

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The result was announced—yeas 13, nays 84, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 333 Leg.]

YEAS—13

Braun	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Paul	Welch
Lee	Sanders	Wyden
Markley	Tuberville	
Merkley	Vance	

NAYS—84

Baldwin	Fischer	Ossoff
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Padilla
Bennet	Graham	Peters
Blackburn	Grassley	Reed
Blumenthal	Hagerty	Ricketts
Booker	Hassan	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Heinrich	Rosen
Brown	Hickenlooper	Rubio
Budd	Hirono	Schatz
Butler	Hoeven	Schmitt
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cardin	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Carper	Kelly	Shaheen
Casey	Kennedy	Sinema
Cassidy	King	Smith
Collins	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Coons	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lujan	Tester
Cortez Masto	Lummis	Thune
Cotton	Manchin	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Van Hollen
Cruz	McConnell	Warner
Daines	Menendez	Warnock
Duckworth	Mullin	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murkowski	Wicker
Fetterman	Murray	Young

NOT VOTING—3

Cramer	Moran	Rounds
--------	-------	--------

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). The motion is not adopted.

The motion was rejected.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024—CONFERENCE REPORT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to express my support for the fiscal year 2024 National Defense Authorization Act. I am glad that we have just brought the NDAA conference report to the floor.

First, I would like to acknowledge Senator ROGER WICKER, Chairman MIKE ROGERS, and Representative ADAM SMITH, whose partnership has been critical for the success of this bill.

The hallmark of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees has long been bipartisanship, and I am glad we have continued that tradition for the 63rd consecutive year.

I would also like to thank my colleagues on the Senate and House

Armed Services Committees who helped produce this bill, as well as Leader SCHUMER, Leader MCCONNELL, Speaker JOHNSON, and Leader JEFFRIES, who facilitated a thorough debate and enabled all Members to engage in the process. We were able to negotiate hundreds of provisions between both Chambers over the past few months—the most in many years.

This is a strong, forward-looking bill that I think we can all be proud of. This NDAA is laser-focused on the threats we face. It addresses a broad range of pressing issues, from strategic competition with China and Russia to countering threats from Iran, North Korea, violent extremists, and climate change. The bill authorizes record level investments in key technologies, like hypersonics and artificial intelligence, and makes real progress toward modernizing our ships, aircraft, and combat vehicles.

Most importantly, this NDAA provides a historic level of support for our troops and their families, including the largest pay raise in decades.

I am confident it will provide the Department of Defense and our military men and women with the resources they need to meet and overcome the national security threats we face.

I would like to take this opportunity, also, to recognize the incredible staff who have made this bill possible. Senator WICKER will, I am sure, speak on behalf of the minority staff in just a moment, but I wanted to specifically recognize the director of the Democratic staff, Elizabeth King, and the director of the Republican staff, John Keast. They did a remarkable job, and they have led their staffs with professionalism and skill.

I would also like to thank the members of the Armed Services Committee staff: Jody Bennett, Carolyn Chuhta, Jon Clark, Jenny Davis, Jonathan Epstein, Jorie Feldman, Kevin Gates, Creighton Greene, Gary Leeling, Kirk McConnell, Maggie McNamara Cooper, Bill Monahan, Meredith Werner, Mike Noblet, John Quirk, Andy Scott, Cole Stevens, Isabelle Picciotti, Alison Warner, Leah Brewer, Sean Jones, Joe Gallo, Brittany Amador, Griffin Cannon, Sofia Kamali, Chad Johnson, Julia Coulter, Vannary Kong, Noah Sisk, Zachary Volpe, and, once again, staff director Elizabeth King.

That was a long list, but it is a fraction of what they have put into this, in terms of time and effort, and we could not have accomplished this without them.

I want to thank the floor staff and the leadership for all they have done to make this possible.

Finally, I urge all my colleagues to support this excellent bill.

With that, I will yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I am pleased and honored to join my colleague from Rhode Island, the distinguished chairman of the Armed Serv-

ices Committee, in urging adoption of this important step in getting our National Defense Authorization Act passed and signed into law.

It is routine now and profound at the same time. It is routine because, as the chair said, this is the 63rd time that this House and this Senate will have come together on a bipartisan basis to join hands and try to move our national defense forward.

It is profound because it has become routine, because no matter what other things we are discussing and differing about and expressing our deeply held views, this is something that we feel must be done every year, regardless of the other things that divide us. So the fact that it has become routine does make this a profound step, and I am honored to be part of that great list of persons who have been part of this.

Senator REED is absolutely correct to thank our counterparts in the House, Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member SMITH, and our staff.

Let me also give a shout-out to the ranking members of the subcommittees, who took this from subcommittee to subcommittee to the full committee and helped us get started in a very meaningful way: Senator COTTON, ranking member of Airland; Senator MIKE ROUNDS, Cybersecurity; Senator JONI ERNST, Emerging Threats and Capabilities; Senator RICK SCOTT, Personnel Subcommittee; Senator DAN SULLIVAN, Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee; Senator KEVIN CRAMER, Seapower, a committee that I served on as ranking member and as chair; and Senator DEB FISCHER, who has worked so diligently in a very technical and important area, Strategic Forces.

And then, as the chair mentioned, I will try not to leave out any of the staff—the experts who took our concepts and who were able to put them into words that became statutory language. Of course, there is John Keast, the staff director on our side, who has been a great partner of Elizabeth King; and then other talented, just absolutely brilliant and diligent and hard-working American public servants who helped get it right: Rick Berger, Brendan Gavin, James Mazol, Greg Lilly, Adam Barker, Zach Barnett, Kristina Belcourt, Jack Beyrer, Travis Brundrett, Isaac Jalkanen, Kevin Kim, Eric Lofgren, Katie Magnus, Jonathan Moore, Sean O’Keefe, Brad Patout, Katie Romaine, Pat Thompson, Eric Trager, Adam Trull, Olivia Trusty, and Phillip Waller.

And I wouldn’t be surprised if I have left somebody out, even so, Mr. President.

It does contain some very high hopes and dreams, and I hope this legislation builds on an opportunity for further expansion of our defense industrial base, because so many of the things that we need to do cannot be done unless we have got the resources in place to actually put Americans to work making our country stronger.

It does contain one of the largest pay raises in decades.

There will perhaps be more said on final passage, but I am grateful to my colleague and friend and fellow veteran, Senator REED, and I urge the passage of this vote.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first let me thank Chairman REED of the Armed Services Committee for his great leadership, Ranking Member WICKER, and all the members of the committee and the conferees for their good work in the past few weeks.

So, in a few moments, I will lay down the NDAA conference report. There was a lot of hard work on both sides, and we have reached agreement for this year's Defense authorization bill. It is never easy—harder now than ever before.

I will file cloture on the NDAA later today. Members can expect to take votes on this early next week.

At a time of huge trouble for global security, doing the Defense authorization bill is more important than ever. The annual Defense bill is a prime example of both sides cooperating on a strong bipartisan package to strengthen America's national security, to take care of our servicemembers, and to keep the United States the leader in innovation.

When we began the December session, I said the Senate faces three important tasks: ending the hold on military nominees, which we did earlier this week; getting NDAA done, which we are doing today and early next week; and, then, the biggest and hardest of all is passing the supplemental.

We want to get that done as well. It is critical. We are going to keep working.

VOTE ON MOTION TO PROCEED

I move to proceed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 2670, the National Defense Authorization Act.

And now I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to laying down the conference report.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The result was announced—yeas 82, nays 15, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 334 Leg.]

YEAS—82

Baldwin	Britt	Cardin
Barrasso	Brown	Carper
Bennet	Budd	Casey
Blackburn	Butler	Cassidy
Blumenthal	Cantwell	Collins
Boozman	Capito	Coons

Cornyn	Kelly	Rubio
Cortez Masto	Kennedy	Schatz
Cotton	King	Schmitt
Crapo	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cruz	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Daines	Lummis	Scott (SC)
Duckworth	Manchin	Shaheen
Durbin	Marshall	Sinema
Ernst	McConnell	Smith
Fetterman	Menendez	Stabenow
Fischer	Mullin	Tester
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Thune
Graham	Murphy	Tillis
Grassley	Murray	Van Hollen
Hagerty	Ossoff	Warner
Hassan	Padilla	Warnock
Heinrich	Peters	Welch
Hickenlooper	Reed	Whitehouse
Hirono	Ricketts	Wicker
Hoeven	Risch	Young
Hyde-Smith	Romney	
Kaine	Rosen	

NAYS—15

Booker	Lujan	Sullivan
Braun	Markey	Tuberville
Hawley	Merkley	Vance
Johnson	Paul	Warren
Lee	Sanders	Wyden

NOT VOTING—3

Cramer	Moran	Rounds
--------	-------	--------

The motion was agreed to.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). The Chair lays before the Senate the conference report to accompany H.R. 2670, which will be stated by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee on conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2670) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for Military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, having met, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment and the Senate agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of December 6, 2023.)

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2670, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Tammy Duckworth, Margaret Wood Hassan, Angus S. King, Jr., Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tim Kaine, Chris Van Hollen, Jeanne Shaheen, Mark Kelly, Christopher A. Coons, Mazie Hirono, Alex Padilla, Patty Murray, Michael F. Bennet, Catherine Cortez Masto, Raphael G. Warnock.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to recommit the conference report to conference with instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] moves that the conference report with respect to H.R. 2670 be recommitted with instructions that the conferees on the part of the Senate be instructed to insert language that makes the effective date of the measure one day after the date of enactment.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that further reading be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays on my motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1373

Mr. SCHUMER. I have an amendment to the instructions at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 1373 to the instructions of the motion to recommit the conference report to accompany H.R. 2670 to the committee on conference.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the effective date)

In the motion, strike "one day" and insert "two days".

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1374 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1373

Mr. SCHUMER. I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 1374 to amendment No. 1373.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the effective date)

On page 1, line 1, strike, "two days" and insert "three days".