

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Randall G. Schriver, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary, John C. Rood, of Arizona, to be Under Secretary for Policy, both of the Department of Defense, and 275 nominations in the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

FUTURE NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine recommendations from outside experts for a future National Defense Strategy, after receiving testimony from Thomas G. Mahnken, Center for Strategic Budgetary Assessments, David A. Ochmanek, RAND Corporation, Lieutenant General Thomas W. Spoehr, USA (Ret.), Heritage Foundation Center for National Defense, Mara E. Karlin, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and Mackenzie Eaglen, The American Enterprise Institute Marilyn Ware Center for Security Studies, all of Washington, D.C.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of M. Lee McClenny, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Paraguay, Carlos Trujillo, of Florida, to

be Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States, with the rank of Ambassador, and Kenneth J. Braithwaite, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway, all of the Department of State, and Brock D. Bierman, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

THE FRONT LINES OF THE OPIOID CRISIS

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the front lines of the opioid crisis, focusing on perspectives from states, communities, and providers, after receiving testimony from Rebecca L. Boss, Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals, Cranston; Andrea Magermans, Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, Madison; John Tilley, Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, Frankfort; and A. Omar Abubaker, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry, Richmond.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 20 public bills, H.R. 4488–4507; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 636–638 were introduced. **Pages H9568–69**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H9570**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 477, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to exempt from registration brokers performing services in connection with the transfer of ownership of smaller privately held companies (H. Rept. 115–431); and

H.R. 3971, to amend the Truth in Lending Act and the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 to modify the requirements for community financial institutions with respect to certain rules relating to mortgage loans, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–432). **Page H9568**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Palmer to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H9519**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:54 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H9526**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Pastor Jon Lands, Fellowship Baptist Church, Vienna, West Virginia. **Page H9526**

Minnesota's Economic Rights in the Superior National Forest Act: The House passed H.R. 3905, to require congressional approval of any mineral withdrawal or monument designation involving the National Forest System lands in the State of Minnesota, to provide for the renewal of certain mineral leases in such lands, by a recorded vote of 216 ayes to 204 noes, Roll No. 643. Consideration began yesterday, November 29th. **Pages H9535–36**

Rejected:

Grijalva amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 115–429) that was debated on November 29th that sought to increase the royalty rate by 16.66 percent for mineral leases in the Superior National Forest (by a yea-and-nay vote of 182 yeas to 237 nays, Roll No. 642).

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H. Res. 631, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 3017) and (H.R. 3905) was agreed to yesterday, November 29th.

Ensuring a Qualified Civil Service Act of 2017: The House passed H.R. 4182 to amend title 5, United States Code, to modify probationary periods with respect to positions within the competitive service and the Senior Executive Service, by a recorded vote of 213 yeas to 204 noes, Roll No. 648.

Pages H9529–35, H9537–38, H9547–59

Agreed to:

Gianforte amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 115–430), as modified, that provides additional notification to supervisor with 1 year, 6 months, 3 months and 30 days of remaining probationary period.

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Rejected:

Hastings (FL) amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 115–430) that sought to exempt alumni of the PeaceCorps, AmeriCorps, and other national service programs under the Corporation for National and Community Service from the two year probationary period (by a recorded vote of 195 yeas to 221 noes, Roll No. 646); and

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Conolly amendment in the nature of a substitute (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 115–430) that sought to strike the provisions of the bill and replace it with a study and report by the Comptroller General of the United States; the study and report would be on those agencies that have lengthened the employee probationary period from 1 to 2 years, and any impact of an existing 2 year probationary period at the agency (by a recorded vote of 193 yeas to 223 noes, Roll No. 647).

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H. Res. 635, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4182) and (H.R. 1699) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 226 yeas to 186 nays, Roll No. 645, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 229 yeas to 189 nays, Roll No. 644.

Pages H9537–38

Brownfields Enhancement, Economic Redevelopment, and Reauthorization Act of 2017: The House passed H.R. 3017, to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to reauthorize and improve the brownfields program, by a yea-and-nay vote of 409 yeas to 8 nays, Roll No. 649.

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Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115–40 shall be considered as adopted.

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H. Res. 631, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 3017) and (H.R. 3905) was agreed to yesterday, November 29th.

Relating to the exercise of the authority of the ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary: The House agreed to H. Res. 636, relating to the exercise of the authority of the ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

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Senate Referrals: S. 825 was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. S. 1285 was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. S. 254 was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce. S. 772 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. S. 669 was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. S. 245 was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Energy and Commerce. S. 343 was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. S. 302 was held at the desk.

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Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H9547.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes and four recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H9535, H9536, H9537–38, H9538, H9557, H9557–58, H9558–59, and H9559. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Committee Meetings

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held an oversight hearing on the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Testimony was heard from Brock Long, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held an oversight hearing on the Department of the Interior. Testimony was heard from David Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary, Department of the Interior.