

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6979–S7044

Measures Introduced: Thirty-six bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 5497–5532, and S.J. Res. 121. **Pages S7002–03**

Measures Reported:

S. 2924, to amend title 31, United States Code, to improve the management of improper payments, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 118–288)

S. 3139, to ensure that Federal contractors comply with child labor laws, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 118–289)

Page S7002

Measures Passed:

International Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act: Senate passed S. 920, to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S6984–85**

Cardin Amendment No. 3322, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S6984–85**

Reaffirming the Applicability of the Indian Reorganization Act: Senate passed S. 4000, to reaffirm the applicability of the Indian Reorganization Act to the Lytton Rancheria of California. **Page S6985**

Jamul Indian Village Land Transfer Act: Senate passed S. 3857, to take certain land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Jamul Indian Village of California, after withdrawing the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S6985–87**

Padilla Amendment No. 3323, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S6986–87**

Honoring the Life and Legacy of Patrick Gottsch: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 733, honoring the life and legacy of Patrick Gottsch, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S6989**

Miccosukee Reserved Area Amendments Act: Senate passed S. 2783, to amend the Miccosukee Re-

served Area Act to authorize the expansion of the Miccosukee Reserved Area and to carry out activities to protect structures within the Osceola Camp from flooding. **Page S6992**

Indian Buffalo Management Act: Senate passed S. 2908, to assist Tribal governments in the management of buffalo and buffalo habitat and the reestablishment of buffalo on Indian land, after withdrawing the committee amendments, and agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S6992–94**

Schatz (for Heinrich) Amendment No. 3324, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S6992–94**

Tribal Forest Protection Act Amendments Act: Senate passed S. 4370, to amend the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 to improve that Act, after agreeing to the committee amendment. **Pages S6994–96**

Veterinary Services to Improve Public Health in Rural Communities Act: Senate passed S. 4365, to provide public health veterinary services to Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations for rabies prevention, after agreeing to the committee amendments. **Pages S6994–96**

DETECT Fentanyl and Xylazine Act: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 8663, to require the Science and Technology Directorate in the Department of Homeland Security to develop greater capacity to detect and identify illicit substances in very low concentrations, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto: **Page S7041**

Schumer (for Cornyn/Ossoff) Amendment No. 3329, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7041**

Schumer (for Cornyn/Ossoff) Amendment No. 3330, to amend the title. **Page S7041**

Chance to Compete Act: Senate passed S. 59, to implement merit-based reforms to the civil service hiring system that replace degree-based hiring with skills- and competency-based hiring, after withdrawing the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S7041–43**

Schumer (for Sinema) Amendment No. 3325, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S7041–43**

Veterans Benefits Improvement Act: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 2513, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S7043**

Schumer (for Moran/Tester) Amendment No. 3326, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7043**

Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 141, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home and community based services for veterans, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S7043–44**

Schumer (for Moran/Tester) Amendment No. 3327, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S7043–44**

FDA Modernization Act 3.0: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. 5046, to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, to publish a final rule relating to nonclinical testing methods, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S7044**

Schumer (for Booker/Schmitt) Amendment No. 3328, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7044**

Measures Considered:

Social Security Fairness Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 82, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions. **Page S6980**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 5009, to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs. **Page S6980**

House Messages:

Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 5009, to reauthorize wildlife

habitat and conservation programs, taking action on the following motions and amendments proposed thereto:

Pending:

Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill. **Pages S6979–80**

Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with Schumer Amendment No. 3317 (to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill), to add an effective date. **Page S6980**

Schumer Amendment No. 3318 (to Amendment No. 3317), to add an effective date. **Page S6980**

Schumer motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions, Schumer Amendment No. 3319, to add an effective date. **Page S6980**

Schumer Amendment No. 3320 (to the instructions (Amendment No. 3319) of the motion to refer), to add an effective date. **Page S6980**

Schumer Amendment No. 3321 (to Amendment No. 3320), to add an effective date. **Page S6980**

A motion was entered to close further debate on Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, December 12, 2024, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, December 16, 2024. **Page S7044**

Prior to the consideration of this measure, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6979**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, December 16, 2024, Senate resume consideration of the House message to accompany the bill; and that the motion to invoke cloture with respect to Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill ripen at 5:30 p.m. **Page S7044**

Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Republican Leader, and notwithstanding Rule XXII, the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 4367, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources; that the Majority Leader, or his designee, be recognized to make a motion to concur in the House amendment

to the bill, and there be up to one hour of debate, equally divided, on the motion to concur; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the bill, with 60 affirmative votes required for the motion to concur, and that no other motions or amendments be in order.

Page S7041

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 50 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 323), Matthew James Marzano, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2028.

Pages S6984, S6989–90, S7044

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

By 50 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. 322), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Page S6984

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Ryan Young Park, of North Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, which was sent to the Senate on July 08, 2024

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Messages from the House:

Pages S7000–01

Measures Referred:

Page S7001

Enrolled Bills Presented:

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Executive Communications:

Pages S7001–02

Executive Reports of Committees:

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Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S7003–04

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Page S7004

Additional Statements:

Pages S6998–S7000

Amendments Submitted:

Pages S7004–40

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Pages S7040–41

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—323)

Pages S6984, S6990

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:22 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, December 16, 2024. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7044.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of David Michael Capozzi, of Maryland, Ronald L. Batory, of New Mexico, Elaine Marie Clegg, of Idaho, and Lanhee J. Chen, of California, each to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors, Lisa T. Ballance, of Oregon, to be a Member of the Marine Mammal Commission, Felix R. Sanchez, of the District of Columbia, and Adam Jeffrey White, of Virginia, both to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, L. E. Sola, of Florida, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner, and routine lists in the Coast Guard.

U.S. AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEMS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Aviation Safety, Operations, and Innovation concluded a hearing to examine U.S. Air Traffic Control systems, personnel, and safety, including urgent FAA actions needed to modernize aging systems, after receiving testimony from Kevin Walsh, Director, Information Technology and Cybersecurity, Government Accountability Office; Dean Iacopelli, National Air Traffic Controllers Association, David Spero, Professional Aviation Safety Specialists, and Marc Scribner, Reason Foundation, all of Washington, D.C.; and Jason Ambrosi, Air Line Pilots Association, International, Atlanta, Georgia.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Benjamin J. Cheeks, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, and Serena Raquel Murillo, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

EMPOWERING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine empowering people with disabilities to live, work, learn, and thrive, after receiving testimony from Mayor Neil McDevitt, North Wales, Pennsylvania; Brent Orrell, American Enterprise Institute, and Lydia Xinzhen Zhangsun Brown, National Disability Institute, both of Washington, D.C.; Erin Willman, White Cane Coffee Company, Warren, Pennsylvania; and Ai-jen Poo, Domestic Workers Alliance and Caring Across Generations, Chicago, Illinois.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 31 public bills, H.R. 10379–10409; and 2 resolutions, H.J. Res. 227; and H. Res. 1615, were introduced.

Pages H7140–41

Additional Cosponsors:

Page H7143

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 6322, to evaluate and disrupt financing to Hamas, and to amend title 31, United States Code, to prohibit the exchange stabilization fund from being used to deal in Special Drawing Rights from state sponsors of terrorism, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–799, Part 1);

H.R. 2685, to require the Secretary of Energy to provide technology grants to strengthen domestic mining education, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–864);

H.R. 4338, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Route 66 National Historic Trail, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–865);

H.R. 1584, to establish Plum Island, New York, as a national monument, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–866);

H.R. 2687, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to exclude certain payments to aged, blind, or disabled Alaska Natives or descendants of Alaska Natives from being used to determine eligibility for certain programs, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–867);

H.R. 3047, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain lands within the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–868);

H.R. 3971, to designate the Flatside-Bethune Wilderness in the Ouachita National Forest, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–869);

H.R. 8995, to require Amtrak to install baby changing tables in all ADA-accessible bathrooms on passenger rail cars (H. Rept. 118–870);

H.R. 3013, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to modify certain regulations relating to the requirements for commercial driver's license testing and commercial learner's permit holders, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–871);

H. Res. 152, supporting the goals and ideals of "move over" laws (H. Rept. 118–872); and

The Task Force on the Attempted Assassination of Donald J. Trump. Final Report of Findings and Recommendations of the Task Force on the Attempted

Assassination of Donald J. Trump (H. Rept. 118–873). **Page H7140**

Judicial Understaffing Delays Getting Emergencies Solved Act of 2024: The House passed S. 4199, to authorize additional district judges for the district courts and convert temporary judgeships, by a yea-and-nay vote of 236 yeas to 173 nays, Roll No. 501. **Pages H7116–24**

H. Res. 1612, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 7673), (S. 4199), and (H.R. 5009) was agreed to Thursday, December 10th.

Senate Referrals: S. 1351 was held at the desk. S. 5060 was held at the desk. **Page H7124**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H7124.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on pages H7123–24.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MODERNIZING VA: LESSONS LEARNED IN THE 118TH CONGRESS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Technology Modernization held a hearing entitled "Modernizing VA: Lessons Learned in the 118th Congress". Testimony was heard from Carol Harris, Director, Information Technology and Cybersecurity Issues, Government Accountability Office; Kurt DelBene, Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology and Chief Information Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1082)

H.R. 2950, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the Coastal Program of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to work with willing partners and provide support to efforts to assess, protect, restore, and enhance important coastal landscapes that provide fish and wildlife habitat on which certain Federal trust species depend. Signed on December 11, 2024. (Public Law 118–138)

H.R. 5302, to designate the Air and Marine Operations Marine Unit of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection located at 101 Km 18.5 in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, as the “Michel O. Maceda Marine Unit”. Signed on December 11, 2024. (Public Law 118–139)

H.R. 5536, to require transparency in notices of funding opportunity. Signed on December 11, 2024. (Public Law 118–140)

H.R. 5799, to designate the checkpoint of the United States Border Patrol located on United States Highway 90 West in Uvalde County, Texas, as the “James R. Dominguez Border Patrol Checkpoint”. Signed on December 11, 2024. (Public Law 118–141)

H.R. 7218, to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to extend the program for promotion of public health knowledge and awareness of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. Signed on December 11, 2024. (Public Law 118–142)

H.R. 7438, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the FIFA

World Cup 2026. Signed on December 11, 2024. (Public Law 118–143)

H.R. 7764, to establish a commission to study the potential transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution. Signed on December 11, 2024. (Public Law 118–144)

H.R. 8932, to establish an earlier application processing cycle for the FAFSA. Signed on December 11, 2024. (Public Law 118–145)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 115, the “Midnight Rules Relief Act”, 4 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3 p.m., Monday, December 16

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 noon, Monday, December 16

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 5009, Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture with respect to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill at 5:30 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Monday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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