

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 748, Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, as amended.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2021–S2159

Measures Introduced: Nine bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 3579–3587, and S. Res. 554.

Page S2062

Measures Passed:

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act: By a unanimous vote of 96 yeas (Vote No. 80), Senate passed H.R. 748, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage, 60 Senators having voted in the affirmative, and after taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S2059–60

Adopted:

McConnell Amendment No. 1578, providing emergency assistance and health care response for individuals, families and businesses affected by the 2020 coronavirus pandemic.

Pages S2059, S2060

Rejected:

By 48 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. 79), Sasse Amendment No. 1577 (to Amendment No. 1578), to ensure that additional unemployment benefits do not result in an individual receiving unemployment compensation that is more than the amount of wages the individual was earning prior to becoming unemployed. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the amendment, having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.)

Pages S2059–60

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

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, be withdrawn.

Page S2059

Ryan Kules and Paul Benne Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act: Senate passed H.R.

3504, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for improvements to the specially adapted housing program and educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Page S2158

McConnell (for Moran) Amendment No. 1579, in the nature of a substitute.

Page S2158

VA Tele-Hearing Modernization Act: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4771, to amend title 38, United States Code, to permit appellants to appear in cases before the Board of Veterans' Appeals by picture and voice transmission from locations other than facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the bill was then passed.

Page S2158

Department of Veterans Affairs Website Accessibility Act: Senate passed S. 3587, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the accessibility of websites of the Department of Veterans Affairs to individuals with disabilities.

Pages S2158–59

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 S2159

Signing Authority—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senator Capito, Senator Murkowski, and Senator McConnell be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 through Monday, April 20, 2020.

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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: Monday, March 30, 2020, at 11 a.m.; Thursday, April 2, 2020, at 10 a.m.; Monday, April 6, 2020, at 10 a.m.; Thursday, April 9, 2020, at 10 a.m.; Monday, April 13, 2020, at 10 a.m.; Thursday, April 16, 2020, at 3 p.m.; and that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, April 16, 2020, it next convene at 3 p.m., on Monday, April 20, 2020.

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Feitel Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, April 20, 2020, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of Robert J. Feitel, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and that at 5:30 p.m., Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination.

Page S2061

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Charles Williams, of Missouri, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

William Jordan Gillis, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

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Additional Cosponsors:

Page S2062

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S2062–63

Amendments Submitted:

Pages S2063–S2158

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—80)

Page S2060

Adjournment: Senate convened at 12 noon on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 and adjourned at 12:07 a.m. on Thursday, March 26, 2020, until 11 a.m. on Monday, March 30, 2020. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2159.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 10 public bills, H.R. 6385–6394; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 908–909 were introduced.

Pages H1725–26

Additional Cosponsors:

Page H1726

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Wexton to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H1723

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rev. Robert W. Fisher, St. John's Church, Washington, DC.

Page H1723

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no Yea and Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2021 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., Room to be announced.

House

No hearings are scheduled.