pages S6999–S7009

By 70 yeas to 22 nays (Vote No. EX. 396), John Joseph Sullivan, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Russian Federation. **Pages S7009–10**

By 72 yeas to 18 nays (Vote No. EX. 397), Stephen Hahn, of Texas, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services. **Pages S7010–15**

Messages from the House: **Page S7026**

Measures Referred: **Page S7026**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S7026**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S7027–29**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S7029–33

Additional Statements: **Pages S7024–26**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S7033**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S7033**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—397) **Pages S7009–10, S7015**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5 p.m., until 11:45 a.m. on Friday, December 13, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7034.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Committee on Armed Services: Committee received a closed briefing on national security issues in the Middle East from John C. Rood, Under Secretary for Policy, Major General Jeffrey B. Taliaferro, USAF, Vice Director for Operations, Joint Staff, and Christopher J. Almont, Defense Intelligence Officer for the Middle East, Defense Intelligence Agency, all of the Department of Defense.

COAST GUARD ARCTIC STRATEGIC OUTLOOK

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Security concluded a hearing to examine expanding opportunities, challenges, and threats in the Arctic, focusing on the Coast Guard Arctic Strategic Outlook, after receiving testimony from Admiral Charles W. Ray, Vice Commandant, Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security; and Heather A. Conley, Center for Strategic and International Studies, and Sherri Goodman, and Mike Sfraga, both of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, all of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 225, to provide for partnerships among State and local governments, regional entities, and the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance the visitor experience at nationally significant battlefields of the American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 258, to prohibit oil and gas leasing on the National Forest System land in the Ruby Mountains Ranger District located in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Elko and White Pine Counties, Nevada, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 298, to establish the Springfield Race Riot National Historic Monument in the State of Illinois, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 327, to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 389, to authorize the Society of the First Infantry Division to make modifications to the First Division Monument located on Federal land in Presidential Park in the District of Columbia, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 430, to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 434, to provide for a report on the maintenance of Federal land holdings under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 490, to designate a mountain ridge in the State of Montana as "B-47 Ridge", with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 526, to withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land from mineral development, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 641, to update the map of, and modify the maximum acreage available for inclusion in, the Yucca House National Monument, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 774, to adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, with an amendment;

S. 1152, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain parcels of Federal land in Arlington, Virginia, with an amendment;

S. 1262, to designate certain land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest

Service in the State of Oregon as wilderness and national recreation areas, to withdraw certain land located in Curry County and Josephine County, Oregon, from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws, location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and operation under the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws, with an amendment;

S. 1890, to provide for grants for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy improvements at public school facilities;

S. 2108, to amend section 6903 of title 31, United States Code, to provide for additional population tiers;

S. 2393, to promote a 21st century energy workforce, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2399, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to improve State loan eligibility for projects for innovative technology, with an amendment;

S. 2660, to establish a grant program for wind energy research, development, and demonstration, with an amendment; and

H.R. 617, to authorize the Department of Energy to conduct collaborative research with the Department of Veterans Affairs in order to improve healthcare services for veterans in the United States.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 2971, to amend and reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2997, to revise and extend health workforce programs under title VII of the Public Health Service Act, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2683, to establish a task force to assist States in implementing hiring requirements for child care staff members to improve child safety, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2927, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide that the authority of the Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities to make certain research endowments applies with respect to both current and former centers of excellence; and

The nomination of Crosby Kemper III, of Missouri, to be Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

NOMINATION

Committee on Rules and Administration: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of J. Brett Blanton, of Virginia, to be Architect of the Capitol, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 22 public bills, H.R. 5406–5427; and 4 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 79–80; and H. Res. 762–763 were introduced. **Pages H10257–58**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H10259**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1620, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program (H. Rept. 116–338);

H.R. 2548, to modify eligibility requirements for certain hazard mitigation assistance programs, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–339, Part 1);

H.R. 4719, to amend the Federal share of the fishing safety standards grants, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–340);

H.R. 3256, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reauthorize and improve the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–341, Part 1);

H.R. 4704, to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support multidisciplinary research on the science of suicide, and to advance the knowledge and understanding of issues that may be associated with several aspects of suicide including intrinsic and extrinsic factors related to areas such as wellbeing, resilience, and vulnerability, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–342);

H.R. 5065, to amend the Small Business Act to provide re-entry entrepreneurship counseling and

training services for formerly incarcerated individuals, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–343); and

H.R. 5078, to amend the Small Business Act to provide re-entry entrepreneurship counseling and training services for incarcerated individuals, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–344). **Pages H10256–57**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12 noon tomorrow, December 13th. **Page H10127**

Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act: The House passed H.R. 3, to establish a fair price negotiation program, protect the Medicare program from excessive price increases, and establish an out-of-pocket maximum for Medicare part D enrollees, by a ye-and-nay vote of 230 yeas to 192 nays, Roll No. 682. Consideration began yesterday, December 11th. **Pages H10129–H10225**

Rejected the Upton motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a ye-and-nay vote of 196 yeas to 226 nays, Roll No. 681.

Pages H10223–24

Agreed to:

Tonko amendment (No. 2 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–334) that requires CMS to create and implement a measure in the Star Ratings program evaluating Medicare Advantage and Part D plans on how well they provide access to biosimilar drugs;

Pages H10202–04

Peters amendment (No. 3 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–334) that amends the Public Health Service Act to authorize a pilot program to develop, expand, and enhance the commercialization of biomedical products, and for other purposes;

Pages H10204–05

Kennedy amendment (No. 4 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–334) that requires another Senate confirmed officer with HHS to carry out the negotiation duties should the Secretary of HHS have a conflict of interest; the General Counsel of HHS would be responsible for identifying these conflicts;

Pages H10205–06

Kennedy amendment (No. 6 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–334) that expresses the Sense of Congress regarding the impact of the high cost of prescription drugs on communities of color and persons living in rural or sparsely populated areas of the United States;

Pages H10208–10

Axne amendment (No. 8 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–334) that establishes a grant program for states to reduce the burdens associated with health care administrative work and reduces HHS administrative costs by 50% over 10 years; **Pages H10211–14**

Finkenauer amendment (No. 9 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–334) that requires drug companies to disclose truthful and non-misleading pricing information about prescription drugs and biological products when they advertise these products directly to consumers; **Pages H10214–15**

Houlahan amendment (No. 12 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–334) that increases funding for clinical trials at NIH and ban the use of spread pricing by PBMs as it relates to Medicaid;

Pages H10217–19

O'Halleran amendment (No. 5 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–334) that creates a grant program within HHS for hospitals located in rural and medically underserved areas, including Critical Access Hospitals, to cover the start-up costs for establishing a Graduate Medical Education (GME) program or a partnership with a hospital that has an existing program; would include a reporting requirement for GAO to analyze whether residents continue to practice in a rural or medically underserved area after completing their training (by a recorded vote of 351 yeas to 73 noes, Roll No. 677);

Pages H10206–08, H10220

Gottheimer amendment (No. 7 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–334) that requires an HHS study to identify conditions without an FDA-approved treatment where the development of a treatment would fill an unmet medical need for a serious or life-threatening condition or rare disease; requires HHS to identify appropriate incentives that would lead to the development of such treatments (by a recorded vote of 380 yeas to 45 noes, Roll No. 678);

Pages H10210–11, H10221

Luria amendment (No. 10 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–334) that makes clear that federal employee health plans are covered by the price reduction provisions of the bill (by a recorded vote of 231 yeas to 192 noes, Roll No. 679); and

Pages H10215–16, H10221–22

Cunningham amendment (No. 11 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–334) that allows the Veteran's Administration to benefit from Maximum Fair Pricing guidelines (by a recorded vote of 234 yeas to 192 noes, Roll No. 680). **Pages H10216–17, H10222**

Rejected:

Walden amendment (No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–334) that sought to include provisions in the bill related to Medicare Parts B&D, drug price transparency, Medicare Part D benefit redesign, MedPAC, Medicaid, FDA, and revenue provisions (by a recorded vote of 201 yeas to 223 noes, Roll No. 676). **Pages H10167–H10202, H10219–20**

H. Res. 758, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 3) and (H.R. 5038) and the conference report to accompany the bill (S. 1790) was agreed to yesterday, December 11th.

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H10234.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes and five recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H10219–20, H10220, H10221, H10221–22, H10222, H10224, and H10225. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 12 noon.

Committee Meetings

EXAMINING THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S IMPLEMENTATION OF BORROWER DEFENSE

Committee on Education and Labor: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Examining the Education Department’s Implementation of Borrower Defense”. Testimony was heard from Betsy DeVos, Secretary, Department of Education.

MEMBER DAY HEARING

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Member Day Hearing”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Case, Garamendi, Green of Texas, Hill of Arkansas, Meng, Roy, and Steil.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee continued a markup on H. Res. 755, the “Articles of Impeachment Against President Donald J. Trump”.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, continue markup on H. Res. 755, the “Articles of Impeachment Against President Donald J. Trump”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

11:45 a.m., Friday, December 13

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 noon, Friday, December 13

Senate Chamber

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

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 12 noon.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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