

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 82, Social Security Fairness Act.

Senate passed H.R. 10545, American Relief Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

(Legislative Day of Monday, December 16, 2024)

Routine Proceedings, pages S7247–S7348

Measures Introduced: Thirteen bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2–3, 5639–5649, and S. Res. 938–942. **Page S7332**

Measures Passed:

Counter-UAS Authority Extension Act: Senate passed S. 5639, to extend the authority for the protection of certain facilities and assets from unmanned aircraft. **Pages S7252–53**

Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act: Senate passed S. 1723, to establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, after withdrawing the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S7254–67**

Schatz Amendment No. 3351, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7261**

Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act: Senate passed H.R. 1318, to authorize the location of a monument on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the women's suffrage movement and the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. **Pages S7274–75**

General George C. Marshall House: Senate passed S. 3195, to designate the General George C. Marshall House, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as an affiliated area of the National Park System, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S7275–76**

Recognizing the Importance of Critical Minerals in Healthcare Act: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6395, to amend the Energy Act of 2020 to require the Secretary of the Interior to in-

clude the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultations regarding designations of critical minerals, elements, substances, and materials, and the bill was then passed. **Page S7276**

Resiliency for Ranching and Natural Conservation Health Act: Senate passed S. 1553, to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to improve the management of grazing permits and leases, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7276**

Clifton Opportunities Now for Vibrant Economic Yields Act: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2997, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to Mesa County, Colorado, certain Federal land in Colorado, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S7276–77**

Jackie Robinson Ballpark National Commemorative Site Act: Senate passed H.R. 8012, to establish the Jackie Robinson Ballpark National Commemorative Site in the State of Florida. **Pages S7287–88**

Holcombe Rucker Park National Commemorative Site Act: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6852, to designate Holcombe Rucker Park, in Harlem, New York, as a National Commemorative Site, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S7287–88**

Wyoming Public Lands Initiative Act: Senate passed S. 1348, to redesignate land within certain wilderness study areas in the State of Wyoming, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S7288–97**

Malheur Community Empowerment for the Owyhee Act: Senate passed S. 1890, to provide for the establishment of a land health management program on Federal land in Malheur County, Oregon,

after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the committee amendment to the title.

Pages S7288–97

Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act 2.0: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3391, to extend the Gabriella Miller Kids First Pediatric Research Program at the National Institutes of Health, and the bill was then passed.

Pages S7297–S7302

Social Security Fairness Act: By 76 yeas to 20 nays (Vote No. 338), Senate passed H.R. 82, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions, by the order of the Senate of Friday, December 20, 2024, 60 Senators having voted in the affirmative, and after taking action on the following motions and amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S7285–87

Rejected:

By 3 yeas to 93 nays (Vote No. 333), Paul Amendment No. 3346, to adjust the normal and early retirement ages for Social Security benefits and increase the maximum age for delayed retirement credits. (Pursuant to the order of Friday, December 20, 2024, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.)

Pages S7302–03

By 28 yeas to 67 nays (Vote No. 334), Paul Amendment No. 3352, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions. (Pursuant to the order of Friday, December 20, 2024, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.)

Page S7303

By 32 yeas to 64 nays (Vote No. 335), Cruz Amendment No. 3360, in the nature of a substitute. (Pursuant to the order of Friday, December 20, 2024, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.)

Page S7304

By 34 yeas to 62 nays (Vote No. 336), Crapo Amendment No. 3331, to delay the repeal of the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions until additional changes are made to offset any negative impacts on the actuarial balance of the Social Security Trust Funds. (Pursuant to the order of Friday, December 20, 2024, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.)

Pages S7304–05

Withdrawn:

Schumer Amendment No. 3355, to add an effective date.

Page S7286

Schumer Motion to Commit the bill to the Committee on Finance, with instructions, Schumer Amendment No. 3357, to add an effective date.

Page S7286

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

By 66 yeas to 30 nays (Vote No. 337), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to waive all applicable sections of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and applicable budget points of order for purposes of the pending measure. Subsequently, the point of order, pursuant to Section 311(a)(3) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, that the pending measure would cause an increase of \$197.81 billion in the level of Social Security deficits relative to the levels deemed for budget enforcement, was not sustained, and the point of order fell.

Page S7305

Schumer Amendment No. 3356 (to Amendment No. 3355), to add an effective date, fell when Schumer Amendment No. 3355 (listed above) was withdrawn.

Page S7286

Schumer Amendment No. 3358 (to the instructions (Schumer Amendment No. 3357) of the motion to commit), to add an effective date, fell, when Schumer Amendment No. 3357 (listed above) was withdrawn.

Page S7286

Schumer Amendment No. 3359 (to Amendment No. 3358), to add an effective date, fell, when Schumer Amendment No. 3358 fell.

Page S7286

Subsequently, upon passage of the bill, the motion to invoke cloture on the bill was rendered moot.

Page S7286

American Relief Act: By 85 yeas to 11 nays (Vote No. 339), Senate passed H.R. 10545, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, by the order of the Senate of Friday, December 20, 2024, 60 Senators having voted in the affirmative.

Pages S7306–07

D.C. Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus Revitalization Act: Senate passed H.R. 4984, to amend the District of Columbia Stadium Act of 1957 to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus to the Administrator of General Services and the leasing of the Campus to the District of Columbia for purposes which include commercial and residential development.

Pages S7312–13

Taxpayer Resources Used in Emergencies Accountability Act: Senate passed S. 5098, to require certain agencies to develop plans for internal control in the event of an emergency or crisis, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Page S7313

Government Service Delivery Improvement Act: Senate passed H.R. 5887, to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to improve Government

service delivery, and build related capacity for the Federal Government. **Page S7313**

SAFE Orbit Act: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. 3658, to promote space situational awareness and space traffic coordination and to modify the functions and leadership of the Office of Space Commerce, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S7314–15**

Schumer (for Cornyn) Amendment No. 3362, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7314**

Marine Debris Act: Senate passed S. 5649, to amend the Marine Debris Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Foundation. **Pages S7315–16**

Think Differently Database Act: Senate passed H.R. 670, to amend title IV of the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a clearinghouse on intellectual disabilities. **Page S7316**

Henry Parham VA Clinic: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4955, to name the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, as the "Henry Parham VA Clinic", and the bill was then passed. **Page S7316**

Duane E. Dewey VA Clinic: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 8667, to rename the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Cadillac, Michigan, as the "Duane E. Dewey VA Clinic", and the bill was then passed. **Page S7316**

Louis A. Conter VA Clinic: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 9124, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Auburn, California, as the "Louis A. Conter VA Clinic", and the bill was then passed. **Page S7316**

U.S. Congressman Sam Johnson Memorial VA Clinic: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4136, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Plano, Texas, as the "U.S. Congressman Sam Johnson Memorial VA Clinic", and the bill was then passed. **Page S7316**

Protecting America's Children by Strengthening Families Act: Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 9076, to reauthorize and modernize part B of title IV of the So-

cial Security Act to strengthen child welfare services, expand the availability of prevention services to better meet the needs of vulnerable families, and the bill was then passed. **Page S7317**

FISHES Act: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5103, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to approve or deny spend plans within a certain amount of time, and the bill was then passed. **Page S7317**

House Messages:

Keeping Military Families Together Act: Senate concurred in the amendments of the House of Representatives to S. 2181, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the entitlement to memorial headstones and markers for commemoration of veterans and certain individuals and to extend authority to bury remains of certain spouses and children in national cemeteries. **Page S7313**

Appointments:

United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106–398, as amended by Public Law 108–7, and in consultation with the Ranking Members of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: Hal Brands of Maryland vice Robin Cleveland of Virginia (term ends 12/31/24). **Page S7312**

National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 110–315, announced the appointment of the following individual to be a member of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity: Dr. Gary Ransdell of Kentucky. **Page S7312**

Signing Authority—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senator Kaine, Senator Brown, and Senator Cardin be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions from December 20, 2024 through January 3, 2025. **Page S7312**

Authorizing Leadership To Make Appointments—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President Pro Tempore, and the Majority and Minority Leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards,

conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate. **Page S7312**

Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, December 23, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.; Thursday, December 26, 2024, at 2:30 p.m.; Monday, December 30, 2024, at 12:30 p.m.; Thursday, January 2, 2025, at 12 noon; and Friday, January 3, 2025, at 11:45 a.m.; and that when the Senate adjourns following the Friday, January 3, 2025 pro forma session, it stand Sine Die, and next convene at 12 noon, on Friday, January 3, 2025, pursuant to the Constitution. **Page S7347**

Capozzi Nomination: Senate began consideration of the nomination of David Michael Capozzi, of Maryland, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years. **Page S7287**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S7287**

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S7287**

Upon confirmation of the nomination, the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination was rendered moot. **Page S7287**

Clegg Nomination: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Elaine Marie Clegg, of Idaho, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years. **Page S7287**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S7287**

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S7287**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S7287**

Upon confirmation of the nomination, the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination was rendered moot. **Page S7287**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 49 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 330), Benjamin J. Cheeks, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California. **Pages S7247–52, S7273**

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

By 49 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 329), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S7251**

By 49 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 332), Serena Raquel Murillo, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California. **Page S7285**

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

By 49 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 331), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S7274**

David Michael Capozzi, of Maryland, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

Ronald L. Batory, of New Mexico, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

Elaine Marie Clegg, of Idaho, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

Lanhee J. Chen, of California, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years. **Page S7347**

Routine lists in the Foreign Service.

(Prior to this action, Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration.)

Page S7347

Messages from the House:

Page S7322

Measures Referred:

Pages S7322–23

Enrolled Bills Presented:

Page S7323

Executive Communications:

Pages S7323–29

Petitions and Memorials:

Pages S7329–32

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S7332–33

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S7333–36

Additional Statements:

Pages S7320–22

Amendments Submitted:

Page SS7336–47

Record Votes: Eleven record votes were taken today. (Total—339) **Pages S7251, S7273–74, S7285, S7302–07**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 1:23 a.m., on Saturday, December 21, 2024, until 9:30 a.m. on Monday, December 23, 2024. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7347.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 16 public bills, H.R. 10543–10558, were introduced.

Pages H7414–15

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H7416**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Activities Report (H. Rept. 118–941). **Page H7414**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Maloy to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H7393**

Recess: The House recessed at 9:12 a.m. and reconvened at 4:53 p.m. **Page H7394**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

American Relief Act, 2025: H.R. 10545, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 366 yeas to 34 nays with one answering "present", Roll No. 517. **Pages H7395–H7413**

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures. Consideration began Wednesday, December 18th.

Research Security and Accountability in DHS Act: H.R. 9748, to require the Under Secretary of the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security to develop a Department-wide policy and process to safeguard research and development from unauthorized access to or disclosure of sensitive information in research and development acquisitions; and **Page H7413**

TSA Commuting Fairness Act: H.R. 8662, to reduce commuting burdens on Transportation Security Administration employees. **Page H7413**

Work Period Designation: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated the period from Friday, December 20, 2024, through the remainder of the 118th Congress, as a "district work period" under section 3(z) of House Resolution 5. **Page H7413**

Senate Referrals: S. 623 was held at the desk. S. 2020 was held at the desk. S. 2160 was held at the desk. S. 2784 was held at the desk. S. 3617 was held at the desk. S. 3790 was held at the desk. S. 4404 was held at the desk. S. 4451 was held at the desk. S. 4640 was held at the desk. S. 4634 was held at the desk. S. 4803 was held at the desk. S. 4851 was held at the desk. S. 4974 was held at the desk. S. 5062 was held at the desk. **Page H7395**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on page H7395.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on pages H7412–13.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2024

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Monday, December 23

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, December 24

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 10 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Bentz, Cliff, Ore., E1324
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