

(1) in accordance with the auditing procedures of the Government Accountability Office, including generally accepted government auditing standards.

“(C) RECOMMENDATIONS BY ADMINISTRATOR.—The Administrator may at any time make recommendations for or require specific changes to an entity loan fund in order to improve the effectiveness of the fund.

“(i) REGULATIONS OR GUIDANCE.—The Administrator shall issue such regulations or guidance as are necessary to—

“(1) ensure that each participating entity uses funds as efficiently as possible;

“(2) reduce waste, fraud, and abuse to the maximum extent possible; and

“(3) require any party that receives funds directly or indirectly under this section, including a participating entity and a recipient of amounts from an entity loan fund, to use procedures with respect to the management of the funds that conform to generally accepted accounting standards.

“(j) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—Until such time as the Administrator issues final regulations to implement this section, the Administrator may—

“(1) waive notice and comment rule-making, if the Administrator determines the waiver is necessary to expeditiously implement this section; and

“(2) provide capitalization grants under this section as a pilot program.

“(k) LIABILITY PROTECTIONS.—The Agency shall not be liable for any claim based on the exercise or performance of, or the failure to exercise or perform, a discretionary function or duty by the Agency, or an employee of the Agency in carrying out this section.

“(l) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the first entity loan fund is established under subsection (c), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that examines—

“(1) the appropriateness of regulations and guidance issued by the Administrator for the program, including any oversight of the program;

“(2) a description of the number of the entity loan funds established, the projects funded from such entity loan funds, and the extent to which projects funded by the loan funds adhere to any applicable hazard mitigation plans;

“(3) the effectiveness of the entity loan funds to lower disaster related costs; and

“(4) recommendations for improving the administration of entity loan funds.

“(m) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

“(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“(2) AGENCY.—The term ‘Agency’ means the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(A) a State; or

“(B) an Indian tribal government that has received a major disaster declaration during the 5-year period ending on the date of enactment of the STORM Act.

“(4) HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.—The term ‘hazard mitigation plan’ means a mitigation plan submitted under section 322.

“(5) INSULAR AREA.—The term ‘insular area’ means Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands.

“(6) LOW-INCOME GEOGRAPHIC AREA.—The term ‘low-income geographic area’ means an area described in paragraph (1) or (2) of sec-

tion 301(a) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3161(a)).

“(7) PARTICIPATING ENTITY.—The term ‘participating entity’ means an eligible entity that has entered into an agreement under this section.

“(8) REPETITIVE LOSS STRUCTURE.—The term ‘repetitive loss structure’ has the meaning given the term in section 1370 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4121).

“(9) SEVERE REPETITIVE LOSS STRUCTURE.—The term ‘severe repetitive loss structure’ has the meaning given the term in section 1366(h) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4104c(h)).

“(10) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

“(11) WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.—The term ‘wildland-urban interface’ has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).

“(n) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2023 to carry out this section.”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I have 7 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

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 COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 9, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 30, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 9, 2020, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 9, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY, PENSIONS, AND FAMILY POLICY

The Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy of the Committee on Finance is author-

ized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 9, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

The Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety of the Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 9, 2020, at 9:45 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

DEPENDABLE EMPLOYMENT AND LIVING IMPROVEMENTS FOR VETERANS ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 7105 and the 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. 7105) to provide flexibility for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in caring for homeless veterans during a covered public health emergency, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a retraining assistance program for unemployed veterans, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which was reported from the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

Mr. INHOFE. I ask unanimous consent that the Moran substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to, 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 amendment (No. 2696) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(The amendment is printed in today’s RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 7105), as amended, was passed.

BANKRUPTCY ADMINISTRATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2020

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 4996, introduced earlier today.

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 (S. 4996) to ensure funding of the United States trustees, extend temporary bankruptcy judgeships, and for other purposes.

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