

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

was introduced by Representative Bill Johnson, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

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

The nomination of Robert J. Feitel, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and

19 General Services Administration resolutions.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of John Hennessey-Niland, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Palau, Dorothy Shea, of North Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Lebanese Republic, Todd C. Chapman, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Federative Republic of Brazil, and Donald Wright, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the

nomination of Paul J. Ray, of Tennessee, to be Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget.

OPIOID CRISIS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine tackling the opioid crisis, focusing on a whole-of-government approach, after receiving testimony from Kemp L. Chester, Assistant Director of the National Opioids and Synthetics Coordination Group, Office of National Drug Control Policy; Amanda Liskamm, Director, Opioid Enforcement and Prevention Efforts, Office of the Deputy Attorney General, and Tim McDermott, Assistant Administrator, Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, both of the Department of Justice; Neeraj Gandotra, Chief Medical Officer, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; Bradley D. Stein, RAND Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Patrick M. Kelly, Healthcare Distribution Alliance, Arlington, Virginia; and Ronna B. Hauser, National Community Pharmacists Association, and Sue R. Thau, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, both of Alexandria, Virginia.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 27 public bills, H.R. 5444–5470; and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 81 and 82; and H. Res. 766, 768, and 769, were introduced. **Pages H10608–09**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H10610–11**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 5140, to amend title 17, United States Code, to narrow the category of households eligible to receive signals under a distant-signal satellite license, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–354); and

H. Res. 767, providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 755) impeaching Donald John Trump, President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors (H. Rept. 116–355).

Page H10608

Recess: The House recessed at 9:31 a.m. and reconvened at 10 a.m. **Page H10312**

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures. Consideration began Monday, December 16th.

Identifying Barriers and Best Practices Study Act: H.R. 4183, amended, to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disability and pension benefits provided to members of the National Guard and members of reserve components of the Armed Forces by the Department of Veterans Affairs, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ ye-a-and-nay vote of 408 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 685; **Page H10314**

Improving Confidence in Veterans' Care Act: H.R. 3530, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enforce the licensure requirement for medical providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, by