

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1577–S1621

Measures Introduced: Thirty-four bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1, 784–816, and S. Res. 119–121. **Pages S1613–14**

Measures Passed:

George Daniel Crowe: Senate agreed to S. Res. 121, honoring the 100th anniversary of the birth of George Daniel Crowe. **Page S1620**

SAVE LIVES Act: Senate passed H.R. 1276, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish COVID–19 vaccines to certain individuals, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S1620**

Padilla (for Tester/Moran) Amendment No. 1400, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S1620**

Major Richard Star Act—Referral: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 344, to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retirement pay for disability retirees with fewer than 20 years of service and a combat-related disability, and that the bill be referred to the Committee on Armed Services. **Page S1620**

Becerra Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services. **Pages S1582–S1609**

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

By 50 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. EX. 124), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S1582–83**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, March 18, 2021; and that the post-cloture debate time on the nomination expire at 12 noon; provided further that following the disposition of the nomination of Xavier Becerra, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Martin Joseph Walsh, of Mas-

sachusetts, to be Secretary of Labor; and that the motion to invoke cloture with respect to the nomination of Martin Joseph Walsh ripen at 1:30 p.m., on Thursday, March 18, 2021. **Page S1620**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By a unanimous vote of 98 yeas (Vote No. EX. 123), Katherine C. Tai, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador. **Pages S1580–82, S1621**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Jose W. Fernandez, of New York, to be United States Alternate Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of five years; United States Alternate Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank for a term of five years.

Jose W. Fernandez, of New York, to be United States Alternate Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Jose W. Fernandez, of New York, to be an Under Secretary of State (Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment). **Page S1621**

Messages from the House: **Pages S1612–13**

Measures Referred: **Page S1620**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S1577**

Executive Communications: **Page S1613**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S1613**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1614–15**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1615–19**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1611–12**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S1619**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S1619–20**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—124) **Pages S1582–83**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:22 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday,

March 18, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1620.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

INCOME AND WEALTH INEQUALITY

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the income and wealth inequality crisis in America, after receiving testimony from Robert B. Reich, University of California Goldman School of Public Policy, Berkeley; Sarah Anderson, Institute for Policy Studies, John W. Lettieri, Economic Innovation Group, and Scott Winship, American Enterprise Institute, all of Washington, D.C.; and Jennifer Bates, Amazon BHM1, Bessemer, Alabama.

EXPANDING BROADBAND

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine recent Federal actions to expand broadband, after receiving testimony from Christopher Ali, University of Virginia Department of Media Studies, Charlottesville; Michael P. O'Rielly, former Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission, Arlington, Virginia; Jon Wilkins, Quadra Partners, Washington, D.C.; and Justin Forde, Midcontinent Communications, West Fargo, North Dakota.

DRINKING WATER AND WASTE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a joint hearing with the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Water to examine the challenges facing drinking water and waste water infrastructure projects, after receiving testimony from Shellie R. Chard, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, Oklahoma City, on behalf of the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators; Kishia L. Powell, DC Water, Washington, D.C., on behalf of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies; Michael McNulty, Morgantown Utility Board, Morgantown, West Virginia; and Nathan Ohle, Rural Community Assistance Partnership, Falls Church, Virginia.

COVID-19 IN NURSING HOMES

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine COVID-19 in the Nation's nursing homes, including steps taken by the Department of Health and Human Services in response to pandemic, after receiving testimony from John E. Dicken, Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office; Adelina Ramos, SEIU District

1199 New England, Greenville, Rhode Island; Denise Bottcher, AARP Louisiana, Baton Rouge; R. Tamara Konetzka, University of Chicago Department of Public Health Sciences, Chicago, Illinois; Quiteka Moten, State of Tennessee Long Term Care Ombudsman, Nashville; and David R. Gifford, American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living, Washington, D.C.

STRATEGIC COMPETITION WITH CHINA

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine advancing effective U.S. policy for strategic competition with China in the twenty-first century, after receiving testimony from Elizabeth Economy, Council on Foreign Relations, New York, New York; and Thomas H. Shugart III, Center for New American Security, and Saif M. Khan, Georgetown University Center for Security and Emerging Technology, both of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

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

S. 231, to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop guidance for firefighters and other emergency response personnel on best practices to protect them from exposure to PFAS and to limit and prevent the release of PFAS into the environment, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 272, to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, to require the budget justifications and appropriation requests of agencies be made publicly available, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 583, to promote innovative acquisition techniques and procurement strategies;

S. 517, to provide for joint reports by relevant Federal agencies to Congress regarding incidents of terrorism;

S. 671, to require the collection of voluntary feedback on services provided by agencies;

S. 693, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the halt in pension payments for Members of Congress sentenced for certain offenses;

S. 658, to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training;

S. 636, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to submit to Congress an annual report on projects that are over budget and behind schedule, with an amendment;

S. 688, to prohibit contracting with persons that have business operations with the Maduro regime;