

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 13, 2018, at a time to be determined, to conduct a pending nomination.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 13, 2018, at 1:45 p.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Courtney Dunbar Jones, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 13, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

AMENDING THE MORRIS K. UDALL AND STEWART L. UDALL FOUNDATION ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 578, S. 2827.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2827) to amend the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn and the Barrasso substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 4112) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The bill (S. 2827), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MEASURING THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF BROADBAND ACT OF 2018

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 613, S. 645.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 645) to require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct an assessment and analysis of the effects of broadband deployment and adoption on the economy of the United States, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Measuring the Economic Impact of Broadband Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS REGARDING THE EFFECT OF THE DIGITAL ECONOMY ON THE ECONOMY OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives;

(E) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.

(2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term "Assistant Secretary" means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

(3) BROADBAND.—The term "broadband" means an Internet Protocol-based transmission service that enables users to send and receive voice, video, data, or graphics, or a combination of those items.

(4) DIGITAL ECONOMY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the term "digital economy" has the meaning given the term by the Secretary in carrying out this section.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing a definition for the term "digital economy" under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consider—

(i) the digital-enabling infrastructure that a computer network needs to exist and operate; and

(ii) the roles of e-commerce and digital media.

(5) DIGITAL MEDIA.—The term "digital media" means the content that participants in e-commerce create and access.

(6) E-COMMERCE.—The term "e-commerce" means the digital transactions that take place using the infrastructure described in paragraph (4)(B)(i).

(7) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce.

(b) BIENNIAL ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS REQUIRED.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and biennially thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce and the Assistant Secretary, shall conduct an assessment and analysis regarding the contribution of the digital economy to the economy of the United States.

(c) CONSIDERATIONS AND CONSULTATION.—In conducting each assessment and analysis required under subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

(1) consider the impact of—

(A) the deployment and adoption of—

(i) digital-enabling infrastructure; and

(ii) broadband;

(B) e-commerce and platform-enabled peer-to-peer commerce; and

(C) the production and consumption of digital media, including free media; and

(2) consult with—

(A) the heads of any agencies and offices of the Federal Government as the Secretary considers appropriate, including the Secretary of Agriculture, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, and the Federal Communications Commission;

(B) representatives of the business community, including rural and urban Internet service providers and telecommunications infrastructure providers;

(C) representatives from State, local, and tribal government agencies; and

(D) representatives from consumer and community organizations.

(d) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report regarding the findings of the Secretary with respect to each assessment and analysis conducted under subsection (b).

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported substitute amendment was agreed to.

The bill (S. 645), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CORRECTING MISCALCULATIONS IN VETERANS' PENSIONS ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4431 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4431) to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for interest payments by agencies in the case of administrative error in processing certain annuity deposits for prior military service or certain volunteer service, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion

to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4431) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AMENDING TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, TO CLARIFY THE SOURCES OF THE AUTHORITY TO ISSUE REGULATIONS REGARDING CERTIFICATIONS AND OTHER CRITERIA APPLICABLE TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH EMPLOYEES UNDER WOUNDED WARRIORS FEDERAL LEAVE ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6160 and Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6160) to amend title 5, United States Code, to clarify the sources of the authority to issue regulations regarding certifications and other criteria applicable to legislative branch employees under Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6160) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PREVENTING MATERNAL DEATHS ACT OF 2017

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1318, the Preventing Maternal Deaths Act, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1318) to support States in their work to save and sustain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and in the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1318) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.