

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to the conference report to accompany S. 1790, National Defense Authorization Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7059–S7122

Measures Introduced: Eighteen bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 3062–3079, and S. Res. 456. **Pages S7113–14**

Measures Reported:

S. 553, to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a working group to recommend to Congress a definition of blockchain technology, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 116–177)

S. 1228, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for enhanced penalties for pirate radio. (S. Rept. No. 116–178)

S. 1611, to ensure appropriate prioritization, spectrum planning, and interagency coordination to support the Internet of Things, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 116–179)

H.R. 133, to promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

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.

H.R. 2744, to authorize the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to prescribe the manner in which programs of the agency are identified overseas, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. Res. 142, condemning the Government of the Philippines for its continued detention of Senator Leila De Lima, calling for her immediate release, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 152, expressing the importance of the United States alliance with the Republic of Korea and the contributions of Korean Americans in the United States, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 297, commending the Inter-American Foundation (IAF) on the occasion of its 50th anniversary for its significant accomplishments and contributions to the economic and social development of the Americas.

S. Res. 343, congratulating the people of the Czech Republic and the people of the Slovak Republic on the 30th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, the 26th anniversary of the formation of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, and the 101st anniversary of the declaration of independence of Czechoslovakia.

S. Res. 371, reaffirming the support of the United States for the people of the Republic of South Sudan and calling on all parties to uphold their commitments to peace and dialogue as outlined in the 2018 revitalized peace agreement, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 375, recognizing the 75th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising, and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 385, celebrating the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the reunification of both Germany and Europe, and the spread of democracy around the world, and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 395, recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Iran Hostage Crisis.

S. Res. 447, expressing serious concern about widespread irregularities in Bolivia's October 20, 2019, general elections and supporting the convening of new elections in Bolivia at the earliest possible date, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble.

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. 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. 704, to prioritize the efforts of and enhance coordination among United States agencies to encourage countries in Central and Eastern Europe to diversify their energy sources and supply routes, increase Europe’s energy security, and help the United States reach its global energy security goals, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 876, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to prepare veterans for careers in the energy industry, including the solar, wind, cybersecurity, and other low-carbon emissions sectors or zero-emissions sectors of the energy industry, with amendments.

S. 1189, to require the Secretary of State to determine whether the Russian Federation should be designated as a state sponsor of terrorism and whether Russian-sponsored armed entities in Ukraine should be designated as foreign terrorist organizations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1310, to strengthen participation of elected national legislators in the activities of the Organization of American States and reaffirm United States support for Organization of American States human rights and anti-corruption initiatives, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1739, to enable projects that will aid in the development and delivery of related instruction associated with apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs that are focused on serving the skilled technical workforce at the National Laboratories and certain facilities of the National Nuclear Security Administration.

S. 1830, to enhance the security of the United States and its allies, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2368, to amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to support licensing and relicensing of certain nuclear facilities and nuclear energy research, demonstration, and development, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2425, to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to establish the CHP Technical Assistance Partnership Program, with amendments.

S. 2508, to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a council to conduct a survey and analysis of the employment figures and demographics in the energy, energy efficiency, and motor vehicle sectors of the United States, with an amendment.

S. 2547, to state the policy of the United States with respect to the expansion of cooperation with allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region and Europe regarding the People’s Republic of China, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2556, to amend the Federal Power Act to provide energy cybersecurity investment incentives, to establish a grant and technical assistance program for cybersecurity investments, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2668, to establish a program for research, development, and demonstration of solar energy technologies, 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. 2688, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to establish an Office of Technology Transitions, with amendments.

S. 2695, to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide for the defense of United States agriculture and food through the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, with amendments.

S. 2702, to require the Secretary of Energy to establish an integrated energy systems research, development, and demonstration, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2714, to amend the America COMPETES Act to reauthorize the ARPA-E program, with amendments.

S. 2799, to require the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of the Interior to establish a joint Nexus of Energy and Water Sustainability Office, with an amendment.

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.

S. 2977, to extend the termination of sanctions with respect to Venezuela under the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014.

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. 3051, to improve protections for wildlife, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 3076, to release a federal reversionary interest in Chester County, Tennessee, to manage certain Federal land in Bath County, Virginia.

S.J. Res. 4, requiring the advice and consent of the Senate or an Act of Congress to suspend, terminate, or withdraw the United States from the North Atlantic Treaty and authorizing related litigation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Pages S7112–13

Measures Passed:

Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act: Senate passed H.R. 777, to reauthorize programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004. Pages S7083–84

Veteran Treatment Court Coordination Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. 2774, to direct the Attorney General to establish and carry out a Veteran Treatment Court Program, and the bill was then passed.

Pages S7120–21

200th Anniversary of Alabama into the Union: Senate agreed to S. Res. 456, recognizing and celebrating the 200th anniversary of the entry of Alabama into the Union as the 22d State. Page S7121

Conference Reports:

National Defense Authorization Act: By 86 yeas to 8 nays (Vote No. 400), Senate agreed to 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 S7061–70, S7089

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

By 82 yeas to 12 nays (Vote No. 399), 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 resolutions with respect to the conference report to accompany the bill. Subsequently, the point of order that the bill was in violation of section 3101 of S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025, was not sustained, and thus the point of order fell.

Pages S7069–70

House Messages:

National Law Enforcement Museum Commemorative Coin Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 1865, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the opening of the National Law Enforcement Museum in the District of Columbia, taking action on the following motions and amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S7087–88

Pending:

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill.

Page S7087

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with McConnell Amendment No. 1258 (to the House amendment to the Senate amendment), to change the enactment date.

Page S7087

McConnell Amendment No. 1259 (to Amendment No. 1258), of a perfecting nature.

Pages S7087–88

McConnell motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, McConnell Amendment No. 1260, to change the enactment date.

Page S7088

McConnell Amendment No. 1261 (the instructions (Amendment No. 1260) of the motion to refer), of a perfecting nature.

Page S7088

McConnell Amendment No. 1262 (to Amendment No. 1261), of a perfecting nature.

Page S7088

A motion was entered to close further debate on McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, 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 Stephanie Dawkins Davis, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Page S7089

DHS Cyber Hunt and Incident Response Teams Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the amendment of the House to the amendment of the

Senate to H.R. 1158, to authorize cyber incident response teams at the Department of Homeland Security, taking action on the following motions and amendments proposed thereto: **Page S7088**

Pending:

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill. **Page S7088**

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with McConnell Amendment No. 1263 (to the House amendment to the Senate amendment), to change the enactment date. **Page S7088**

McConnell Amendment No. 1264 (to Amendment No. 1263), of a perfecting nature. **Page S7088**

McConnell motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, McConnell Amendment No. 1265, to change the enactment date. **Page S7088**

McConnell Amendment No. 1266 (the instructions (Amendment No. 1265) of the motion to refer), of a perfecting nature. **Page S7088**

McConnell Amendment No. 1267 (to Amendment No. 1266), of a perfecting nature. **Page S7088**

A motion was entered to close further debate on McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, 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 McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 1865, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the opening of the National Law Enforcement Museum in the District of Columbia. **Page S7089**

Signing Authority—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senators Thune and Blackburn be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions during today's session of the Senate. **Page S7077**

Biegun Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Stephen E. Biegun, of Michigan, to be Deputy Secretary of State. **Page S7089**

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 motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 1158, to authorize cyber incident response teams at the Department of Homeland Security. **Pages S7088–89**

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. **Page S7089**

McFarland Nomination—Cloture: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, December 18, 2019, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Matthew Walden McFarland, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio. **Page S7121**

Messages from the House: **Pages S7108–09**

Measures Referred: **Page S7109**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S7109**

Executive Communications: **Pages S7109–12**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S7112–13**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S7114–16**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S7116–19**

Additional Statements: **Pages S7107–08**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S7119–20**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S7120**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S7120**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—400) **Pages S7069–70**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:59 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 18, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7122.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 2695, to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide for the defense of United States agriculture and food through the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, with an amendment; and

An original bill to release a federal reversionary interest in Chester County, Tennessee, to manage certain Federal land in Bath County, Virginia.

NOMINATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Lanny Erdos, of Ohio, to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, after the nominee, who