

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 1865, Further Consolidated Appropriations Act.

Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 1158, Consolidated Appropriations Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7167–S7240

Measures Introduced: Forty-three bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3106–3148, and S. Res. 458–462. **Pages S7207–08**

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled “Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2020”. (S. Rept. No. 116–181)

Special Report entitled “Measuring the Economic Impact of Broadband Act of 2019”. (S. Rept. No. 116–186)

Special Report entitled “Veterans Expedited TSA Screening Safe Travel Act”. (S. Rept. No. 116–187)

Special Report entitled “TSA Credential and Endorsement Harmonization Act of 2019”. (S. Rept. No. 116–188)

S. 496, to preserve United States fishing heritage through a national program dedicated to training and assisting the next generation of commercial fishermen. (S. Rept. No. 116–83)

S. 149, to establish a Senior Scams Prevention Advisory Council, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–182)

S. 893, to require the President to develop a strategy to ensure the security of next generation mobile telecommunications systems and infrastructure in the United States and to assist allies and strategic partners in maximizing the security of next generation mobile telecommunications systems, infrastructure, and software, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–184)

S. 2166, to designate Regional Ocean Partnerships of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-

tration, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–185)

S. 886, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to make the Reclamation Water Settlements Fund permanent, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–189) **Page S7207**

Measures Passed:

Broadband Deployment Accuracy and Technological Availability Act: Senate passed 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, after withdrawing the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S7178–85**

Wicker Amendment No. 1268, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7180**

Enrollment Correction: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 81, directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 1158. **Page S7193**

Enrollment Correction: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 82, directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 1865. **Page S7193**

Securing American Nonprofit Organizations Against Terrorism Act: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2476, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide funding to secure nonprofit facilities from terrorist attacks, and the bill was then passed. **Page S7226**

Fallen Warrior Battlefield Cross Memorial Act: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1424, to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure the Secretary of Veterans Affairs permits the display of Fallen Soldier Displays in national cemeteries, and the bill was then passed. **Page S7226**

Construction Consensus Procurement Improvement Act: Senate passed S. 1434, to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for design and construction services procurements, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S7229**

McConnell (for Portman) Amendment No. 1269, to modify the definition of reverse auction to cover the awarding of contracts and orders that are based solely on the price obtained through the auction process. **Page S7229**

Members of Congress Pension Opt Out Clarification Act: Senate passed S. 439, to allow Members of Congress to opt out of the Federal Employees Retirement System, and allow Members who opt out of the Federal Employees Retirement System to continue to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S7229**

McConnell (for Cardin) Amendment No. 1270, to improve the bill. **Page S7229**

Department of Veterans Affairs Provider Accountability Act: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 221, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Under Secretary of Health to report major adverse personnel actions involving certain health care employees to the National Practitioner Data Bank and to applicable State licensing boards, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S7229–30**

McConnell (for Gardner/Manchin) Amendment No. 1271, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7230**

Improving Safety and Security for Veterans Act: Senate passed S. 3147, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress reports on patient safety and quality of care at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs. **Pages S7230–31**

Veterans Legacy Program: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2385, to permit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a grant program to conduct cemetery research and produce educational materials for the Veterans Legacy Program, and the bill was then passed. **Page S7231**

National Cemetery Association Tribal Training: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from

further consideration of S. 2096, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize States and tribal organizations that receive grants from the National Cemetery Administration for establishment, expansion, or improvement of a veterans' cemeteries to use amounts of such grants for State and tribal organization cemetery personnel to train at the training center of the National Cemetery Administration, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S7231–32**

McConnell (for Boozman) Amendment No. 1272, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7232**

Merchant Mariners of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 550, to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Merchant Mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S7232–33**

McConnell (for Murkowski/Cruz) Amendment No. 1273, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7232**

Dogs as Witness Guardians Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. 1029, to allow the use of certified facility dogs in criminal proceedings in Federal courts, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S7233–34**

McConnell (for Cornyn) Amendment No. 1274, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7233**

Majority Party's Membership on Certain Committees: Senate agreed to S. Res. 459, to constitute the majority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen. **Page S7213**

American Geophysical Union Centennial: Senate agreed to S. Res. 460, congratulating the American Geophysical Union on the occasion of its centennial. **Pages S7213–14**

Congratulating Seattle Sounders FC: Senate agreed to S. Res. 461, congratulating Seattle Sounders FC on winning the 2019 Major League Soccer Cup. **Page S7214**

Combating Global Corruption Act: Senate passed S. 1309, to identify and combat corruption in countries, to establish a tiered system of countries with respect to levels of corruption by their governments and their efforts to combat such corruption, and to assess United States assistance to designated countries in order to advance anti-corruption efforts in those countries and better serve United States taxpayers, after withdrawing the committee amendment

in the nature of a substitute, and agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S7234–36**

McConnell (for Cardin) Amendment No. 1275, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7236**

National One Health Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 462, designating January 2020 as “National One Health Awareness Month” to promote awareness of organizations focused on public health, animal health, and environmental health collaboration throughout the United States and to recognize the critical contributions of those organizations to the future of the United States.

Pages S7215, S7236

Promoting Physical Activity for Americans Act: Senate passed S. 1608, to provide for the publication by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of physical activity recommendations for Americans, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S7239–40**

House Messages:

Pallone-Thune TRACED Act: Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to S. 151, to deter criminal robocall violations and improve enforcement of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934. **Pages S7176–78**

Further Consolidated Appropriations Act: By 71 yeas to 23 nays (Vote No. 415), Senate agreed to 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, after taking action on the following motions and amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S7185–86

Withdrawn:

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. **Pages S7167–70**

McConnell Amendment No. 1259 (to Amendment No. 1258), of a perfecting nature, fell when 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) (listed above) was withdrawn. **Pages S7167–70**

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

By 71 yeas to 21 nays (Vote No. 413), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on McConnell motion to con-

cur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill. **Pages S7170–76**

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, fell when cloture was invoked on McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill. **Pages S7167–70**

McConnell Amendment No. 1261 (the instructions (Amendment No. 1260) of the motion to refer), of a perfecting nature, fell when McConnell motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, McConnell Amendment No. 1260 (listed above) fell. **Pages S7167–70**

McConnell Amendment No. 1262 (to Amendment No. 1261), of a perfecting nature, fell when McConnell Amendment No. 1261 (the instructions (Amendment No. 1260) of the motion to refer) (listed above) fell. **Pages S7167–70**

By 64 yeas to 30 nays (Vote No. 414), 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 amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 1865 (listed above). Subsequently, the point of order that the bill was in violation of section 3101(b) 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 S7185–86**

Consolidated Appropriations Act: By 81 yeas to 11 nays (Vote No. 428), Senate agreed to McConnell motion to concur in 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, after taking action on the following motions and amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S7192–93**

Withdrawn:

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 S7192**

McConnell Amendment No. 1264 (to Amendment No. 1263), of a perfecting nature, fell when 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) (listed above) was withdrawn. **Page S7192**

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

By 77 yeas to 16 nays (Vote No. 427), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill. **Pages S7192–93**

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, fell when cloture was invoked on McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill. **Page S7192**

McConnell Amendment No. 1266 (the instructions (Amendment No. 1265) of the motion to refer), of a perfecting nature, fell when McConnell motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, McConnell Amendment No. 1265 (listed above) fell. **Page S7192**

McConnell Amendment No. 1267 (to Amendment No. 1266), of a perfecting nature, fell when McConnell Amendment No. 1266 (the instructions (Amendment No. 1265) of the motion to refer) (listed above) fell. **Page S7192**

Appointments:

United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106–398, as amended by Public Law 108–7, and in consultation with the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the appointment of the following individuals to serve as a member of the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: Roy Kamphausen of Connecticut for a term expiring December 31, 2021 (reappointment) and The Honorable James M. Talent of Missouri for a term expiring December 31, 2021 (reappointment). **Page S7237**

United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106–398, as amended by Public Law 108–7, and in consultation with the Ranking Members of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: The Honorable Carte P. Goodwin of West Virginia for a term beginning January 1, 2020 and expiring December 31, 2021 (reappointment). **Page S7237**

Signing Authority—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senator Portman be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions during today's session of the Senate. **Page S7225**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senator McConnell be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions through Monday, December 23, 2019. **Page S7237**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senator Hoeven be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions during today's session of the Senate. **Page S7240**

Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, December 23, 2019, at 10 a.m.; Thursday, December 26, 2019, at 3:15 p.m.; Monday, December 30, 2019, at 2 p.m.; Thursday, January 2, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.; and that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, January 2, 2020, it next convene at 12 noon, on Friday, January 3, 2020, pursuant to the Constitution. **Page S7237**

Nominations in Status Quo—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the list of nominations at the desk be kept in status quo despite the sine die adjournment of the first session of the 116th Congress. **Page S7238**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 76 yeas to 17 nays (Vote No. EX. 416), Anuraag Singhal, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida. **Pages S7186–88**

By 87 yeas to 6 nays (Vote No. EX. 417), Karen Spencer Marston, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. **Pages S7188–89**

By 51 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 418), Daniel Mack Traynor, of North Dakota, to be United States District Judge for the District of North Dakota. **Page S7189**

By 75 yeas to 17 nays (Vote No. EX. 419), Jodi W. Dishman, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma. **Page S7189**

By 83 yeas to 9 nays (Vote No. EX. 420), John M. Gallagher, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. **Pages S7189–90**

By 91 yeas to 3 nays (Vote No. EX. 421), Bernard Maurice Jones II, of Oklahoma, to be United

States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma. **Page S7190**

By 91 yeas to 3 nays (Vote No. EX. 422), Mary Kay Vyskocil, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York. **Page S7190**

By a unanimous vote of 94 yeas (Vote No. EX. 423), Kea Whetzal Riggs, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico. **Pages S7190–91**

By 66 yeas to 27 nays (Vote No. EX. 424), Robert J. Colville, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania. **Page S7191**

By 64 yeas to 29 nays (Vote No. EX. 425), Lewis J. Liman, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York. **Page S7191**

Gary Richard Brown, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York. **Page S7191**

Stephanie Dawkins Davis, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. **Pages S7191–92**

By 90 yeas to 3 nays (Vote No. EX. 426), Stephen E. Biegun, of Michigan, to be Deputy Secretary of State. **Page S7192**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Stephen E. Biegun, of Michigan, to be Deputy Secretary of State, be withdrawn. **Page S7191**

Michael Graham, of Kansas, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2020.

David T. Fischer, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco.

Michelle A. Bekkering, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Morse H. Tan, of Illinois, to be Ambassador at Large for Global Criminal Justice.

Roxanne Cabral, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

LaJuana S. Wilcher, of Kentucky, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.

Kelley Eckels Currie, of Georgia, to be Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues.

Michael Graham, of Kansas, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2025.

Leslie Meredith Tsou, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman.

Dana S. Deasy, of Virginia, to be Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense.

Yuri Kim, of Guam, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Albania.

Carmen G. Cantor, of Puerto Rico, to be Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia.

Lisa W. Hershman, of Indiana, to be Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense.

Robert S. Gilchrist, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Lithuania.

Alina L. Romanowski, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the State of Kuwait.

Robert John Sander, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy.

Kelly C. Degnan, of California, to be Ambassador to Georgia.

Peter M. Haymond, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Sean O'Donnell, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Environmental Protection Agency.

Thomas B. Chapman, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2023.

J. Brett Blanton, of Virginia, to be Architect of the Capitol for the term of ten years.

Routine lists in the Foreign Service. **Page S7240**

Messages from the House: Page S7206

Measures Placed on the Calendar: Pages S7170–76

Measures Read the First Time: Page S7206

Enrolled Bills Presented: Page S7206

Executive Communications: Pages S7206–07

Petitions and Memorials: Page S7207

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S7208–11

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S7211–12

Additional Statements: Pages S7204–06

Amendments Submitted: Pages S7215–21

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S7221

Privileges of the Floor: Page S7222

Record Votes: Sixteen record votes were taken today. (Total—428)

Pages S7176, S7186, S7188, S7189–93

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 8:37 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Monday, December 23, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7240.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

IMPACTS OF WILDFIRE ON THE ELECTRIC GRID

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the impacts of wildfire on electric grid reliability and efforts to mitigate wildfire risk and increase grid resiliency, after receiving testimony from Carl Imhoff, Manager, Electricity

Market Sector, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Department of Energy; Scott Corwin, Northwest Public Power Association, Vancouver, Washington; William D. Johnson, Pacific Gas and Electric Company Corporation, San Francisco, California; B. Don Russell, Texas A&M University Department of Electric and Computer Engineering Power System Automation Laboratory, College Station; and Michael Wara, Stanford University Woods Institute for the Environment Climate and Energy Policy Program, Stanford, California.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 43 public bills, H.R. 5490–5532; 1 private bill, H.R. 5533; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 773–775, were introduced. **Pages H12289–90**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H12292–93**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 772, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5377) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the limitation on deduction of State and local taxes, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–357);

H.R. 5430, to implement the Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada attached as an Annex to the Protocol Replacing the North American Free Trade Agreement (H. Rept. 116–358, Part 1);

Committee on Ethics. In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers (H. Rept. 116–359);

H.R. 5130, to amend the Small Business Act to adjust the employment size standard requirements for determining whether a manufacturing concern is a small business concern, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–360); and

H.R. 5146, to amend the Small Business Act to require contracting officers to take a small business concern's past performance as part of a joint venture into account when evaluating the small business concern, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–361).

Page H12289

Committee on Oversight and Reform—Communication: Read a letter from Chairwoman Maloney wherein she notified the House of the initiation by the Committee on Oversight and Reform of judicial

proceedings pursuant to H. Res. 497 and H. Res. 430. **Page H12213**

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 773, electing certain Members to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives. **Page H12213**

Recess: The House recessed at 1:29 p.m. and reconvened at 1:45 p.m. **Page H12270**

Recess: The House recessed at 1:45 p.m. and reconvened at 2:07 p.m. **Page H12270**

Restoring Tax Fairness for States and Localities Act: The House passed H.R. 5377, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the limitation on deduction of State and local taxes, by a recorded vote of 218 ayes to 206 noes, Roll No. 700. **Pages H12214–21, H12270–84**

Agreed to the Rice motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 388 yeas to 36 nays, Roll No. 699. Subsequently, Representative Thompson (CA) reported the bill back to the House with the amendment and the amendment was agreed to. **Pages H12270–84**

Pursuant to the Rule, 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. **Page H12214**

H. Res. 772, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5377) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 227 yeas to 196 nays, Roll No. 698, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 227 yeas to 195 nays, Roll No. 697. **Pages H12214–21**

United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation Act: The House passed H.R. 5430, to