

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5155–S5195

Measures Introduced: Fifteen bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3121–3135, and S. Res. 427–432. **Pages S5182–83**

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled “Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2024”. (S. Rept. No. 118–108) **Page S5182**

Measures Passed:

Volleyball Day in Nebraska: Senate agreed to S. Res. 428, recognizing women’s collegiate athletics and the record-setting Volleyball Day in Nebraska event on August 30, 2023. **Page S5172**

National Early Childhood Literacy Awareness Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 430, designating October 20, 2023, as “National Early Childhood Literacy Awareness Day”. **Page S5177**

National Women’s Small Business Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 431, recognizing the month of October 2023 as “National Women’s Small Business Month”. **Page S5177**

Fifth Commemoration of the Antisemitic Attack at Tree of Life Synagogue: Senate agreed to S. Res. 432, recognizing the fifth commemoration of the antisemitic attack that occurred on October 27, 2018, at a synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. **Page S5177**

Measures Considered:

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, taking action on the following amendments and motions proposed thereto: **Pages S5155–63**

Adopted:

Murray (for Moran) Amendment No. 1250 (to Amendment No. 1092), to prohibit the use of funds appropriated by division A to change rates for reimbursement for transportation via a special mode of

transportation under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and to reduce certain amounts available to the Department of Veterans Affairs. **Page S5160**

Murray (for Daines) Amendment No. 1185 (to Amendment No. 1092), to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress an earned value analysis of the Veterans Electronic Health Record system of the Department of Veterans Affairs. **Page S5160**

Murray (for Sullivan/Rosen) Amendment No. 1216 (to Amendment No. 1092), to prioritize the use of funds for certain telehealth services and mental health programs for veterans. **Page S5160**

Murray (for Sullivan/Lummis) Amendment No. 1221 (to Amendment No. 1092), to prohibit the use of funds to procure seafood from China for use in school meals. **Page S5160**

Murray (for Peters/Cornyn) Amendment No. 1283 (to Amendment No. 1092), to provide funding for the emergency and transitional pet shelter and housing assistance grant program. **Page S5160**

Murray (for Rosen) Amendment No. 1117 (to Amendment No. 1092), to make amounts available to the Veterans Health Administration to sustain and increase telehealth capacity and associated programmatic efforts. **Page S5160**

Murray (for Schatz) Amendment No. 1120 (to Amendment No. 1092), to extend the period of availability for fiscal year 2021 national infrastructure investments. **Page S5160**

Murray (for Booker/Tuberville) Amendment No. 1175 (to Amendment No. 1092), to increase funding for rural decentralized water systems. **Page S5160**

Murray (for Tillis) Amendment No. 1264 (to Amendment No. 1092), to require a review regarding veterans who engaged in toxic exposure risk activities while serving in Kosovo. **Pages S5160–61**

Murray (for Reed) Amendment No. 1202 (to Amendment No. 1092), to appropriate amounts for shellfish research, with an offset. **Page S5161**

Murray (for Britt) Amendment No. 1270 (to Amendment No. 1092), to provide appropriations for certain research using plant genomics, with an offset. **Page S5161**

Murray (for Kelly/Tillis) Amendment No. 1116 (to Amendment No. 1092), to require medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to share certain data with State cancer registries. **Page S5161**

Murray (for Hirono/Moran) Amendment No. 1113 (to Amendment No. 1092), to provide funding for competitive grants for construction of agricultural research facilities and related activities, with an offset. **Page S5162**

Murray (for Warnock) Amendment No. 1351 (to Amendment No. 1092), to require the Secretary of Transportation to report on the Federal Aviation Administration's workforce development programs. **Page S5162**

Murray (for Smith/Ricketts) Amendment No. 1134 (to Amendment No. 1092), to require the submission of a report on improving staffing at Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service at the county level. **Page S5162**

Murray (for Rosen) Amendment No. 1220 (to Amendment No. 1092), to provide funding for the suppression and control of Mormon crickets in western States. **Page S5162**

Murray (for Cardin/Van Hollen) Amendment No. 1277 (to Amendment No. 1092), to provide funding for invasive catfish control. **Page S5162**

Murray (for Padilla) Amendment No. 1140 (to Amendment No. 1092), to improve housing assistance for veterans experiencing homelessness. **Page S5162**

Murray (for Shaheen) Amendment No. 1131 (to Amendment No. 1092), to require a report on the use of third-party contractors to conduct medical disability examinations of veterans. **Page S5162**

Murray (for Klobuchar/Moran) Amendment No. 1203 (to Amendment No. 1092), to make funds available for the aeronautical information management program. **Page S5162**

Murray (for Kelly/Sinema) Amendment No. 1133 (to Amendment No. 1092), to require a report relating to rural community facilities direct loan applicants. **Page S5162**

Murray (for Padilla) Amendment No. 1139 (to Amendment No. 1092), to provide for the development of emergency evacuation route planning guidelines and best practices. **Page S5162**

Murray (for Ossoff) Amendment No. 1255 (to Amendment No. 1092), to provide funds for the Office of Women's Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs to expand access of women veterans to mammography initiatives and equipment. **Page S5162**

Murray (for Merkley/Crapo) Amendment No. 1352 (to Amendment No. 1092), to increase the set-aside for multi-benefit projects under the watershed and flood prevention operations program. **Page S5163**

Murray (for Stabenow) Amendment No. 1115 (to Amendment No. 1092), to provide funding for the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Program. **Page S5163**

By 59 yeas to 38 nays (Vote No. 266), Vance Amendment No. 1210 (to Amendment No. 1092), to prohibit funds appropriated for the Department of Transportation for fiscal year 2024 from being used to enforce a mask mandate in response to the COVID-19 virus. **Pages S5163-64**

By 53 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. 268), Kennedy Amendment No. 1354 (to Amendment No. 1092), to prohibit the availability of funds for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to report certain information to the Department of Justice for use by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. **Page S5169**

Rejected:

By 47 yeas to 51 nays (Vote No. 267), Graham (for Rubio) Amendment No. 1237 (to Amendment No. 1092), to prohibit the use of funds to implement the final rule regarding energy efficient standards for certain subsidized housing. **Page S5168**

By 56 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 269), Lankford Amendment No. 1232 (to Amendment No. 1092), to provide for a period of continuing appropriations in the event of a lapse in appropriations under the normal appropriations process, and establish procedures and consequences in the event of a failure to enact appropriations. (Pursuant to the order of Tuesday, October 24, 2023, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Page S5177**

Withdrawn:

Schumer motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, Schumer Amendment No. 1230, to change the effective date. **Page S5160**

Murray Amendment No. 1205 (to Amendment No. 1092), to change the effective date. **Page S5160**

Pending:

Schumer (for Murray/Collins) Amendment No. 1092, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S5155**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, October 26, 2023, as provided under the order of Tuesday, October 24, 2023; that if Senator Paul makes a motion to discharge S.J. Res. 44, directing the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Niger that have not been authorized by Congress, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, Senate vote on the motion at 11:30 a.m.; that if the

motion to discharge is not agreed to, Senate vote on Braun Amendment No. 1182 to the bill; that upon disposition of the Braun Amendment, Senate move to the consideration of S.J. Res. 42, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Food and Nutrition Service relating to “Application of *Bostock v. Clayton County* to Program Discrimination Complaint Processing—Policy Update”; that there be up to 30 minutes for debate equally divided between the two Leaders or their designees, and that following the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution. **Page S5195**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 51 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 265), Jessica Looman, of Minnesota, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

Page S5163

Messages from the House: **Page S5179**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S5179**

Executive Communications: **Pages S5179–80**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S5182**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S5183–84**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S5184–94

Additional Statements:

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S5194–95**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S5195**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S5195**

Record Votes: Five record votes were taken today. (Total—269) **Pages S5163, S5164, S5168, S5169, S5177**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:02 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, October 26, 2023. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S5195.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments for the 118th Congress:

Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment: Senators Menendez (Chair), Reed, Tester, Warner, Warren, Warnock, Butler, Rounds, Crapo, Tillis, Kennedy, Hagerty, and Vance.

Subcommittee on National Security and International Trade and Finance: Senators Warner (Chair), Tester,

Van Hollen, Cortez Masto, Butler, Hagerty, Britt, Cramer, and Daines.

Subcommittee on Economic Policy: Senators Warren (Chair), Reed, Menendez, Van Hollen, Smith, Fetterman, Kennedy, Rounds, Tillis, Lummis, and Daines.

Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development: Senators Smith (Chair), Reed, Menendez, Tester, Cortez Masto, Warnock, Fetterman, Butler, Lummis, Crapo, Rounds, Kennedy, Hagerty, Vance, and Britt.

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection: Senators Warnock (Chair), Warner, Warren, Van Hollen, Cortez Masto, Smith, Fetterman, Tillis, Crapo, Lummis, Vance, Britt, and Cramer.

Senators Brown and Scott (SC) are ex officio members of each subcommittee.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUPPLY CHAINS

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine how climate change threatens supply chains, after receiving testimony from Scott Kelly, Resilience, Cambridge, United Kingdom; Adam Rose, University of Southern California, Los Angeles; Kathy Fulton, American Logistics Aid Network, Auburndale, Florida; David Barker, Barker Companies, Iowa City, Iowa; and Robert McNally, Rapidan Energy Group, Washington, D.C.

PENDING LEGISLATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining concluded a hearing to examine S. 175, to codify certain public land orders relating to the revocation of certain withdrawals of public land in the State of Alaska, S. 297, to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to authorize certain construction activities on public lands, S. 1348, to redesignate land within certain wilderness study areas in the State of Wyoming, S. 1719, to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to establish emergency fire-shed management areas, S. 1764, to improve Federal activities relating to wildfires, S. 1889, to provide for the recognition of certain Alaska Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, S. 2132, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a pilot program for the establishment and use of a pre-fire-suppression stand density index, S. 2151, to amend the Southwest Forest Health and Wildlife Prevention Act of 2004 to require the establishment of an additional Institute under that Act, S. 2581, to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, S. 2615, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Village Corporations shall not be required to convey land in