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Consideration of Privileged Nominations in the Senate

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Consideration of Privileged Nominations in the Senate

Privileged nominations are a subset of presidentially appointed and Senate-confirmed positions that are eligible for consideration under procedures established by S.Res. 116 (112th Congress, 2011-2012). The vast majority of the 285 nominations designated as privileged are part-time positions to various boards and commissions, though some full-time positions are privileged as well (e.g., chief financial officers and certain assistant secretaries in Cabinet-level agencies). The procedures for privileged nominations may reduce the workload of committees of jurisdiction in processing these appointments for consideration by the Senate.

The creation of privileged nominations and the special procedures for their consideration were part of a larger effort at reforming the confirmation process in the Senate during the 112th Congress. At the outset of the 112th Congress, a bipartisan working group was formed and ultimately produced both S.Res. 116, “A resolution to provide for expedited Senate consideration of certain nominations subject to advice and consent,” and S. 679, the “Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act of 2011” (P.L. 112-166). The list of privileged nominations, first established in 2012, was expanded in 2015 by P.L. 114-1, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2015, to include 13 members of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers.

Unlike a typical nomination, a privileged nomination is not referred to committee unless requested by any Senator. Instead, it is entered into the “Privileged Nominations” section of the Senate *Executive Calendar*. Committees are required to request biographical and financial information from these nominees, typically in the form of committee questionnaires. Upon receipt of the requested information, the committee chair notifies the Executive Clerk in writing. The nomination then remains in the “Privileged Nominations” section of the *Executive Calendar* for 10 days of session before moving to the “Nominations” section, where it is eligible to be brought up for consideration on the floor of the Senate. This process allows a nomination to become eligible for floor consideration even though the committee did not hold a formal markup meeting to vote to report it. There are no expedited floor procedures for privileged nominations, and they are brought up and considered under the same procedures as any nomination reported by a committee.

Any Senator may request on his or her own behalf, or on behalf of any identified Senator, that a privileged nomination be referred to committee. Such a request automatically triggers the referral of a privileged nomination. If a nomination is referred in this way, it must be reported by the committee (or the Senate must discharge the committee of the nomination) before the full Senate can consider it. The vast majority of privileged nominations considered on the Senate floor were not subject to a request for referral to committee. As of the end of 2022, the Senate has considered 634 privileged nominations, and there have been 58 instances of privileged nominations being referred to a committee at the request of a Senator. Such requests for referral are usually initiated by a Member on the committee with jurisdiction over the nomination and oftentimes originate with the committee’s chair or ranking member.

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“Privileged” Nominations

Every year the Senate routinely considers whether to give its advice and consent to hundreds of nominations submitted by the President. From start to finish, the confirmation process can be a lengthy one, even for relatively noncontroversial nominees. Each nomination is typically referred to one or more committees having subject matter jurisdiction over the position. Committees may bear a significant workload in examining nominees—often including questionnaires, optional public hearings, and individual meetings with Senators—to determine whether to report a nomination to the full Senate.¹ Once a committee has reported a nomination or been discharged from its further consideration, the Senate may take up a nomination for deliberation, though a cloture process may be required to ensure a final vote to confirm.²

As part of an effort to streamline the nominations process during the 112th Congress (2011-2012), a standing order of the Senate, S.Res. 116, created a new designation of certain nominations as “privileged.” These so-called privileged nominations are subject to special procedures that may save the time of committees in processing these appointments. In total, there are 285 positions to which nominations are privileged, the majority of which are part-time appointments to oversight boards and advisory commissions, but they also include full-time chief financial officers and certain assistant secretaries to Cabinet-level agencies. A full list of privileged nominations, organized by their committees of jurisdiction, can be found in **Appendix**.

This report first examines, in detail, the special procedures under which privileged nominations are processed, as well as the action by which a Senator may have a privileged nomination referred to its committee of jurisdiction. It then provides a brief legislative history of S.Res. 116 and subsequent legislation that has created additional privileged nominations. Finally, this report includes data on and a discussion of Senators’ requests to refer privileged nominations to committee. **Figure A-1** contains an example of the “Privileged Nominations” section of the Senate’s *Executive Calendar*.

Consideration of Privileged Nominations

The sections below discuss each step of how a privileged nomination might be processed under potentially expedited procedures before consideration by the full Senate. Pursuant to Section 1(d) of S.Res. 116, any Senator may insist that a privileged nomination be referred to its committee of jurisdiction, making it no longer eligible for procedures under S.Res. 116. Further discussion of when and why a Senator might make such a request follows after the sections on consideration.

Receipt in Senate

Unlike a typical nomination—which, when received by the Senate, is usually referred to its committee of jurisdiction—a privileged nomination goes directly to the “Privileged Nominations” section of the *Executive Calendar*. There, the nominee and position to which he or she was nominated is to be recorded, along with the date the nomination was received by the Senate. An

¹ For a more detailed discussion of the consideration of nominations, see CRS Report RL31980, *Senate Consideration of Presidential Nominations: Committee and Floor Procedure*, by Elizabeth Rybicki.

² For more information on the cloture process in the Senate, see CRS Report 98-425, *Invoking Cloture in the Senate*, by Christopher M. Davis; and CRS Report RL30360, *Filibusters and Cloture in the Senate*, by Valerie Heitshusen and Richard S. Beth.

example page of the “Privileged Nominations” section of the *Executive Calendar* appears in **Figure A-1**.

The same day a privileged nomination is received in the Senate, the Office of the Executive Clerk sends a notification form to its committee of jurisdiction. This transmittal from the Executive Clerk is not a referral of the nomination to the committee but rather serves to inform the committee it should proceed to request information from the nominee. A column in the Privileged Nominations section of the *Executive Calendar* entitled “Information Requested by Committee” is marked with a “Yes” to denote this transaction.

Information Requested and Received by Committee

Though under the terms of S.Res. 116, privileged nominations are not referred to their committees of jurisdiction, these committees are still responsible for obtaining certain background information from nominees before they can be considered by the full Senate. Section 1(b) of S.Res. 116 directs that the “appropriate biographical and financial questionnaires” be collected by committees of jurisdiction from privileged nominees. This broad requirement gives committees some discretion in determining what information to collect. As a result, committee practices on obtaining information from privileged nominees can vary.³

Once a nominee has responded to a committee’s questionnaires, the chair is required to notify the Executive Clerk in writing that the appropriate information has been received. This requirement is fulfilled, in practice, when the committee returns the notification form to the Executive Clerk’s office.

When a committee has affirmed receipt of the requested information from a nominee, that date is recorded under the “Requested Information Received” column in the Privileged Nominations section of the *Executive Calendar*. Senators have 10 session days from this date (and any time prior to this point, starting from the day the nomination was received in the Senate) to request that the nomination be referred to its committee of jurisdiction.⁴ After 10 session days have passed, the nomination is then moved to the “Nominations” section of the *Executive Calendar* and is eligible to be called up for consideration on the Senate floor (after lying over for one day or, by unanimous consent, immediately).

Privileged nominations that have been considered under these procedures are to appear in the Nominations section of the *Executive Calendar* with the designation “Placed on the Calendar pursuant to S.Res. 116, 112th Congress” under the “Reported By” column, along with the date it first appeared there.

Final Consideration Under Regular Procedures

Once a privileged nomination has moved to the Nominations section of the *Executive Calendar*, there is no expedited process under which the Senate can proceed to consider or vote on it. Instead, these nominations are equally eligible for consideration as any other found on the Nominations section of the *Executive Calendar*. As a result, even privileged nominations that may have moved quickly through the expedited committee process could face lengthy wait

³ For example, in addition to obtaining questionnaire responses, the Committee on Finance routinely holds confirmation hearings on some of its privileged nominations.

⁴ A “session day” is any calendar day on which the Senate meets, including days that the Senate meets in *pro forma* session. The day on which “requested information received” from the nominee is recorded in the *Executive Calendar* is considered day 1 of the 10-session-day count.

periods before being brought up for consideration by the full Senate. Some privileged nominations never receive a vote on the Senate floor and are returned to the President when the Senate adjourns *sine die* at the end of the first or second session of a Congress or when it recesses for more than 30 days.⁵

Referral of a Privileged Nomination to Committee

As noted earlier, pursuant to Section 1(d) of S.Res. 116, any Senator may trigger, on his or her own behalf or the behalf of any identified Senator, that a privileged nomination be referred to its committee of jurisdiction for consideration under normal procedures. Any such request compels the referral of the nomination to committee. Senators do not need to obtain recognition on the floor to make such a request, nor are they required to provide a reason for their request. Instead, a form for this purpose is available at the dais on the Senate floor. A Senator's request is then to be reflected in that day's *Congressional Record*, and the nomination is to be referred to its committee of jurisdiction. Additional data on requests for the referral of a privileged nomination can be found in **Table 1**.

Senators may make such requests for a variety of reasons. Senators may have concerns over the qualifications or fitness of an individual to serve in the position to which he or she was nominated. Referring the nomination to committee ensures that it will need the support of a majority of the committee to be reported to the Senate—a higher threshold than under the procedures of S.Res. 116, which require only that the committee's chair affirm that the requested biographical and financial information has been received. Alternatively, a Senator may desire more time for individual meetings with Senators or a public hearing where a nominee's credentials can be extolled, perhaps increasing the chances of a favorable floor vote.

Legislative History on the Creation of Privileged Nominations

S.Res. 116, 112th Congress

The creation of privileged nominations and the special procedures applied to them were part of a larger effort to reform the confirmation process in the Senate during the 112th Congress (2011-2012). On January 5, 2011, Majority Leader Harry Reid and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell engaged in a brief colloquy to discuss the pace of processing nominations in the Senate, noting the increasing volume of Senate-confirmed positions and the need for reform. Connecting the oftentimes laborious confirmation process with difficulty in finding capable nominees, Majority Leader Reid said:

Clearly, all Presidents are entitled to choose well-qualified individuals to serve in their administration. In the vast majority of instances, the individuals nominated by the President are not controversial, but many have faced delays before assuming their positions. These delays mean critical decision-makers are not in place. And, the delays make it harder to find qualified people—many great nominees simply cannot wait around for months as the

⁵ Pursuant to Senate Rule XXXI, paragraph 6. For more discussion on Senate adjournments and the return of nominations, see CRS Report R42977, *Sessions, Adjournments, and Recesses of Congress*; and CRS Report R46664, *Return of Nominations to the President under Senate Rule XXXI*.

stress and uncertainty affects their families and careers. We need to do better in the 112th Congress.⁶

The two leaders agreed to form a bipartisan nominations reform working group, consisting of Senators Chuck Schumer and Lamar Alexander, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules and Administration; Senators Joe Lieberman and Susan Collins, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; and the floor leaders themselves. By the end of March, members of the group had introduced two measures: S. 679, the Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act of 2011, and, S.Res. 116, a resolution to provide for expedited Senate consideration of certain nominations subject to advice and consent.⁷

S.Res. 116 was submitted on March 30, 2011, by Senator Schumer on behalf of himself and 14 other Senators—including all members of the nominations reform working group—and was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration. The Rules Committee met on May 11 and ordered the resolution reported favorably by voice vote without amendment.⁸

The Senate took up S.Res. 116 for consideration on June 29. Three amendments to the resolution were proposed and considered, with a package of negotiated and technical changes—referred to as a “managers’ amendment”—ultimately being agreed to.

The first amendment, proposed by Senator Tom Coburn, contained language requiring reporting requirements on legislation creating new federal programs. The amendment was not agreed to, 63-34, after failing to achieve a two-thirds threshold for adoption, pursuant to an earlier unanimous consent agreement.⁹ A second amendment, proposed by Senator Tom Harkin on behalf of Senator Tom Udall, would have amended Senate Rule XXII to establish a majority-vote threshold for invoking cloture on executive branch nominees.¹⁰ This amendment was ruled out of order by the chair. The final amendment, offered by Senator Schumer, included provisions that expanded the positions to be considered as privileged nominations (including several full-time chief financial officers and certain assistant secretaries) and required that future legislation proposing new presidentially appointed positions be accompanied by a justification report. The amendment was adopted by unanimous consent.

The Senate agreed to S.Res. 116, as amended, by a vote of 89-8, on June 29, 2011.

⁶ *Congressional Record*, daily edition, vol. 157 (January 5, 2011), pp. S14-S15.

⁷ S. 679 eliminated the requirement of Senate approval from a number of positions, among other provisions. The bill was passed in the Senate on the same day as S.Res. 116 and was later enacted as P.L. 112-166. For more information on S. 679, see CRS Report R41872, *Presidential Appointments, the Senate’s Confirmation Process, and Changes Made in the 112th Congress*, by Maeve P. Carey.

⁸ In his opening statement submitted for the record, Senator Tom Udall noted his intention to offer several amendments to S.Res. 116 during markup but withdrew them to expedite the committee process. Senator Udall would later offer an amendment during floor consideration of the resolution. U.S. Congress, Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, *Compilation of Hearings and Markups*, 112th Cong., 1st sess., May 11, 2011, S.Hrg. 112-770 (Washington: GPO, 2012), p. 14.

⁹ Senator Coburn had offered an identical amendment to S. 679 during floor consideration a week earlier. The unanimous consent agreement withdrew Senator Coburn’s amendment from consideration at that time, instead allowing it to be offered during consideration of S.Res. 116 and providing one hour of debate equally divided between Senator Coburn and the majority leader or their designees, in addition to requiring the two-thirds voting threshold.

¹⁰ The Senate would reinterpret Rule XXII in 2013 and again in 2017 to establish majority cloture on nominations. For further discussion of those actions, see CRS Report R43331, *Majority Cloture for Nominations: Implications and the “Nuclear” Proceedings of November 21, 2013*; and CRS Report R44819, *Senate Proceedings Establishing Majority Cloture for Supreme Court Nominations: In Brief*, by Valerie Heitsch.

Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2015

H.R. 26, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2015,¹¹ during the 114th Congress (2015-2016), created a new 13-member Board of Directors for the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers and designated these positions as privileged nominations established by S.Res. 116 (112th Congress).¹² To date, this legislation marks the first and only expansion of the privileged nominations category.

The language establishing these new privileged nominations first appeared in the 113th Congress (2013-2014) with the introduction of S. 534, the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers Reform Act of 2013. The legislative history of S. 534 offers no additional comment on the designating of these 13 positions as privileged nominations. Nonetheless, these positions fit the general profile of the type of nominations for which expedited consideration was designed (e.g., part-time boards and commissions).

Privileged Nominations Referred to Committee

The Senate has considered 634 privileged nominations since the adoption of S.Res. 116 on June 29, 2011, until the end of 2022. Of those 634 nominations, 58 (9.1%) have been referred to committee at the request of a Senator. This rate of referral suggests that Senators are generally deferential to the expedited committee consideration of privileged nominations. **Table 1** provides data on these 58 instances of requested referrals. Each entry contains identifying information about the nomination, including the Congress when the nomination was submitted, the name of the nominee, the position to which he or she was nominated, and the final disposition of the nomination by the Senate. Table entries also note the committee of jurisdiction for each nomination and a column indicating whether the Senator requesting referral was a member and/or leader of that committee at the time he or she made the request.

As previously discussed, under the provisions of S.Res. 116, any Senator has the right to request that a privileged nomination be referred to its committee of jurisdiction. A supermajority of these requests have been by a Senator on the nomination's committee of jurisdiction. Of the 58 instances where a privileged nomination has been referred, 45 (or 77.6%) have been made by a Senator from the committee of jurisdiction. Furthermore, 25 (or 43.1%) of those 58 requests were made by either the chair or ranking member of the committee of jurisdiction.

Increase in Referral to Committee During the 117th Congress

The referral of privileged nominations to committee during the 117th Congress alone nearly equaled that of the combined total from the prior six Congresses. For the first nine years the privileged nominations process was in place (2011-2020), a total of 30 privileged nominations were referred to committee. During the two years of the 117th Congress, from 2021 to 2022, 28 privileged nominations were referred to committee.

It is too early to determine if the increase in referral of privileged nominations to committees during the 117th Congress will continue in future Congresses. The 117th Congress was an equally divided Senate in which both parties had equal representation on every committee as opposed to

¹¹ P.L. 114-1.

¹² P.L. 114-1, §202(a); 129 Stat. 20.

the majority party holding a numerical majority of seats.¹³ A procedural consequence of equally divided committees meant that the majority party needed the support of at least one minority party Senator in order to favorably report a nomination out of committee or otherwise needed to rely on a special floor procedure to discharge nominations that failed to be reported due to a tie vote.¹⁴ It is not clear if this unique feature had an impact on decisions to request referral of privileged nominations.

¹³ See CRS Report R46769, *The Senate Powersharing Agreement of the 117th Congress (S.Res. 27)*, by Elizabeth Rybicki, for more details on how the Senate accommodated the equally divided 117th Congress.

¹⁴ S.Res. 27, the powersharing agreement in place for the 117th Congress, provided a procedural mechanism whereby a floor leader could make a debate-limited motion to discharge a nomination that failed to be reported due to a tied committee vote.

Table I. Privileged Nominations Referred to Committee

2011-2022

Congress	Nominee	Position	Final Disposition	Committee of Jurisdiction	Senator Requesting Referral on Committee of Jurisdiction?
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Kimberly A. McClain	Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development	Confirmed, voice vote	Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	Yes
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Carlos F. Uriarte	Assistant Attorney General	Confirmed, voice vote	Judiciary	No
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Susie Feliz	Assistant Secretary of Commerce	Confirmed, voice vote	Commerce, Science, and Transportation	Yes (Ranking Member)
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Rebecca E. Jones Gaston	Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services	Confirmed, voice vote	Finance	Yes (Chair)
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Sean Burton	Member, Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority	Confirmed, voice vote	Commerce, Science, and Transportation	Yes
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Victoria B. Wassmer	Chief Financial Officer, Department of Transportation	Confirmed, voice vote	Commerce, Science, and Transportation	Yes (Chair)
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Mohsin R. Syed	Assistant Secretary of Transportation	Confirmed, voice vote	Commerce, Science, and Transportation	Yes (Chair)
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Samuel H. Slater	Member, Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority	Returned to the President ^a	Commerce, Science, and Transportation	Yes
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Michael F. Gerber	Member, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (Reappointment)	Confirmed, voice vote	Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	No
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Michael F. Gerber	Member, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board	Confirmed, voice vote	Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	No
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Samuel H. Slater	Member, Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority	Returned to the President ^a	Commerce, Science, and Transportation	Yes

Congress	Nominee	Position	Final Disposition	Committee of Jurisdiction	Senator Requesting Referral on Committee of Jurisdiction?
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Laurel A. Blatchford	Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget	Returned to the President ^a	Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	Yes (Chair)
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Javier E. Saade	Member, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (Reappointment)	Returned to the President ^a	Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	No
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Javier E. Saade	Member, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board	Returned to the President ^a	Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	No
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Stacie Olivares	Member, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board	Confirmed, voice vote	Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	No
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Leona M. Bridges	Member, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board	Confirmed, voice vote	Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	No
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Dana K. Bilyeu	Member, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (Reappointment)	Confirmed, voice vote	Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	No
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Viquar Ahmad	Chief Financial Officer, Department of Commerce	Returned to the President ^a	Commerce, Science, and Transportation	Yes
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Viquar Ahmad	Assistant Secretary of Commerce	Returned to the President ^a	Commerce, Science, and Transportation	Yes
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Mary C. Phee	Member, Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation	Withdrawn	Foreign Relations	Yes
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Mary C. Phee	Member, Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation (Reappointment)	Returned to the President ^a	Foreign Relations	Yes
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Helaine A. Greenfeld	Assistant Attorney General	Returned to the President ^a	Judiciary	Yes (Ranking Member)
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Melanie A. Egorin	Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services	Confirmed, voice vote	Finance	Yes (Chair)

Congress	Nominee	Position	Final Disposition	Committee of Jurisdiction	Senator Requesting Referral on Committee of Jurisdiction?
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Gwen Graham	Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Department of Education	Confirmed, voice vote	Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	Yes
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Patricia L. Ross	Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional and Legislative Affairs)	Confirmed, voice vote	Veterans' Affairs	Yes (Chair)
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Jonathan Davidson	Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury	Confirmed, 88-10	Finance	Yes (Chair)
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Victoria B. Wassmer	Chief Financial Officer, Department of Transportation	Returned to the President ^a	Commerce, Science, and Transportation	Yes
117 th Congress (2021-2022)	Mohsin R. Syed	Assistant Secretary of Transportation	Returned to the President ^a	Commerce, Science, and Transportation	Yes
116 th Congress (2019-2020)	Michael J. Finkel	Director, Securities Investor Protection Corporation	Returned to the President ^a	Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	Yes
116 th Congress (2019-2020)	Gregory Autry	Chief Financial Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration	Returned to the President ^a	Commerce, Science, and Transportation	Yes
116 th Congress (2019-2020)	Daniel Huff	Assistant Secretary of Commerce	Returned to the President ^a	Commerce, Science, and Transportation	Yes
116 th Congress (2019-2020)	Frank Dunlevy	Member, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board	Returned to the President ^a	Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	No
116 th Congress (2019-2020)	Christopher B. Burnham	Member, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board	Returned to the President ^a	Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	No
116 th Congress (2019-2020)	John M. Barger	Member, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board	Returned to the President ^a	Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	No
116 th Congress (2019-2020)	Sarah C. Arbes	Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services	Confirmed, voice vote	Finance	Yes (Chair)
116 th Congress (2019-2020)	Troy D. Edgar	Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security	Confirmed, 62-31	Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	Yes (Ranking Member)

Congress	Nominee	Position	Final Disposition	Committee of Jurisdiction	Senator Requesting Referral on Committee of Jurisdiction?
116 th Congress (2019-2020)	Brian McGuire	Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury	Confirmed, 88-6	Finance	Yes (Chair)
116 th Congress (2019-2020)	Elizabeth Darling	Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services	Confirmed, 57-37	Finance	Yes (Chair)
116 th Congress (2019-2020)	Jason J. Fichtner	Member, Social Security Advisory Board	Returned to the President ^a	Finance	Yes (Chair)
115 th Congress (2017-2018)	Elizabeth Darling	Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services	Returned to the President ^a	Finance	Yes (Chair)
115 th Congress (2017-2018)	Alan E. Cobb	Member, Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority	Returned to the President ^a	Commerce, Science, and Transportation	No
115 th Congress (2017-2018)	Melissa F. Burnison	Assistant Secretary of Energy (Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs)	Confirmed, voice vote	Energy and Natural Resources	No
115 th Congress (2017-2018)	Frederick M. Nutt	Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget	Returned to the President ^a	Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	Yes
115 th Congress (2017-2018)	Brooks D. Tucker	Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional and Legislative Affairs)	Confirmed, voice vote	Veterans' Affairs	Yes (Ranking Member)
115 th Congress (2017-2018)	Andrew K. Maloney	Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury	Confirmed, voice vote	Finance	Yes (Chair)
115 th Congress (2017-2018)	Stephen Elliott Boyd	Assistant Attorney General	Confirmed, voice vote	Judiciary	Yes (Ranking Member)
114 th Congress (2015-2016)	Christopher E. O'Connor	Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional and Legislative Affairs)	Returned to the President ^a	Veterans' Affairs	Yes (Chair)
114 th Congress (2015-2016)	Robert D. Reischauer	Member, Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund	Returned to the President ^a	Finance	Yes (Chair)

Congress	Nominee	Position	Final Disposition	Committee of Jurisdiction	Senator Requesting Referral on Committee of Jurisdiction?
114 th Congress (2015-2016)	Robert D. Reischauer	Member, Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund	Returned to the President ^a	Finance	Yes (Chair)
114 th Congress (2015-2016)	Robert D. Reischauer	Member, Board of Trustees of the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund	Returned to the President ^a	Finance	Yes (Chair)
114 th Congress (2015-2016)	Charles P. Blahous III	Member, Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund	Returned to the President ^a	Finance	Yes ^b
114 th Congress (2015-2016)	Charles P. Blahous III	Member, Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund	Returned to the President ^a	Finance	Yes ^b
114 th Congress (2015-2016)	Charles P. Blahous III	Member, Board of Trustees of the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund	Returned to the President ^a	Finance	Yes ^b
113 th Congress (2013-2014)	Peter Joseph Kadzik	Assistant Attorney General	Confirmed, 55-43	Judiciary	Yes (Ranking Member)
113 th Congress (2013-2014)	Victoria Marie Baecher Wassmer	Chief Financial Officer, Environmental Protection Agency	Returned to the President ^a	Environment and Public Works	Yes (Ranking Member)
113 th Congress (2013-2014)	Peter Joseph Kadzik	Assistant Attorney General	Returned to the President ^a	Judiciary	Yes (Ranking Member)
113 th Congress (2013-2014)	Leslie E. Bains	Director of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation	Returned to the President ^a	Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	Yes
112 th Congress (2011-2012)	Alastair M. Fitzpayne	Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury	Confirmed, voice vote	Finance	Yes

Source: Congress.gov.

a. Under the provisions of Senate Rule XXXI, paragraph 6, of the standing rules of the Senate.

- b. The request that Charles P. Blahous III's nominations be referred to committee was made by one Senator who served on the committee of jurisdiction and two who did not.

Appendix. Privileged Nominations

Table A-1. Privileged Nominations

Listed by Senate Committee of Jurisdiction

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	
Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations, Department of Agriculture	Chief Financial Officer, Department of Agriculture
Members (5), Board of Directors, Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation	
Armed Services	
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Defense	Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management/Comptroller
Chief Financial Officer, Department of Defense	Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management/Comptroller
Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Financial Management/Comptroller	
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	
Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development	Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Housing and Urban Development
Members (6), Board of Directors, National Institute of Building Sciences	Members (3), Board of Directors, National Consumer Cooperative Bank
Directors (5), Securities Investor Protection Corporation	Members (13), Board of Directors, National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	
Chief Financial Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration	Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs, Department of Transportation
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Commerce	Chief Financial Officer, Department of Transportation
Chief Financial Officer, Department of Commerce	Members (3), Board of Directors, Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority
Assistant Secretary for Administration, Department of Commerce	Members (5), Advisory Board, St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation
Energy and Natural Resources	
Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy	Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, Department of Energy
Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Interior	Federal Coordinator, Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects
Environment and Public Works	
Members (9), Board of Trustees, Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation	Chief Financial Officer, Environmental Protection Agency
Finance	
Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services	Chief Financial Officer, Department of Health and Human Services

Deputy Under Secretary/Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury	Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Treasury
Member (7), Board, Internal Revenue Service Oversight	Members (2), Board of Trustees, Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund
Member (2), Board of Trustees, Federal Old Age and Survivors Fund	Members (2), Board of Trustees, Federal Supplemental Medical Insurance Trust Fund
Members (3), Advisory Board, Social Security	Commissioner, Administration for Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services

Foreign Relations

Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State	Members (8), Board of Directors, Overseas Private Investment Corporation
Chief Financial Officer, Department of State	Assistant Administrator for Legislative and Public Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development
Chairman, Advisory Board for Cuba Broadcasting	Members (8), Advisory Board for Cuba Broadcasting
Members (7), Board of Directors, African Development Foundation	Commissioners (7), U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy
Members (9), Board of Directors, Inter-American Foundation	Members (4), Board of Directors, Millennium Challenge Corporation
Members (15), National Peace Corps Advisory Council	

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Chief Financial Officer, Department of Education	Chief Financial Officer, Department of Labor
Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Department of Education	Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, Department of Labor
Commissioner, Rehabilitation Services Administration, Department of Education	Members (26), National Council on the Humanities
Members (15), Corporation for National and Community Service	Vice Chairman, Board of Directors, U.S. Institute of Peace
Chairman, Board of Directors, U.S. Institute of Peace	Members (8), Board of Trustees, Goldwater Scholarship
Members (10), Board of Directors, U.S. Institute of Peace	Members (6), Board of Trustees, Madison Fellowship
Members (8), Board of Trustees, Truman Scholarship	Members (18), National Council on the Arts
Members (11), Board of Directors, Legal Services Corporation	

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security	Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget
Members (5), Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board	

Indian Affairs

Commissioner, Administration for Native Americans, Department of Health and Human Services	
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Judiciary

Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice	Members (11), Board of Directors, State Justice Institute
Members (2), Foreign Claims Settlement Commission	

Veterans' Affairs

Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs,
Department of Veterans Affairs

Chief Financial Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs

Source: S.Res. 116, 112th Congress, P.L. 114-1, §202(a), and CRS analysis of privileged nominations data on Congress.gov.

Figure A-1. Example of Privileged Nominations Section of the Senate Executive Calendar

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PRIVILEGED NOMINATIONS

Pursuant to S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, nominations in this section of the Executive Calendar are entitled to expedited procedures.

MESSAGE No.	DATE RECEIVED	NOMINEE AND POSITION	* INFORMATION REQUESTED BY COMMITTEE	** REQUESTED INFORMATION RECEIVED	SENATOR REQUESTED REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE OF JURISDICTION
920	Sep 05, 2017	Frederick M. Nutt, of Virginia, to be Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget, vice David Arthur Mader.	Yes	Sep 11, 2017	Sep 26, 2017 - Mr. Peters.
1641	Feb 15, 2018	Jean Carol Hovland, of South Dakota, to be Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans, Department of Health and Human Services, vice Lillian A. Sparks.	Yes	Jun 05, 2018	
1707	Mar 12, 2018	Kimberly Breier, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring September 20, 2020, vice Adolfo A. Franco, term expired.	Yes		
1748	Mar 19, 2018	Elizabeth Darling, of Texas, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, vice Rafael J. Lopez.	Yes		
1750	Mar 19, 2018	Mark Schultz, of Nebraska, to be Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, Department of Education, vice Janet Lorraine LaBreck.	Yes	Jun 06, 2018	
1851	Apr 17, 2018	Alexander Crenshaw, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation for a term of three years, vice Mark Green, term expired.	Yes		
1852	Apr 17, 2018	Louis DeJoy, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for a term expiring December 17, 2020, vice Michael James Warren, term expired.	Yes		

* Committee of jurisdiction has requested appropriate biographical and financial information on this nominee
 ** Committee of jurisdiction has received the necessary biographical and financial information on this nominee; nominee will remain in this section for 10 session days

Author Information

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