

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S7225–S7268*

**Measures Introduced:** Ten bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2126–2135, and S. Res. 332–334. **Page S7262**

**Measures Passed:**

***Criminal Antitrust Anti-Retaliation Act:*** Senate passed S. 807, to provide anti-retaliation protections for antitrust whistleblowers. **Pages S7266–67**

***VALOR Act:*** Senate passed H.R. 3949, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the designation of State approving agencies for multi-State apprenticeship programs for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs. **Page S7267**

***VA Prescription Data Accountability Act 2017:*** Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1545, to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disclose certain patient information to State controlled substance monitoring programs, and the bill was then passed. **Page S7267**

***USNS Hershel "Woody" Williams:*** Senate agreed to S. Res. 332, commemorating the christening of the USNS Hershel "Woody" Williams. **Page S7265**

***Permitting the Collection of Charitable Items:*** Senate agreed to S. Res. 333, permitting the collection of clothing, toys, food, and housewares during the holiday season for charitable purposes in Senate buildings. **Page S7265**

***Authorizing the Taking of a Photograph:*** Senate agreed to S. Res. 334, authorizing the taking of a photograph in the Senate Chamber. **Page S7265**

**Otting Nomination—Agreement:** Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Joseph Otting, of Nevada, to be Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury. **Page S7231**

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

By 54 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. 276), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S7231**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, November 16, 2017. **Page S7267**

**Nominations—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, that at 11:30 a.m., on Thursday, November 16, 2017, there be 30 minutes of post-cloture time remaining on the nomination of Joseph Otting, of Nevada, to be Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees; that following the use or yielding back of that time, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; and that following disposition of the nomination of Joseph Otting, Senate vote on the pending motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Donald C. Coggins, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, and Dabney Langhorne Friedrich, of California, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, in the order filed, and that if cloture is invoked, the post-cloture time on the nominations run consecutively. **Page S7255**

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

By 89 yeas to 6 nays (Vote No. EX. 274), Mark T. Esper, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Army. **Pages S7229–30**

By 52 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 275), David G. Zatezalo, of West Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health. **Pages S7230–31**

Bobby L. Christine, of Georgia, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia for the term of four years.

David J. Freed, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania for the term of four years. **Pages S7266, S7268**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S7261**

**Measures Referred:** **Page S7261**

Executive Communications:	Page S7261
Petitions and Memorials:	Pages S7261–62
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Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:	Pages S7263–65
Additional Statements:	Pages S7260–61
Authorities for Committees to Meet:	Pages S7265–66
Record Votes:	Three record votes were taken today. (Total—276) Pages S7230, S7231

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 7:04 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 16, 2017. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7267.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### PREVENT AND COMBAT OPIOID OVER MEDICATION

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine Department of Veterans Affairs efforts to prevent and combat opioid over medication, after receiving testimony from Michael L. Missal, Inspector General, Laurence Meyer, Chief Officer for Specialty Care, Veterans Health Administration, and Friedhelm Sandbrink, Acting National Program Director for Pain Management, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and Marvin Simcakoski, Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

### BUDGET RECONCILIATION

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Committee completed its review of reconciliation legislation to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish and administer a competitive oil and gas program in the non-wilderness portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, known as the "1002 Area" or Coastal Plain, pursuant to H. Con. Res. 71, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027, and agreed on recommendations which it will make to the Committee on the Budget thereon.

### REDUCING AIR EMISSIONS

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine promoting American leadership in reducing air emissions through innovation, after receiving testimony from

Kipp Coddington, University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources, Laramie; and Ross Eisenberg, National Association of Manufacturers, and Zoe Lipman, BlueGreen Alliance, both of Washington, D.C.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Finance:* Committee continued consideration of an original bill entitled, "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act", but did not complete action thereon, and will meet again on Thursday, November 16, 2017.

### ENCOURAGING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine encouraging healthy communities, focusing on perspective from the Surgeon General, after receiving testimony from Vice Admiral Jerome M. Adams, Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services.

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Mitchell Zais, of South Carolina, to be Deputy Secretary, and James Blew, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, both of the Department of Education, and Kate S. O'Scannlain, of Maryland, to be Solicitor, and Preston Rutledge, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Labor, after the nominees, who were introduced by Senator Alexander, testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Claria Horn Boom, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky, Rebecca Grady Jennings, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky, and Robert Earl Wier, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky, who were all introduced by Senator McConnell, John W. Broomes, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas, who was introduced by Senator Roberts and Moran, James C. Ho, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, and Don R. Willett, of Texas, to be a Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf, and after receiving testimony from Pamela A. Bresnahan, American Bar Association, Washington, D.C.