

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S99–S140.

Measures Introduced: Ten bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2449–2458, S.J. Res. 29, S. Res. 346–347, and S. Con. Res. 28–29.

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Measures Passed:

Rural Community Hospital Demonstration Extension Act: Senate passed S. 607, to provide for a five-year extension of the Medicare rural community hospital demonstration program, after agreeing to the committee reported amendment, the title amendment, and the following amendment proposed thereto:

McConnell (for Grassley) Amendment No. 2952, relative to the five-year extension of the rural community hospital demonstration program.

Pages S138–139

Fiscal Year 2016 Department of Veterans Affairs Seismic Safety and Construction Authorization Act: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 2422, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain major medical facility projects for which appropriations are being made for fiscal year 2016, and the bill was then passed.

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Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 28, to establish the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies for the inauguration of the President-elect and Vice President-elect of the United States on January 20, 2017.

Pages S139–140

Authorizing Use of the Rotunda and Emancipation Hall: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 29, to authorize the use of the rotunda and Emancipation Hall of the Capitol by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies conducted for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States.

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Measures Considered:

American Safe Act: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 4038, to require that supplemental certifications and background investigations be completed prior to the admission of certain aliens as refugees.

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

By 55 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 4), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill.

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Veto Messages:

Waters of the United States—Veto Message: Senate began consideration of the veto message on S.J. Res. 22, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the definition of “waters of the United States” under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

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A motion was entered to close further debate on the veto message on S.J. Res. 22, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Wednesday, January 20, 2016, a vote on cloture will occur at 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, January 21, 2016; and if cloture is not invoked, that the veto message be indefinitely postponed.

Pages S111–112

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the veto message at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, January 21, 2016, with the time until 10:30 a.m., equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees.

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Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to the Constitution, the report of the veto of S.J. Res. 22, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the

Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the definition of “waters of the United States” under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, received on January 19, 2016; ordered to be printed in the Record, spread in full upon the Journal, and held at the desk. (PM–37)

Pages S129–130

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

Lisa S. Disbrow, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force. **Page S140**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S130**

Executive Communications: **Pages S130–31**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S132**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S132–33**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S133–35**

Additional Statements: **Pages S127–129**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S135–37**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S137**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S137**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—4) **Page S111**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:37 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 21, 2016. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S140.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill entitled, “Improving Child Nutrition Integrity and Access Act of 2016”.

EXECUTIVE ACTIONS ON GUN CONTROL

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Justice’s role in implementing new executive actions related to gun control, after receiving testimony from Loretta E. Lynch, Attorney General, Department of Justice; Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange, Mountain Brook; Ken Cuccinelli, former Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Virginia, United Self Defense Law Firm, Nokesville, Virginia; Mark Barden, Sandy Hook Promise, Newtown, Connecticut; and Joyce Lee Malcolm, George

Mason University School of Law, Alexandria, Virginia.

U.S. STRATEGY AND POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine United States strategy and policy in the Middle East, after receiving testimony from General John M. Keane, USA (Ret.), former Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, Institute for the Study of War, and Philip H. Gordon, former Special Assistant to the President and White House Middle East Coordinator, Council on Foreign Relations, both of Washington, D.C.; and Ryan C. Crocker, former United States Ambassador to Afghanistan, Texas A&M University George Bush School of Government and Public Service, College Station.

TASK FORCE FOR BUSINESS AND STABILITY OPERATIONS PROJECTS IN AFGHANISTAN OVERSIGHT

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Task Force for Business and Stability Operations projects in Afghanistan, after receiving testimony from Brian P. McKeon, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Policy, and John F. Sopko, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, both of the Department of Defense.

NOMINATION

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Thomas F. Scott Darling, III, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Markey, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 659, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, with amendments;

S. 1024, to authorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1674, to amend and reauthorize certain provisions relating to Long Island Sound restoration and stewardship;

S. 1724, to provide for environmental restoration activities and forest management activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin, with an amendment;