

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 19 public bills, H.R. 5471–5489; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 770 and 771, were introduced. **Pages H12209–10**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H12211–12**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows: H.R. 3787, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security an Unmanned Aircraft Systems Coordinator, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–356). **Page H12209**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative DeGette to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H12113**

Motion to Adjourn: Rejected the Biggs motion to adjourn by a yea-and-nay vote of 188 yeas to 226 nays, Roll No. 691. **Pages H12113–14**

Question of Privilege: Representative McCarthy rose to a question of the privileges of the House and submitted a resolution. Upon examination of the resolution, the Chair determined that the resolution qualified. Subsequently, the House agreed to the Hoyer motion to table H. Res. 770, raising a question of the privileges of the House, by a recorded vote of 226 ayes to 191 noes, Roll No. 692. **Pages H12114–15**

Impeaching Donald John Trump, President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors: The House agreed to H. Res. 755, impeaching Donald John Trump, President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors, and adopted Articles I and II. **Pages H12115–H12206**

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the resolution shall be considered as adopted. **Page H12131**

Article I: Abuse of Power. By a yea-and-nay vote of 230 yeas to 197 nays with one answering “present”, Roll No. 695, the House adopted Article 1 of H. Res. 755: The Constitution provides that the House of Representatives “shall have the sole Power of Impeachment” and that the President “shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors”. In his conduct of the office of President of the United States—and in violation of his constitutional oath faithfully to execute the office of President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his

constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed—Donald J. Trump has abused the powers of the Presidency, in that: Using the powers of his high office, President Trump solicited the interference of a foreign government, Ukraine, in the 2020 United States Presidential election. He did so through a scheme or course of conduct that included soliciting the Government of Ukraine to publicly announce investigations that would benefit his reelection, harm the election prospects of a political opponent, and influence the 2020 United States Presidential election to his advantage. President Trump also sought to pressure the Government of Ukraine to take these steps by conditioning official United States Government acts of significant value to Ukraine on its public announcement of the investigations. President Trump engaged in this scheme or course of conduct for corrupt purposes in pursuit of personal political benefit. In so doing, President Trump used the powers of the Presidency in a manner that compromised the national security of the United States and undermined the integrity of the United States democratic process. He thus ignored and injured the interests of the Nation. President Trump engaged in this scheme or course of conduct through the following means: (1) President Trump—acting both directly and through his agents within and outside the United States Government—corruptly solicited the Government of Ukraine to publicly announce investigations into—(A) a political opponent, former Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.; and (B) a discredited theory promoted by Russia alleging that Ukraine—rather than Russia—interfered in the 2016 United States Presidential election. (2) With the same corrupt motives, President Trump—acting both directly and through his agents within and outside the United States Government—conditioned two official acts on the public announcements that he had requested—(A) the release of \$391 million of United States taxpayer funds that Congress had appropriated on a bipartisan basis for the purpose of providing vital military and security assistance to Ukraine to oppose Russian aggression and which President Trump had ordered suspended; and (B) a head of state meeting at the White House, which the President of Ukraine sought to demonstrate continued United States support for the Government of Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression. (3) Faced with the public revelation of his actions, President Trump ultimately released the military and security assistance to the Government of Ukraine, but has persisted in openly

and corruptly urging and soliciting Ukraine to undertake investigations for his personal political benefit. These actions were consistent with President Trump's previous invitations of foreign interference in United States elections. In all of this, President Trump abused the powers of the Presidency by ignoring and injuring national security and other vital national interests to obtain an improper personal political benefit. He has also betrayed the Nation by abusing his high office to enlist a foreign power in corrupting democratic elections. Wherefore President Trump, by such conduct, has demonstrated that he will remain a threat to national security and the Constitution if allowed to remain in office, and has acted in a manner grossly incompatible with self-governance and the rule of law. President Trump thus warrants impeachment and trial, removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust, or profit under the United States.

Pages H12130–31

Article II: Obstruction of Congress. By a recorded vote of 229 ayes to 198 noes with one answering "present", Roll No. 696, the House adopted Article 2 of H. Res. 755: The Constitution provides that the House of Representatives "shall have the sole Power of Impeachment" and that the President "shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors". In his conduct of the office of President of the United States—and in violation of his constitutional oath faithfully to execute the office of President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed—Donald J. Trump has directed the unprecedented, categorical, and indiscriminate defiance of subpoenas issued by the House of Representatives pursuant to its "sole Power of Impeachment". President Trump has abused the powers of the Presidency in a manner offensive to, and subversive of, the Constitution, in that: The House of Representatives has engaged in an impeachment inquiry focused on President Trump's corrupt solicitation of the Government of Ukraine to interfere in the 2020 United States Presidential election. As part of this impeachment inquiry, the Committees undertaking the investigation served subpoenas seeking documents and testimony deemed vital to the inquiry from various Executive Branch agencies and offices, and current and former officials. In response, without lawful cause or excuse, President Trump directed Executive Branch agencies, offices, and officials not to comply with those subpoenas. President Trump thus interposed the powers of the Presidency against the lawful subpoenas of the House of Representatives,

and assumed to himself functions and judgments necessary to the exercise of the "sole Power of Impeachment" vested by the Constitution in the House of Representatives. President Trump abused the powers of his high office through the following means: (1) Directing the White House to defy a lawful subpoena by withholding the production of documents sought therein by the Committees. (2) Directing other Executive Branch agencies and offices to defy lawful subpoenas and withhold the production of documents and records from the Committees—in response to which the Department of State, Office of Management and Budget, Department of Energy, and Department of Defense refused to produce a single document or record. (3) Directing current and former Executive Branch officials not to cooperate with the Committees—in response to which nine Administration officials defied subpoenas for testimony, namely John Michael "Mick" Mulvaney, Robert B. Blair, John A. Eisenberg, Michael Ellis, Preston Wells Griffith, Russell T. Vought, Michael Duffey, Brian McCormack, and T. Ulrich Brechbuhl. These actions were consistent with President Trump's previous efforts to undermine United States Government investigations into foreign interference in United States elections. Through these actions, President Trump sought to arrogate to himself the right to determine the propriety, scope, and nature of an impeachment inquiry into his own conduct, as well as the unilateral prerogative to deny any and all information to the House of Representatives in the exercise of its "sole Power of Impeachment". In the history of the Republic, no President has ever ordered the complete defiance of an impeachment inquiry or sought to obstruct and impede so comprehensively the ability of the House of Representatives to investigate "high Crimes and Misdemeanors". This abuse of office served to cover up the President's own repeated misconduct and to seize and control the power of impeachment—and thus to nullify a vital constitutional safeguard vested solely in the House of Representatives. In all of this, President Trump has acted in a manner contrary to his trust as President and subversive of constitutional government, to the great prejudice of the cause of law and justice, and to the manifest injury of the people of the United States. Wherefore, President Trump, by such conduct, has demonstrated that he will remain a threat to the Constitution if allowed to remain in office, and has acted in a manner grossly incompatible with self-governance and the rule of law. President Trump thus warrants impeachment and trial, removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust, or profit under the United States.

Page H12131

H. Res. 767, the rule providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 755) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 228 yeas to 197 nays, Roll No. 694, after the previous question was ordered by a yeas-and-nays vote of 229 yeas to 197 nays, Roll No. 693.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yeas-and-nays votes and three recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H12113–14, H12115, H12129–30, H12130, H12205–06, and H12206. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Committee Meetings

THE FUTURE OF WORK: ENSURING WORKERS ARE COMPETITIVE IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING ECONOMY

Committee on Education and Labor: Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment held a hearing entitled “The Future of Work: Ensuring Workers are Competitive in a Rapidly Changing Economy”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 3373, the “Office of International Disability Rights Act”; H.R. 5338, the “Global Hope Act”; H.R. 4864, the “Global Child Thrive Act of 2019”; H.R. 4508, the “Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act”; H. Res. 752, supporting the rights of the people of Iran to free expression, condemning the Iranian regime for its crackdown on legitimate protests, and for other purposes; H.R. 2343, the “Peace and Tolerance in Palestinian Education Act”; H. Res. 754, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should continue to support the people of Nicaragua in their peaceful efforts to promote democracy and human rights, and use the tools under United States law to increase political and financial pressure on the government of Daniel Ortega; H.R. 630, the “Counterterrorism Screening and Assistance Act of 2019”; H.R. 3843, the “Countering Russian and Other Overseas Kleptocracy Act”; H.R. 2444, the “Eastern European Security Act”; H.R. 4331, the “Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2019”; and H.R. 3571, the “City and State Diplomacy Act”. H.R. 3373 and H. Res. 754 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 5338, H.R. 4864, H.R. 4508, H. Res. 752, H.R. 2343, H.R. 630, H.R. 3843, H.R. 2444, H.R. 4331, and H.R. 3571 were ordered reported, as amended.

RESTORING TAX FAIRNESS FOR STATES AND LOCALITIES ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee concluded a hearing on H.R. 5377, the “Restoring Tax Fairness for States and Localities Act”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 7–4, a closed rule providing for consideration of the H.R. 5377, the “Restoring Tax Fairness for States and Localities Act”. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the impacts of wildfire on electric grid reliability and efforts to mitigate wildfire risk and increase grid resiliency, 9:30 a.m., SD–366.

House

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2575, the “AI in Government Act of 2019”; H.R. 3830, the “Taxpayers Right-To-Know Act”; H.R. 3883, the “Restore the Partnership Act”; H.R. 3941, the “Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program Authorization Act”; H.R. 5214, the “Representative Payee Fraud Prevention Act of 2019”; S. 375, the “Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019”; H.R. 2454, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 East Sharpfish Street in Rosebud, South Dakota, as the “Ben Reifel Post Office Building”; H.R. 2969, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1401 1st Street North in Winter Haven, Florida, as the “Althea Margaret Daily Mills Post Office Building”; H.R. 3275, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 340 Wetmore Avenue in Grand River, Ohio, as the “Lance Corporal Andy ‘Ace’ Nowacki Post Office”; H.R. 2246, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 West Cherokee Street in Brookhaven, Mississippi, as the “Deputy Donald William Durr, Corporal Zach Moak, and Patrolman James White Memorial Post Office Building”; H.R. 3680, to designate the facility of