

# Daily Digest

## HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 9747, Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act.

## Senate

### Chamber Action

#### *Routine Proceedings, pages S6387–S6469*

**Measures Introduced:** One hundred twenty-nine bills and forty-three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 5164–5292, S.J. Res. 111–116, S. Res. 856–890, and S. Con. Res. 42–43. **Pages S6435–41**

#### **Measures Reported:**

Report to accompany S. 3891, to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to update and expand Federal economic development investment in the economic recovery, resiliency, and competitiveness of communities, regions, and States across the United States. (S. Rept. No. 118–233)

H.R. 1823, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 207 East Fort Dade Avenue in Brooksville, Florida, as the “Specialist Justin Dean Coleman Memorial Post Office Building”.

H.R. 3354, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 North Hatcher Avenue in Purcellville, Virginia, as the “Secretary of State Madeleine Albright Post Office Building”.

H.R. 6810, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 518 North Ridgewood Drive in Sebring, Florida, as the “U.S. Army Air Corps Major Thomas B. McGuire Post Office Building”.

H.R. 6983, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 South Valdosta Road in Lakeland, Georgia, as the “Nell Patten Roquemore Post Office”.

H.R. 7180, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 80 1st Street in Kingsland, Arkansas, as the “Kingsland ‘Johnny Cash’ Post Office”.

H.R. 7385, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 29 Franklin Street in Petersburg, Virginia, as the “John Mercer Langston Post Office Building”.

H.R. 7417, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 West Spring Street in Titusville, Pennsylvania, as the “Edwin L. Drake Post Office Building”.

H.R. 7606, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1087 Route 47 South in Rio Grande, New Jersey, as the “Carlton H. Hand Post Office Building”.

H.R. 7607, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at Block 1025, Lots 18 & 19, Northeast Corner of US Route 9 South and Main Street in the Township of Middle, County of Cape May, New Jersey, as the “George Henry White Post Office Building”.

H.R. 7893, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 Pickens Street in Marion, Alabama, as the “Albert Turner, Sr. Post Office Building”.

S. 3181, 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”.

S. 4404, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 840 Front Street in Casselton, North Dakota, as the “Commander Delbert Austin Olson Post Office”.

S. 4634, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 154 First Avenue East in Jerome, Idaho, as the “Representative Maxine Bell Post Office”.

S. 4803, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 31143 State Highway 65 in Pengilly, Minnesota, as the “First Lieutenant Richard Arne Koski Post Office”. **Page S6435**

#### **Measures Passed:**

***Certify Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee Report:*** Senate agreed to S. Res. 837, authorizing the President of the Senate to certify the report of the Committee on Health, Education,

Labor, and Pensions of the Senate regarding the refusal of Dr. Ralph de la Torre to appear and testify before the Committee. **Pages S6405–08**

**Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act:** By 78 yeas to 18 nays (Vote No. 255), Senate passed H.R. 9747, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2025, by the order of the Senate of Tuesday, September 24, 2024, 60 Senators having voted in the affirmative. **Page S6408**

**Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati Stopping Prison Contraband Act:** Senate passed S. 5284, to increase the penalty for prohibited provision of a phone in a correctional facility. **Page S6415**

**Rural Broadband Protection Act:** Senate passed S. 275, to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a vetting process for prospective applicants for high-cost universal service program funding, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6464**

**Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Enhancement Act:** Senate passed S. 1570, to amend the Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act to require hygienic handling of breast milk and baby formula by security screening personnel of the Transportation Security Administration and personnel of private security companies providing security screening. **Page S6465**

**Strengthening the Commercial Driver's License Information System Act:** Senate passed S. 3475, to amend title 49, United States Code, to allow the Secretary of Transportation to designate an authorized operator of the commercial driver's license information system. **Page S6465**

**Words Matter for the District of Columbia Courts Act:** Senate passed S. 3698, to amend title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, to revise references in such title to individuals with intellectual disabilities. **Page S6466**

**Eugene E. Siler, Jr. United States Courthouse Annex:** Senate passed S. 4293, to designate the United States courthouse annex located at 310 South Main Street in London, Kentucky, as the "Eugene E. Siler, Jr. United States Courthouse Annex". **Page S6466**

**Senator Dianne Feinstein Federal Building:** Committee on Environment and Public Works was discharged from further consideration of S. 4489, to designate the Federal building located at 50 United Nations Plaza in San Francisco, California, as the "Senator Dianne Feinstein Federal Building", and the bill was then passed. **Page S6466**

**Congenital Heart Futures Reauthorization Act:** Senate passed H.R. 7189, to amend the Public

Health Service Act to reauthorize a national congenital heart disease research, surveillance, and awareness program. **Page S6466**

**Authorizing the Use of Emancipation Hall:** Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 127, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the unveiling of a statue of Martha Hughes Cannon. **Page S6466**

**Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act:** Senate passed H.R. 7777, to increase, effective as of December 1, 2024, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans. **Pages S6466–67**

**Restoring Benefits to Defrauded Veterans Act:** Senate passed H.R. 4190, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to repay the estates of deceased beneficiaries for certain benefits paid by the Secretary and misused by fiduciaries of such beneficiaries. **Page S6467**

**Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act:** Senate passed S. 5292, to amend the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 to modify a provision relating to the acquisition of a Coast Guard icebreaker. **Page S6467**

**National Principals Month:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 876, designating October 2024 as "National Principals Month". **Page S6467**

**National Community Policing Week:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 877, designating the week of October 6, 2024, through October 12, 2024, as "National Community Policing Week". **Page S6467**

**James Earl Jones:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 878, honoring the life, legacy, and contributions of James Earl Jones. **Page S6467**

**Permitting the Collection of Clothing, Toys, Food, and Housewares:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 879, permitting the collection of clothing, toys, food, and housewares during the holiday season for charitable purposes in the Senate buildings. **Page S6467**

**Lights On Afterschool:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 880, supporting afterschool programs and Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool programs held on October 24, 2024. **Page S6467**

**Day of the Deployed:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 881, designating October 26, 2024, as the "Day of the Deployed". **Page S6467**

**National Clean Energy Week:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 882, designating the week of September 23

through September 27, 2024, as “National Clean Energy Week”. **Page S6467**

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of America 120th Anniversary:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 883, recognizing Big Brothers Big Sisters of America on its 120th anniversary. **Page S6467**

**Gold Star Families Remembrance Week:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 884, designating the week of September 22 through September 28, 2024, as “Gold Star Families Remembrance Week”. **Page S6467**

**Energy Efficiency Day:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 885, designating October 2, 2024, as “Energy Efficiency Day” in celebration of the economic and environmental benefits that have been driven by private sector innovation and Federal energy efficiency policies. **Page S6467**

**Bat Week:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 886, expressing support for the designation of the week of October 24, 2024, to October 31, 2024, as “Bat Week”. **Page S6467**

**National 4-H Week:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 887, expressing support for the designation of October 7 through October 12, 2024, as “National 4-H Week”. **Page S6467**

**James Ralph Sasser:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 888, honoring the life of James Ralph Sasser, former Senator for the State of Tennessee. **Page S6467**

**Murder of James Wright Foley:** Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 805, commemorating the tenth anniversary of the murder of James Wright Foley and calling for the moral courage to prioritize the return of Americans held captive abroad and take all necessary efforts to deter international hostage taking and arbitrary detention, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto. **Pages S6468–69**

Schumer (for Shaheen/Graham) Amendment No. 3300, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6468**

Schumer (for Shaheen/Graham) Amendment No. 3301, to amend the preamble. **Page S6468**

#### Measures Considered:

**Budget Resolution:** By 39 yeas to 56 nays (Vote No. 252), Senate did not agree to the motion to proceed to consideration of S. Con. Res. 41, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2025 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2026 through 2034. **Pages S6396–97**

#### Appointments:

**Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Review Board:** The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public

Law 107–12, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Review Board: Trevor Whipple of Vermont. **Page S6464**

**Social Security Advisory Board:** The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and in consultation with the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, pursuant to Public Law 103–296, reappointed the following individual as a member of the Social Security Advisory Board: Robert Charles Joondeph of Oregon. **Page S6464**

**State and Local Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Board:** The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader and the Republican Leader, pursuant to Public Law 110–298, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the State and Local Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Board: Juan Figueroa of New York. **Page S6464**

**Commission on Reform and Modernization of the Department of State:** The Chair, on behalf of the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, pursuant to Public Law 117–263, announced the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Commission on Reform and Modernization of the Department of State: Jay Snyder of New York. **Page S6464**

**Forgotten Heroes of The Holocaust Congressional Gold Medal Act—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding the passage of S. 91, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust, Schumer (for Hagerty) Amendment No. 3299 to the bill, to amend the title, be agreed to. **Page S6464**

**Signing Authority—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senators Bennet and Schumer be authorized to be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions from September 25, 2024, through September 27, 2024. **Page S6464**

**Authorizing Leadership to Make Appointments—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the upcoming 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 S6464**

**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: Friday, September 27, 2024, at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 1 p.m.; Friday, October 4, 2024, at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 2:30 p.m.; Friday, October 11, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.; Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.; Friday, October 18, 2024, at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at 8 a.m.; Friday, October 25, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.; Tuesday, October 29, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.; Friday, November 1, 2024, at 11:30 a.m.; Monday, November 4, 2024, at 11 a.m.; Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 12 noon; and Friday, November 8, 2024, at 12 noon; and that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, November 8, 2024, it next convene at 3 p.m., on Tuesday, November 12, 2024.

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**Perry Nomination—Agreement:** Senate continued consideration of the nomination of April M. Perry, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Pages S6408–15

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motion to invoke cloture with respect to the nomination be withdrawn; and that Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, November 12, 2024.

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A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, Senate resume consideration of the nomination; and that the motions to invoke cloture filed during the session of the Senate of Wednesday, September 25, 2024, ripen on Wednesday, November 13, 2024.

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**Hawley Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jonathan E. Hawley, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois.

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A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Wednesday, September 25, 2024, a vote on cloture will occur on Wednesday, November 13, 2024.

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S6415

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S6415

**Huitema Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of David Huitema, of

Maryland, to be Director of the Office of Government Ethics.

Pages S6415–16

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, 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 the nomination of Jonathan E. Hawley, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois.

Pages S6415–16

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

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Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S6415

**Fung Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Cathy Fung, of California, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court.

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A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, 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 the nomination of David Huitema, of Maryland, to be Director of the Office of Government Ethics.

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

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Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

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**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 58 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. EX. 254), Byron B. Conway, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Pages S6387–96, S6397–98, S6404–05

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

By 58 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. EX. 253), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Page S6397

Ann C. Fisher, of South Dakota, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission for a term expiring October 14, 2030.

Ashley Jay Elizabeth Poling, of North Carolina, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission for a term expiring November 22, 2030.

Jeffrey Samuel Arbeit, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

Benjamin A. Guider III, of Louisiana, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

Routine lists in the Foreign Service.

Pages S6398, S6416

Messages from the House: Page S6431

Measures Referred: Pages S6431–32

Measures Placed on the Calendar: Page S6432

Executive Communications: Pages S6432–34

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Additional Statements: Pages S6429–31

Amendments Submitted: Pages S6462–63

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Pages S6463–64

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—255) Pages S6397, S6405, S6408

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late James Ralph Sasser, former Senator for the State of Tennessee, in accordance with S. Res. 888, at 9:48 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Friday, September 27, 2024. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6469.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### HOUSING UNAFFORDABILITY

*Committee on the Budget:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine economic risks from housing unaffordability, focusing on the costs of inaction, after receiving testimony from K. Joseph Shekarchi, Rhode Island House of Representatives, Providence; Paul E. Williams, Center for Public Enterprise, Brooklyn, New York; Greta J. Harris, Better Housing Coalition, Richmond, Virginia; Edward Pinto, American Enterprise Institute Housing Center, and Jack Salmon, Philanthropy Roundtable, both of Washington, D.C.

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Carl Whitney Bentzel, of Maryland, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner, Thomas B. Chapman, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, and Lanhee J. Chen, of California, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors, who was introduced by Senator

Romney, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### REMOTE SALES TAX COLLECTION

*Committee on Finance:* Subcommittee on Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Growth concluded hearings to examine providing small business relief from remote sales tax collection, after receiving testimony from Joseph Bishop-Henchman, National Taxpayers Union Foundation, Washington, D.C.; Craig Johnson, Streamlined Sales Tax Governing Board, Westby, Wisconsin; and Diane L. Yetter, Sales Tax Institute, Chicago, Illinois.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 4667, to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish the Life Sciences Research Security Board, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 5105, to require a report by the Secretary of Homeland Security regarding the failed assassination attempt on the life of Donald J. Trump in Butler, Pennsylvania, on July 13, 2024, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 4900, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to incentivize certain preparedness measures, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 131, to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to cover, for purposes of workers' compensation under such chapter, services by physician assistants and nurse practitioners provided to injured Federal workers, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

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. 5067, to improve individual assistance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

S. 4898, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to include extreme heat in the definition of a major disaster, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 3926, to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to ensure that other transaction agreements are reported to USAspending.gov, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 4679, to amend title XLI of the FAST Act to improve the Federal permitting process, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;