The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TRONE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC, March 12, 2021.
I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID J. TRONE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.
NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, humbly I beseech You to receive each and every prayer I offer as one grounded in love for You and Your truth. In submitting myself to Your will to serve in these hallowed Halls, may the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable to You.

Search my heart and forgive my hidden faults. Convict me for any malice or offense that I may inadvertently inflict on those whom You have called me to serve.

Instead, allow my prayers to reflect a deep yearning for the welfare and wisdom of all for whom I am privileged to serve alongside. Intercede in the fallibility of my speech, through the power of Your spirit that what is given in love may be received with grace. And when my words are misconstrued, may Your spirit bring clarity. And should truth cause hurt, may Your spirit be the mediator of our reconciliation in accordance with Your will.

O Lord, our rock and our Redeemer, may this prayer reflect the desires of all those who pray with me. And we offer this prayer to You in the strength of Your name.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5(a)(1)(A) of House Resolution 8, the Journal of the last day’s proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MOONEY 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:

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2021

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
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 March 11, 2021, at 3:27 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 320.
That the Senate passed S. 415.
Appointments:
Commission on the Naming of Items of the Department of Defense that Commemorate the Confederate States of America or Any Person Who Served Voluntarily with the Confederate States of America.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,
GLORIA J. LETT,
Deputy Clerk.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker’s appointment, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Joint Economic Committee:

Mr. TRONE, Maryland
Mrs. BEATTY, Ohio
Mr. POCAN, Wisconsin
Mr. PETERS, California
Ms. DAVIDS, Kansas
Mr. LAHOOD, Illinois
Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Washington
Mr. ESTES, Kansas
EXPERIMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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


EC-582. A letter from the OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s final rule — TRICARE Coverage of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease Coronavirus Disease 2019 Clinical Trials [Docket ID: DOD-2020-MA-050] (RIN: 0720-AB33) received February 25, 2021, 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.

EC-583. A letter from the OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s interim final rule — TRICARE Coverage of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease Coronavirus Disease 2019 Clinical Trials [Docket ID: DOD-2020-MA-050] (RIN: 0720-AB33) received February 25, 2021, 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.

EC-584. A letter from the OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s final rule — TRICARE: Referring of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy by Doctors of Podiatric Medicine Acting Within the Scope of Their License [Docket ID: DOD-2017-MA-0068] (RIN: 0720-AB71) received February 25, 2021, 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.

EC-585. A letter from the OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s final rule — TRICARE: Referring of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy by Doctors of Podiatric Medicine Acting Within the Scope of Their License [Docket ID: DOD-2017-MA-0068] (RIN: 0720-AB71) received February 25, 2021, 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.

EC-586. A letter from the OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s interim final rule — TRICARE: Referring of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy by Doctors of Podiatric Medicine Acting Within the Scope of Their License [Docket ID: DOD-2017-MA-0068] (RIN: 0720-AB71) received February 25, 2021, 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.

EC-587. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission’s final evaluation of vendor submittal — BWR Vessel and Internals Project, Plan for Extension of the BWR Integrated Surveillance Program (ISP) Through the Second License Renewal (SLR), (BWRV-231) received February 25, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-588. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission’s final evaluation of vendor submittal — BWR Vessel and Internals Project, Plan for Extension of the BWR Integrated Surveillance Program (ISP) Through the Second License Renewal (SLR), (BWRV-231) received February 25, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5(a)(1)(B) of House Resolution 8, the House stands adjourned until noon on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 10 o’clock and 40 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at noon for morning-hour debate.
EC-590. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission’s final rule — Updated Aging Management Criteria for Mechanical Portions of Subsequent License Renewal Interim Staff Guidance [SLR-1400-2021-05-STRUCTURES] received February 26, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-591. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission’s final rule — Updated Aging Management Criteria for Structures Portions of Subsequent License Renewal Interim Staff Guidance [SLR-1405-2021-05-STRUCTURES] received February 26, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-592. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission’s final rule — Updated Aging Management Criteria for Structures Portions of Subsequent License Renewal Interim Staff Guidance [SLR-1405-2021-05-STRUCTURES] received February 26, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-593. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission’s final rule — Updated Aging Management Criteria for Structures Portions of Subsequent License Renewal Interim Staff Guidance [SLR-1405-2021-05-STRUCTURES] received February 26, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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. YARMUTH (for himself, Mr. NEAL, Mr. FALLONE, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 1885. A bill to prevent across-the-board direct spending cuts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, 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. AMODEI:

H.R. 1889. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to make a technical correction to the water rights settlement for the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. BARRAGAN (for herself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 1870. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to strengthen local reentry programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. KATKO):

H.R. 1871. A bill to improve the understanding and clarity of Transportation Security Administration policies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself and Mr. SCANLON):

H.R. 1872. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide for Federal Exchange outreach and educational activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BUCSHON (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 1873. A bill to educate health care providers and the public on biosimilar biological products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself and Mr. SCOTT of New York):

H.R. 1874. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide for additional requirements with respect to the navigator program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself and Mr. SCOTT of New York):

H.R. 1875. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to eliminate the short-term limited duration insurance exemption and reduce premiums for health insurance coverage; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CAWTHORN:

H.R. 1876. A bill to amend the Uniform Time Act to make daylight savings time permanent; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 1877. A bill to require the Transportation Security Administration to issue a plan to improve security screening procedures at airports; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; the Committee on Homeland Security; the Committee on Energy and Commerce; and the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. CRAIG (for herself and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 1878. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to establish regulations for telehealth services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 1879. A bill to promote American leadership in vehicle manufacturing, job creation, improved air quality, and climate protection through development of low- and zero-emission vehicles and development of electric vehicle charging networks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 1880. A bill to amend the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of the Treasury to prepare an annual report regarding the administration of the section 263A tax benefit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. GARAMENDI (for himself and Mr. CALVET):

H.R. 1881. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to water quality programs; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; the Committee on Energy and Commerce; the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mrs. KOENNEE of Georgia:

H.R. 1883. A bill to enact a moratorium on immigration, build the wall, prioritize securing the Southern border, repeal certain executive orders which endanger the security of the United States, re-assert a zero-tolerance immigration policy, ensure the safe return of unaccompanied alien children, reduce human trafficking, deport criminal aliens, end chain migration; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, Ways and Means, Intelligence (Permanent Select), Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, Energy and Commerce, House Administration, and Science, Space, and Technology, 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. GRIJALVA (for himself, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. KILMER, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. MCCULLUM, Mr. MERKES, Mr. HOFFMAN, Mr. HASZTUG, Mr. LOBORI FERNANDEZ, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. CARDENAS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MENO, Ms. DEGETTE, and Ms. PEN- GEBER):

H.R. 1884. A bill to repeal section 3003 of the Cari Lovin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeen National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, and for other purposes; to the Committee on National Resources.

By Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CARBONI, Mr. COSTA, and Mrs. WALORSKI):

H.R. 1885. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to adjust certain rural health clinic payments under the Medicare program; 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. O’HALLERAN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

H.R. 1886. A bill to provide temporary immigration relief for battered women, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.
By Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. S. WELL):  
H.R. 188. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to rebase the calculation of payments for Indian health care providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RUIZ:  
H.R. 1888. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require a Federal medical assistance percentage of 100 percent for Indian health care providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. STEFANIK (for herself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. CURTIN, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BURGESS, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. PIENCE, Mr. MILLER, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. PORTENBERY, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. LAMALPCA, Mr. MEUSE, Mrs. WALONSKI, Mr. COCHRAN, Miss GONZALEZ-COLON, Mr. BOST, Mr. GABARINO, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. FRECHETTE, Mr. SCHUMACHER, Mrs. HARRIS of Indiana, Mrs. HURST, Mr. BACON, Mr. MILLER, Mr. WAMACK, Mr. McHENRY, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. BARR, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. HERRERA BRUTLER, Mr. ROSKAM, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. TIBBETT, Ms. DIAZ-BALART):  
H.R. 1892. A bill to reauthorize Department of Justice programs that combat violence pursuant to the following:  
(a) Title 28 of the United States Code, to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Natural Resources, and Financial Services, 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 Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. THOMPSON of Florida, Mr. BARRAGÁN of California, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. SMITH of Nevada, Mr. HUNTSINGER):  
H.R. 1893. A bill to direct the Transportation Security Administration to develop a transportation security preparedness plan in the event of an biological disease outbreak, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself and Mrs. JOHNSON of Texas):  
H. Res. 230. A resolution supporting the designation of the month of March 2021 as "Eddie Bernice Johnson Black Women in Science and Technology Month"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Ms. SCALARONI, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Mrs. FLETCHER):  
H. Res. 231. A resolution recognizing Girl Scouts of the United States of America on its 109th birthday and celebrating its legacy of fostering civic action and community service among girls and creating leaders in Gold Award Girl Scouts, including the 2020 National Gold Award Girl Scout; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY introduced a bill (H.R. 1884) for the relief of Stela Simeonova and Simeon Simeonov; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. YARMUTH:  
H.R. 1869. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
(a) Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. AMODEI:  
H.R. 1868. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
(a) Article I, Section 8, clause 1 and Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MOORE of Texas:  
H.R. 1867. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
(a) Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. CASTOR of Florida (for herself, Mr. GIULIANI):  
H.R. 1864. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
(a) Article I, Section 8, Clause 4, United States Constitution.

By Ms. GREENE of Georgia (for herself, Mr. BUCSHON):  
H.R. 1862. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
(a) Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KATKO:  
H.R. 1863. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
(a) Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.
March 12, 2021

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

H. Res. 104: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.
H.R. 1361: Mr. GALLIBOO.
H.R. 1631: Mr. Thompson of California and Ms. Williams of Georgia.
H.R. 1670: Mr. EVANS, Mr. JEFFRIES, and Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 1827: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:
H.R. 6: Miss RICE of New York, Ms. WATTERS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mr. RUPPERSBERG, and Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 55: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 279: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER and Mr. LEVIN of California.
H.R. 305: Ms. DEAN, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 535: Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 596: Mrs. KIM of California.
H.R. 622: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 667: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 682: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.
H.R. 798: Mr. KHANNA and Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 1035: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 1126: Mr. STEUERE.
H.R. 1263: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 1324: Mr. TIMMONS.
H.R. 1361: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 1379: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 1393: Ms. PINGREE, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. POCAN, Ms. OMAR, and Mr. SHIBS.
H.R. 1480: Ms. CRAIG, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, and Mr. LAMB.
H.R. 1527: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.
H.R. 1611: Mr. GALLIBOO.
H.R. 1631: Mr. Thompson of California and Ms. Williams of Georgia.
H.R. 1670: Mr. EVANS, Mr. JEFFRIES, and Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 1680: Mrs. LSISKO.
H.R. 1693: Ms. MACE.
H.R. 1696: Mr. PENCE and Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 1729: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 1735: Ms. JAYAPAL and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 1769: Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. GARBARINO, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 1792: Mr. CARAJAL.
H.R. 1799: Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. TENNEY, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. BUDDE, Mr. MURHER, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. WALTZ, and Mr. EVANS.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. NADLER

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on the Judiciary in H.R. 6 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. NADLER

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on the Judiciary in H.R. 1603 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. NADLER

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on the Judiciary in H.R. 1620 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. NADLER

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on the Judiciary in H.J. Res. 17 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

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

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

Officer thereof in the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Office thereof.
Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that the Senate has passed and the House is now expected to re-pass the “American Rescue Plan Act of 2021” (H.R. 1319), for President Biden to sign into law.

This critical legislation provides federal relief totaling more than $2 trillion to state governments and more than $140 billion to county and municipal governments. State and local governments will use this federal relief to continue providing essential services to the American public. With this soon-to-be law, Congress has answered President Biden’s call to defeat the COVID–19 pandemic, rebuild our economy, and help Americans return to normal life once we have widespread vaccination.

While this soon-to-be law does not include my “Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act” (H.R. 535), I hope that states will use the flexibility provided under the “American Rescue Plan Act” to pass through some federal relief to the 2,700 special districts in California and 30,000 special districts nationwide providing essential public services cities and counties do not provide to residents. Those services include first responders, policing, firefighting, public health, and more, making special districts indeed critical to the communities they serve. Special districts must now make their case directly to each state’s Governor.

I want to thank my colleagues who cosponsored H.R. 535 and U.S. Senator KYRSTEN SINEMA (D–AZ) for sponsoring the companion legislation.

I plan to continue working to ensure that special districts can access the Federal Reserve’s Municipal Liquidity Facility in the future, as called for in my “Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act.” Like states, counties, and cities, many special districts serve large populations and have the legal authority to issue short-term tax and revenue anticipation notes. However, special districts are not currently guaranteed access to the Municipal Liquidity Facility, even to offset revenue shortfalls caused by this ongoing pandemic or similar emergencies.

Congress must ensure that local governments including special districts have the federal support needed to deliver crucial quality-of-life services to communities during this global pandemic and future national emergencies.

Mr. Speaker, I am so privileged to join the Congressional Black Caucus in its First Annual John Lewis Special Order Hour. Please join me in commemorating his leadership and bravery on the Edmund Pettus Bridge fifty-six years ago. May he Rest in Power, a well-earned peace, and may his memory be a blessing to all of us who loved him.
Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I reintroduce a noncontroversial amendment to the Clean Water Act, extending permit terms for publicly owned water infrastructure projects under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). I thank my colleague Congressman Ken Calvert (R–CA) for his support as the original cosponsor. This bipartisan bill would simply extend the NPDES permit term for projects owned by local public agencies and water districts from the current 5 up to 10 years. This would encourage investment in modern wastewater treatment facilities by relieving unnecessary, bureaucratic paperwork and allow regulators to focus on watershed-scale planning and water quality standards. This bill is supported by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, National Association of Counties, United States Conference of Mayors, National Association of Counties, National League of Cities, National Water Resources Association, Association of California Water Agencies, California Association of Sanitation Agencies, WaterReuse Association, and Water Environment Federation.

The United States has fallen behind many other developed nations in wastewater infrastructure, receiving a D+ grade in the American Society of Civil Engineers’ most recent report card. One reason for this lapse in infrastructure improvements is arbitrary permitting timetables imposed by the federal government. Permit terms should match the construction timelines and on-the-ground reality for the projects to which they apply. This is currently not the case. With over 95 percent of wastewater infrastructure spending at the local level, according to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, lengthening permit terms for local governments would be one of the most expeditious ways to encouraging further investment in 21st-century wastewater treatment facilities. Current NPDES permitting under the Clean Water Act has a maximum term of 5 years, an aggressive timeline that is impracticable given construction schedules of local public agencies. As a result, California’s State Water Resources Control Board and Clean Water Act regulators in other states are overwhelmed with a backlog of NPDES permitting requests for existing projects. New public projects are, likewise, significantly delayed by this unnecessary bureaucracy.

My office has identified nearly a dozen major public projects to modernize wastewater treatment plants or build water recycling facilities in California delayed by the current 5-year NPDES term. One such public water recycling project in a drought-stricken region of southern California is well into its third NPDES permit term before even breaking ground on the underlying project. This is just one example where the arbitrary 5-year term impedes public water infrastructure projects that would advance the stated goals of the Clean Water Act.

My bill would alleviate this burden by extending the maximum permit to 10 years, helping local water agencies nationwide better implement the Clean Water Act and literally cut the permitting backlog in half. Extending the NPDES permitting term is a practical solution that allows local agencies to meet the existing regulatory standards while building public water projects that measurably improve water quality, which after all is the purpose of the Clean Water Act. NPDES permit terms for private projects or industrial discharges would remain at the current 5-year term.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to cosponsor this bipartisan bill to extend the maximum NPDES permit term for public water projects under the Clean Water Act. I plan to make this commonsense legislation a top priority in my work on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
Friday, March 12, 2021

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action
The Senate was not in session and stands adjourned until 3 p.m., on Monday, March 15, 2021.

Committee Meetings
No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action
Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 26 public bills, H.R. 1868–1893; 1 private bill, H.R. 1894; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 230–231, were introduced.

Additional Cosponsors:

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Trone to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Joint Economic Committee—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Joint Economic Committee: Representatives Trone, Beatty, Paean, Peters, Davids (KS), LaHood, Herrera Beutler, and Estes.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence—Appointment: The Chair announced, notwithstanding the requirement of clause 11 (a)(1) of rule 10, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence shall be composed of not more than 23 Members, Delegates, or the Resident Commissioner, the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Representatives Himes, Carson, Speier, Quigley, Swalwell, Castro (TX), Welch, Sean Patrick Maloney (NY), Demings, Krishnamoorthi, Cooper, Crow, Turner, Wenstrup, Stewart, Crawford, Stefanik, Mullin, Kelly (MS), LaHood, and Fitzpatrick.

Senate Referrals: S. 320 was held at the desk. S. 415 was held at the desk.

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H1361.

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no Yea and Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10:30 a.m. and adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Committee Meetings

VA SPECIALTY HEALTHCARE: OVERSIGHT OF WOMEN’S HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION, WHOLE HEALTH, AND HOMELESSNESS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “VA Specialty Healthcare: Oversight of Women’s Health, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Whole Health, and Homelessness”. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Veterans Affairs officials: David Carroll, Executive Director, Mental Health Operations, Veterans Health Administration; Laura Duke, Chief Financial Officer, Veterans Health Administration; Patricia M Hayes, Chief Consultant, Women’s Health Services, Veterans Health Administration; and Kameron Matthews, Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Services, Veterans Health Administration.
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Cyber, Innovative Technologies, and Information Systems; and Subcommittee on National Security of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform held a joint hearing entitled “Final Recommendations of the National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence”. Testimony was heard from the following National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence officials: Eric Schmidt, Chairman; Robert Work, Vice Chairman; Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner; and Gilman Louie, Commissioner.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON HAITI FOR THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Policy Recommendations on Haiti for the Biden Administration”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

COMMITTEE FUNDING FOR THE 117TH CONGRESS

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Committee Funding for the 117th Congress”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Dean and Jordan.

REVIVING COMPETITION, PART 2: SAVING THE FREE AND DIVERSE PRESS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law held a hearing entitled “Reviving Competition, Part 2: Saving the Free and Diverse Press”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE SCIENCE BEHIND IMPACTS OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Science Behind Impacts of the Climate Crisis”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Foreign Relations: to receive a closed briefing on the policy and legal rationale of U.S. airstrikes in Syria, 6 p.m., SVC–217.

House

No hearings are scheduled.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
3 p.m., Monday, March 15

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Debra Anne Haaland, of New Mexico, to be Secretary of the Interior, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon on at 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
12 noon, Tuesday, March 16

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE
Deutch, Theodore E., Fla., E245
Dingell, Debbie, Mich., E245
Garamendi, John, Calif., E245, E246
Hastings, Alcee L., Fla., E246

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