Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5671–S5704

Measures Introduced: Five bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3350–3354, and S. Res. 607–609.

Measures Reported:

- S. 2844, to require the Surface Transportation Board to implement certain recommendations of the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation. (S. Rept. No. 115–322)
- H.R. 4254, to amend the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 to strengthen the aerospace workforce pipeline by the promotion of Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program and National Aeronautics and Space Administration internship and fellowship opportunities to women, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Measures Passed:

Free Press: Senate agreed to S. Res. 607, reaffirming the vital and indispensable role the free press serves.

National Airborne Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 608, designating August 16, 2018, as “National Airborne Day”.

Relative to the Death of Former Senator Paul Laxalt: Senate agreed to S. Res. 609, relative to the death of Paul Laxalt, the former Governor and Senator of the State of Nevada.

Measures Considered:

Department of Defense Appropriations Act—Agreement: Senate began consideration of H.R. 6157, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

- McConnell (for Shelby) Amendment No. 3699 (to Amendment No. 3695), of a perfecting nature.

- McConnell (for Menendez/Murkowski) Amendment No. 3705 (to Amendment No. 3695), to provide funding for the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2018.

- McConnell (for Fischer) Amendment No. 3706 (to Amendment No. 3695), to appropriate an additional $10,000,000 for Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide for POW/MIA identification within the Defense Personnel Accounting Agency, and to provide an offset.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, August 20, 2018, Senate vote on or in relation to McConnell (for Menendez/Murkowski) Amendment No. 3705 (to Amendment No. 3695), and McConnell (for Fischer) Amendment No. 3706 (to Amendment No. 3695), in the order listed, and that there be no second-degree amendments in order to the amendments prior to the votes.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, August 20, 2018, Senate resume consideration of the bill.

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

- By 62 yeas to 28 nays (Vote No. EX. 183), A. Marvin Quattlebaum, Jr., of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

- By 81 yeas to 8 nays (Vote No. EX. 185), Julius Ness Richardson, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

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

- By 80 yeas to 10 nays (Vote No. 184), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:
William Bookless, of California, to be Principal Deputy Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration.

Thomas McCaffery, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

James B. Lockhart III, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

James B. Lockhart III, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

James B. Lockhart III, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

Mary Elizabeth Taylor, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs).

Donald Armin Blome, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Tunisia.

Craig Lewis Cloud, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Botswana.

Judith Gail Garber, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus.

Dennis B. Hankins, of Minnesota, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mali.

Simon Henshaw, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea.

Michael S. Klecheski, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mongolia.

William H. Moser, of North Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan.

W. Patrick Murphy, of Vermont, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Michael Peter Pelletier, of Maine, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Madagascar, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Union of the Comoros.

Robert K. Scott, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Malawi.

Ronald D. Vitiello, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

Aditya Bamzai, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board for the remainder of the term expiring January 29, 2020.

Travis LeBlanc, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board for a term expiring January 29, 2022.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy.

Nominations Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nominations:

Andrew M. Gellert, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Chile, which was sent to the Senate on January 8, 2018.

Susan A. Thornton, of Maine, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (East Asian and Pacific Affairs), which was sent to the Senate on January 8, 2018.

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S5693–94

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S5694–96

Additional Statements: Pages S5691–92

Amendments Submitted: Pages S5696–S5700

 Authorities for Committees to Meet: Pages S5700–01

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—185) Pages S5682, S5685

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Senator Paul Laxalt, in accordance with S. Res. 608, at 4:33 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, August 20, 2018. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S5701.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

FCC OVERSIGHT

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Communications Commission, after receiving testimony from Ajit Pai, Chairman, and Michael O’Rielly, Brendan Carr, and Jessica Rosenworcel, each a Commissioner, all of the Federal Communications Commission.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of William Cooper, of Maryland, to be General Counsel, and Lane Genatowski, of New York, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy, both of the Department of Energy, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

CLEAN WATER ACT AND WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION IMPROVEMENT ACT

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine implementation of Clean Water Act section 401, and S. 3303, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act
to make changes with respect to water quality certification, after receiving testimony from Senator Daines; CJ Stewart, National Tribal Energy Association, Crow Agency, Montana; Brent Booker, North America’s Building Trades Unions, Washington, D.C.; and Tony Willardson, Western States Water Council, Murray, Utah.

NOMINATION
Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of David Hale, of New Jersey, to be an Under Secretary of State (Political Affairs), after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

NOMINATIONS
Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Lynda Blanchard, of Alabama, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia, who was introduced by Senators Shelby and Jones, Dereck J. Hogan, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova, Philip S. Kosnett, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kosovo, and Judy Rising Reinke, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Montenegro, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations concluded an oversight hearing to examine efforts to protect unaccompanied alien children from human trafficking and abuse, after receiving testimony from Richard M. Hudson, Acting Chief, Law Enforcement Operations Directorate, Border Patrol, Customs and Border Protection, and Robert Gaudian, Acting Deputy Assistant Director for Field Operations West, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, both of the Department of Homeland Security; Jonathan White, Commander, Public Health Service, Commissioned Corps, Department of Health and Human Services; and James McHenry, Director, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice.

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
The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet in a Pro-Forma session at 9 a.m. on Friday, August 17, 2018.

Committee Meetings
No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings
No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS
(For last listing of Public Laws, see Daily Digest, p. D917)
H.R. 2345, to require the Federal Communications Commission to study the feasibility of designating a simple, easy-to-remember dialing code to be used for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system. Signed on August 14, 2018. (Public Law 115–233)
H.R. 5554, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize user fee programs relating to new animal drugs and generic new animal drugs. Signed on August 14, 2018. (Public Law 115–234)
H.R. 6414, to amend title 23, United States Code, to extend the deadline for promulgation of regulations under the tribal transportation self-governance program. Signed on August 14, 2018. (Public Law 115–235)
S. 770, to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to disseminate guidance to help reduce small business cybersecurity risks. Signed on August 14, 2018. (Public Law 115–236)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 2018
(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate
No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House
No hearings are scheduled.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
3 p.m., Monday, August 20

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 6157, Department of Defense Appropriations Act, and vote on or in relation to McConnell (for Menendez/Murkowski) Amendment No. 3705 (to Amendment No. 3695), and McConnell (for Fischer) Amendment No. 3706 (to Amendment No. 3695), at 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
9 a.m., Friday, August 17

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 9 a.m.