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No. 207

House of Representatives

The House met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. DINGELL).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 23, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DEBBIE DINGELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

God of mercy, we give You thanks for giving us another day. Bless our Nation as holy days of religious traditions for so many of our citizens approach, and as the year comes to a close.

Help us to look to the future with hope, committed to a renewed effort to work together as citizens of a united America.

Help us all to be truly grateful for the blessings of this past year. And as always, we pray that whatever is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 7(a) of House Resolution 758, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Speaker pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 19, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 19, 2019, at 5:17 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 81.
That the Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 82.
That the Senate agrees to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 1158.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by the Speaker on Thursday, December 19, 2019:

H.R. 777, to reauthorize programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004;

H.R. 1158, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes;

H.R. 1865, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes;

H.R. 3196, to designate the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope as the "Vera C. Rubin Observatory";

S. 151, to deter criminal robocall violations and improve enforcement of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, and for other purposes.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 23, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 23, 2019, at 10:10 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 221.
That the Senate passed S. 439.
That the Senate passed S. 1029.
That the Senate passed S. 1309.
That the Senate passed S. 1434.
That the Senate passed S. 1608.
That the Senate passed S. 2096.
That the Senate passed S. 3147.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1424.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2385.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2476.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 550.

Appointment: United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission (2)
With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H12295

S. 221. An act 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 for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S. 439. An act 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; to the Committee on House Administration; in addition, to the Committee on Oversight and Reform for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 1029. An act to allow the use of certified facility dogs in criminal proceedings in Federal courts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 1309. An act 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; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

S. 1434. An act to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for design and construction services procurements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

S. 1608. An act to provide for the publication by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of physical activity recommendations for Americans; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

S. 2096. An act 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 for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S. 3147. An act 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, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 777. An act to reauthorize programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004.

H.R. 1158. An act making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1865. An act making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3196. An act to designate the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope as the "Vera C. Rubin Observatory".

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 151.—An act to deter criminal robocall violations and improve enforcement of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, and for other purposes.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported that on December 19, 2019, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 150. To modernize Federal grant reporting, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2333. To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of the responsibilities, workload, and vacancy rates of Department of Veterans Affairs suicide prevention coordinators, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4566. To accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of the families of victims of the mass shooting in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on May 31, 2019.

H.R. 1138. To reauthorize the West Valley demonstration project, and for other purposes.

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, further reported that on December 20, 2019, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 777. To reauthorize programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004.

H.R. 3196. To designate the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope as the "Vera C. Rubin Observatory".

H.R. 1158. Making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1865. Making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 7(b) of House Resolution 758, the House stands adjourned until 9 a.m., Thursday, December 26, 2019.

Thereupon (at 11 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Thursday, December 26, 2019, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3366. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a designation of all funding (including the rescission of funds) for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism, pursuant to section 6(b) of Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (H. Doc. No. 116—88); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

3367. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a designation as an emergency requirement all funding so designated by the Congress in the Act in accordance to section 6(a) of Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (H. Doc. No. 116—89); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

3368. A letter from the Chief, Legal Assistance Policy Division, Office of the Judge Advocate General, Department of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Family Support, Child Custody, and Paternity [Docket ID: USA-2018-HQ-0008] (RIN: 0702-AA84) received December 19, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3369. A letter from the Policy Analyst, Department of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Obtaining Information From Financial Institutions [Docket ID: USA-2017-HQ-0008] (RIN:0702-AA99) received December 19, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3370. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Judge Advocate General, Department of the Navy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Policies and Responsibilities for Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act within the Department of the Navy [Docket No.: USN-2018-HQ-0001] (RIN: 0703-AB01) received December 17, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3371. A letter from the Senior Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Fair Credit Reporting Act Disclosures received December 17, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3372. A letter from the Chairman, Surface Transportation Board, transmitting the Board's final rule — Limiting Extensions of Trail Use Negotiating Periods [Docket No.: EP 749 (Sub-No. 1)]; Rails-to-Trails Conservancy-Petition for Rulemaking [Docket No.: EP 753], pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3373. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final and temporary regulations and removal of temporary regulations — Foreign Tax Credit Guidance Related to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Overall Foreign Loss Recapture, and Foreign Tax Redeterminations [TD 9882] (RIN: 1545-AC09; 1545-BK55; 1545-BP19) received December 17, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3374. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Interim Amendment Deadline for 401(K) Hardship Distribution (Revenue Procedure 2020-9) received December 17, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3375. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule (I.R.B. 2019-51) — 2019 Base Period T-Bill Rate (Rev. Rul. 2019-27) received December 19, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Ms. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3622. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to restore the impaired credit of victims of predatory activities and unfair consumer reporting practices, to expand access to tools to protect vulnerable consumers from identity theft, fraud, or a related crime, and protect victims from further harm, and, for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 116-362). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3642. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to fix the consumer report dispute process, to ban misleading and unfair consumer reporting practices, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-363). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. BURGESS, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. MCEACHIN, and Ms. HERERA BEUTLER):

H.R. 5534. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for extended months of Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself and Mr. SHERMAN):

H.R. 5535. A bill to require Senate confirmation of an individual appointed to serve as the Director of the American Institute in Taiwan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. FLETCHER:

H.R. 5536. A bill to require the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to make certain operational models available to the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. WATKINS:

H.R. 5537. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Conan, the military working dog of the United States Special Operations Forces; to the Committee on Financial Services.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 5534.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 5535.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 and Article II, Section 2

By Mrs. FLETCHER:

H.R. 5536.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. WATKINS:

H.R. 5537.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 20: Mr. SPANO and Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 326: Mr. RASKIN, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 784: Mr. SPANO and Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 847: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 935: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 961: Ms. FINKENAUER.

H.R. 1002: Ms. FINKENAUER.

H.R. 1154: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 1274: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 1434: Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. PALAZZO, and Mr. BUCK.

H.R. 1713: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ZELDIN, and Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 1754: Ms. FINKENAUER.

H.R. 1767: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 1824: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 2006: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 2184: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 2235: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2339: Mrs. BEATTY and Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 2382: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 2568: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 2720: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 2846: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 2977: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

H.R. 3077: Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 3832: Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 4025: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 4056: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 4140: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 4244: Mr. PERRY, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 4331: Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 4421: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 4468: Mrs. WALORSKI and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 4487: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.

H.R. 4640: Mr. GARCIA of Illinois.

H.R. 4674: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 4864: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 5143: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 5169: Mr. PALAZZO and Mr. GUEST.

H.R. 5265: Ms. WILD.

H.R. 5319: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 5403: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 5444: Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 5450: Mr. RASKIN and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.

H.R. 5494: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.J. Res. 2: Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. MCNERNEY.

H. Con. Res. 27: Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, Mr. BUDD, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. BEYER.

H. Res. 538: Mrs. DINGELL and Mr. SUOZZI.

H. Res. 574: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H. Res. 732: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H. Res. 752: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H. Res. 754: Mr. PALLONE and Mrs. TORRES of California.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

73. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Mr. Gregory D. Watson, a citizen of Austin, TX, relative to requesting that Congress enact legislation which would require that persons seeking to immigrate to the United States — including those seeking asylum — be proficient in the spoken and written use of the English language; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.